

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/843
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REPORT (2007) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its forty-second to forty-fourth regular meetings on 21 March, 5 July and 9 November 2007, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Margers Krams (Latvia) and Mr. Raminder S. Sidhu (India).¹

2. At each of the meetings in 2007, the Committee heard statements by a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. New specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement, and the Committee heard exchanges on trade concerns that had been previously raised.

3. During the reporting period, the Committee initiated an exchange of experiences on issues under Future Work items agreed at the Fourth Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4, concluded on 9 November 2006 (G/TBT/19), namely: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, transparency, technical assistance and special and differential treatment. With a view to deepening understanding of the contribution good regulatory practice can make to the implementation of the TBT Agreement and advancing its work in this area, the Committee agreed to hold a workshop on good regulatory practice on 18-19 March 2008.² On transparency, the Committee discussed, *inter alia*, the feasibility of attaching electronic versions of draft regulatory texts to notifications and ways to enhance sharing of unofficial translations of such texts. On technical assistance, the TBT Committee discussed the functioning of the format for the voluntary notification of specific technical assistance needs and responses (G/TBT/16) and initiated an exchange of experiences regarding the delivery and receipt of technical assistance.

4. The Fifth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange was held on 7-8 November 2007.³ This meeting addressed issues relating to: publication practices; notification practices; use of electronic tools; and technical cooperation and the work of Enquiry Points.

5. At its meeting on 21 March 2007, the Committee adopted its report of the Twelfth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement (G/TBT/21/Rev.1 and Corr.1). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the Twelfth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in 2006 (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.11), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1 January 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.13 and Corr.1) and the Twelfth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.

¹ G/TBT/M/41-43.

² A draft programme for the workshop on good regulatory practice is contained in JOB(07)/107/Rev.1.

³ The programme for the Fifth Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange is contained in G/TBT/GEN/59/Rev.1.

6. The Committee carried out, at its meeting of 9 November 2007, the Sixth Annual Transitional Review mandated in the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China (G/TBT/22).

7. During the regular meetings of the TBT Committee held in 2007, representatives of the Codex, IEC, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIML and UNIDO updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.
