

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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REPORT (1998) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings on 27 March, 1 July, 15 September and 19-20 November (G/TBT/M/11-14) respectively, and Mr. Otto Th. Genee (Netherlands) was Chairman. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of Members informed the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. Several measures were brought to the attention of the Committee by Members who raised concerns about the potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement of those measures.
2. At its twelfth meeting, the Committee carried out its Third Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement under Article 15.3 based on background documentation contained in G/TBT/6, and its Third Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards in Annex 3 based on background documentation contained in WTO TBT Standards Code Directory, G/TBT/CS/1/Add.2 and G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.4. The Committee also started its programme of work arising from the First Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4 (G/TBT/5), and heard statements on technical assistance.
3. At its thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings, the Committee continued its work programme arising from the First Triennial Review. Submissions were contributed by Members to enrich the discussions.
4. On 14 September, a Workshop and a Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange were held at which participants, including those from capitals responsible for enquiry points and notifications, exchanged experience concerning the transparency provisions of the Agreement, the activities and problems relating to information exchange. A number of proposals were made for the consideration of the Committee.
5. At its fifteenth meeting, an Information Session with bodies involved with the preparation of international standards was organized. Ten organizations were invited to provide information with respect to their activities and practices.
6. Representatives of the ACP, ALADI, EFTA, FAO, IEC, IMF, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIE, OIML, UNCTAD, UN/ECE, WHO, WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.