

REPORT (2009) OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

In accordance with the "Procedures for an Annual Overview of WTO Activities and for Reporting under the WTO" (WT/L/105), the Council for Trade in Goods is to report each year to the General Council on the activities in the Council as well as in the subsidiary bodies. The reports are to be "factual in nature, containing an indication of actions and decisions taken, with cross references to reports of subordinate bodies and could follow the model of the GATT 1947 Council reports to the CONTRACTING PARTIES".

Since the CTG 2008 annual report (G/L/876) was issued, the Council for Trade in Goods has met five times in formal session on the following dates: 24 March 2009 (G/C/M/96 and Corr.1); 12 May 2009 (G/C/M/97); 29 June 2009 (G/C/M/98); 7 October 2009 (G/C/M/99) and 30 October 2009 (G/C/M/100).

The subject matters which were raised and/or acted upon in the Council are as follows:

1. Election of Chairperson
2. Appointment of officers
3. Matters of the Committee on Market Access
4. Waivers under Article IX of the WTO Agreement
5. EC enlargement
6. Notification of regional trade agreements
7. Issues related to trade in textiles
8. Notifications
9. Transitional Review under Paragraph 18 of the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China
10. Consideration of annual reports of subsidiary bodies

1. Election of Chairperson for the Council for Trade in Goods

At its meeting of 24 March the Council elected H.E. Ambassador Elin Østebø Johansen (Norway) as its Chairman for 2009.

2. Appointment of Officers for the subsidiary bodies of the Council

At its meeting of 24 March, the Council agreed on the nominations of the following persons for election as Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies:

Committee on Market Access	Barney RILEY (New Zealand)
Agriculture	Valeria CSUKASI (Uruguay)
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	Miriam CHAVES (Argentina)
Anti-Dumping Practices	Pasquale de MICCO (Italy)
Subsidies and Countervailing Measures	Raimundas LISKAUSKAS (Lithuania)
Safeguards	Dineswaree MOHUN (Mauritius)

Import Licensing	Marco KASSAJA (Tanzania)
Rules of Origin	Vera THORSTENSEN (Brazil)
Customs Valuation	Mohammed SAEED (Pakistan)
Technical Barriers to Trade	Ami LEVIN (Israel)
TRIMs	Vasile RADU (Romania)
State Trading Enterprises	Haitao ZHU (China)
Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA Committee)	Khalid EMARA (Egypt)

At the same meeting, the Council agreed to proceed on the understanding that as concerns Vice-Chairpersons, it would be for the subsidiary bodies to decide if they needed a Vice-Chairperson in cases where the option existed under the respective Agreement and/or rules of procedure, and for the respective Chairperson to hold the necessary consultations.

At its meeting on 7 October, the Council elected Ms. Octavia Cerchez (Romania) as Chair of the TRIMS Committee to replace Mr. Vasile Radu who could no longer carry out this duty.

3. Matters of the Committee on Market Access

At its meetings on 12 May and 30 October the Council took note of the periodic reports (in documents G/MA/236 and G/MA/240) of the Committee on Market Access. At its meeting on 12 May the Council approved the draft decision on procedures leading to the verification and certification of HS96 changes relating to the schedules of 64 Members in document G/C/W/619, and agreed to forward this to the General Council for adoption.

4. Waivers under Article IX of the WTO Agreement

- (a) Introduction of Harmonized System 1996 changes into WTO Schedules of tariff concessions
Requests for extensions of waiver (Argentina – G/C/W/596; Panama – G/C/W/595)

At its meeting on 12 May, the Council considered requests from Argentina and Panama for extensions of waivers in connection with the introduction of HS96 changes to their Schedules of concessions. The Council approved the waiver requests and recommended that the draft decisions contained in the cited G/C/W/- documents be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

- (b) Introduction of Harmonized System 2002 changes into WTO Schedules of tariff concessions
– Requests for a waiver (G/C/W/624)

At its meeting on 30 October, the Council considered a collective request for an extension of the waiver in connection with the introduction of HS2002 changes to the Schedules of concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in the cited G/C/W/- document be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

- (c) Introduction of Harmonized System 2007 changes into WTO Schedules of tariff concessions
– Requests for a waiver (G/C/W/625)

At its meeting on 30 October, the Council considered a collective request for a waiver in connection with the introduction of HS 2007 changes to the Schedules of concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in the cited G/C/W/- document be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

- (d) United States – Request for waiver for the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended and the ANDEAN Trade Promotion Act, as amended (G/C/W/611; G/C/W/612; G/C/W/613)

At its meeting on 24 March the Council approved the three waiver requests and recommended that the draft decisions contained in documents G/C/W/611, G/C/W/612, and G/C/W/613 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

- (e) Brazil, China, India and Korea – Request for the Extension of the waiver for Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least Developed Countries (G/C/W/620)

At its meeting on 12 May, the Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in G/C/W/620 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

- (f) Cape Verde – Request for a waiver related to the Implementation of Duty Rate Reduction (G/C/W/618)

At its meetings of 12 May the Council considered a request from Cape Verde for a waiver related to the Implementation of duty rate reductions. At its meeting on 29 June, the Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in G/C/W/618 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

5. EC enlargement (G/L/695/Add.9; G/L/695/Add.10; G/L/821/Add.4; G/L/821/Add.5)

At its meetings on 29 June and 30 October, the Council agreed on the extension of the deadlines set out in the communications from the EC (G/L/695/Add.9; G/L/821/Add.4 and G/L/695/Add.10; G/L/821/Add.5, respectively).

6. Notification of Regional Trade Agreements

At its meetings on 24 March, 12 May, and 30 October, the Council was informed of the following notifications of regional trade agreements :

- A. Agreement between Japan and the Philippines for an Economic Partnership (WT/REG257/N/1)
- B. The Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Communities and Côte d'Ivoire (WT/REG258/N/1)
- C. Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Oman (WT/REG259/N/1)
- D. Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Peru (WT/REG260/N/1)
- E. Free Trade Agreement between Turkey and Georgia (WT/REG261/N/1)
- F. Free Trade Agreement between China and Singapore (WT/REG262/N/1)
- G. Free Trade Agreement between Australia and Chile (WT/REG263/N/1)
- H. Free Trade Agreement between Costa Rica and Panama (WT/REG264/N/1)
- I. Free Trade Agreement between China and New Zealand (WT/REG266/N/1)

- J. Free Trade Agreement between Nicaragua and Chinese Taipei (WT/REG267/N/1)
 - K. Free Trade Agreement between Panama and Chinese Taipei (WT/REG268/N/1)
 - L. Free Trade Agreement between Peru and Singapore (WT/REG269/N/1)
 - M. Free Trade Agreement between Canada and Peru (WT/REG270/N/1)
 - N. Free Trade Agreement between Canada and EFTA (WT/REG271/N/1)
 - O. Free Trade Agreement between Chile and Colombia (WT/REG272/N/1)
 - P. Free Trade Agreement between Japan and Switzerland (WT/REG273/N/1)
 - Q. Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Communities and Cameroon (WT/REG274/N/1)
 - R. Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and Viet Nam (WT/REG275/N/1)
 - S. Gulf Cooperation Council (WT/REG276/N/1)
- 7. Issues Related to Trade in Textiles (G/C/W/599; G/C/W/614/Rev.1)**

At its meeting on 24 March, the Council received a new submission from Turkey in document G/C/W/614. At its meeting on 12 May, it received a revised version of this submission in G/C/W/614/Rev.1. At its meetings on 29 June the Council continued its consideration of the proposal in documents G/C/W/599 and G/C/W/614/Rev.1. At its meeting on 30 October, the Council heard a report from Turkey on its bilateral consultations on this proposal.

8. Notifications

Status of notifications under the provisions of the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement

At its meeting on 24 March, the Council took note of the latest revision of the status of notifications contained in document G/L/223/Rev.16.

9. Transitional Review under paragraph 18 of the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China

At its meeting on 30 October, the Council took note of the reports of the CTG subsidiary bodies which had carried out their reviews, and carried out the CTG-specific review with respect to the information requirements stipulated in Annex 1A of the Protocol of Accession. The Council agreed to send the report (G/L/910), together with the reports of the subsidiary bodies, to the General Council.

10. Consideration of annual reports of subsidiary bodies of the CTG

At its meeting on 30 October, the Council took note of the annual reports of its subsidiary bodies.
