



Trade Policy Review Body

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

REPORT OF THE TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY FOR 2013

Chairperson: H.E. Mr Joakim Reiter (Sweden)

1. This Report by the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) provides a brief assessment of the activities of the TPRB over the past 12 months and reports on the reviews of Members conducted in 2013. Tables are annexed showing the Members that will have been reviewed up to the end of 2013, the geographical coverage of the reviews conducted to date, as well as the proposed programme of reviews for 2014 and candidates for review in 2015.

Follow-up to the Fourth Appraisal of the TPRM

2. The Fourth Appraisal of the TPRM was conducted by the TPRB in 2011 and the results were endorsed by Ministers at MC8 (WT/MIN(11)/6). In addition, the Ministerial Conference took a decision to continue and strengthen the trade monitoring exercise (WT/L/848). The TPRB began implementing those results on a provisional basis in 2012. *Inter alia*: during 2012-2013 nine Members (Costa Rica; the EU; Kyrgyz Rep.; Macao, China; Mexico; Norway; the Philippines; Singapore; and Suriname) volunteered to apply the alternative timelines for the Question and Answer process, which produced a more timely distribution of written answers ahead of TPRB meetings; improvements were made to the organization and structure of TPRB meetings, to make them more interactive and the discussion more fruitful; and digital audio files (podcasting) were introduced on a pilot basis; during 2012-2013, 11 Members have used this service. Furthermore, since the Fourth Appraisal, follow-up workshops have been organized in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nicaragua, and Zimbabwe, while similar workshops are scheduled in the second half of 2013 for the East African Community, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, and the West African Economic and Monetary Union. The Fifth Appraisal of the TPRM is being prepared in 2013 for the Ninth Ministerial Conference.

Activities of the TPRB

3. The TPRB is required to periodically review the trade policies and practices of all Members. By the end of 2013, the TPRB will have conducted 384 reviews since its formation, at 289 review meetings (Annex I). The reviews have covered 147 of 159 Members.¹ The trade policies and practices of two Members were reviewed for the first time in 2013.²

4. The Trade Policy Review Body will have conducted reviews of 20 Members (counting the EU as one) in 2013 (Annex II). The Secretariat's reports continue to be prepared in close consultation with the authorities of the Member under review.

5. Procedures for the reviews conducted in 2013 have run smoothly. Responses to requests for documentation and questionnaires have normally been provided at or close to the requested dates. In line with recent practice, the Secretariat has attempted to reduce the burden on Members under review of providing responses by using, to the extent possible, alternative sources of

¹ Members not yet reviewed at end 2013 are: Cape Verde, Cuba, Lao People's Dem. Rep., Moldova, Montenegro, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Samoa, Tajikistan, Tonga, Ukraine, and Vanuatu.

² The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Viet Nam.

documentation, including Members' official web-sites. It has not been possible to do this for all Members under review, and requests for documentation continue to be followed up with a detailed questionnaire when sufficient information is not available from alternative sources. Secretariat visits to capitals have continued to be productive, and comments provided on Secretariat drafts have been pertinent; close contact with the Member under review is necessary to help ensure the factual accuracy and clarity of the documentation prepared for the Review.

6. Efforts continue to be made to space meetings of the TPRB as evenly as possible throughout the year and to avoid clashes with other meetings at the WTO so as to reduce pressure on Members.

7. The Trade Policy Review programme for 2014 comprises 15 review meetings covering 24 Members (Annex III).

Coverage of least developed countries (LDCs)

8. Of the 34 least developed Members of the WTO, 30 will have been reviewed by the end of 2013.³

9. Trade Policy Reviews of LDCs have helped to enhance understanding in these countries of the WTO Agreements, enabling better compliance and integration into the multilateral trading system. In some cases, better interaction between government agencies has been facilitated by the reviews. The reports' wide coverage of Members' policies also enables Members to identify any shortcomings in policy and specific areas where further technical assistance may be required. When requested by the Member concerned, the Secretariat organizes follow-up seminars to discuss the outcome of the trade policy review process with domestic stakeholders.

Monitoring of trade and trade-related measures

10. The TPRM requires Members, in between their reviews, to provide information on significant trade policy changes. The WTO Secretariat uses this and other information to prepare reports by the Director-General on a regular basis on the trade and trade-related developments of Members and Observer Governments. The reports are discussed at meetings of the TPRB.⁴ The WTO Secretariat consults closely with delegations to gather complete, up-to-date and accurate information on their trade and trade-related measures, and has received good cooperation. The information is consolidated and presented in the Director-General's Annual Report on Developments in the International Trading Environment, as called for by paragraph G of Annex 3. The 2013 Annual Report will be discussed by the TPRB at the beginning of 2014.

³ First reviews are due for Samoa and Vanuatu in 2018, and for Lao People's Democratic Republic and Tajikistan in 2019.

⁴ An informal meeting of the TPRB was held on 19 July 2013 to discuss the trade monitoring report contained in document WT/TPR/OV/W/7.

ANNEX I

TRADE POLICY REVIEWS

WTO Members reviewed, 1989-2013

Europe/Middle East	Asia/Pacific	Africa	America
Albania	Australia (6)	Angola ^b	Argentina (4)
Armenia	Bangladesh ^b (4)	Benin ^{b,2} (3)	Antigua and Barbuda ² (2)
Austria ¹	Brunei Darussalam (2)	Botswana ² (3)	Barbados (2)
Bahrain (2)	Cambodia ^b	Burkina Faso ^{b,2} (3)	Belize (2)
Bulgaria ¹	China (4)	Burundi ^{b,2} (2)	Bolivia (3)
Croatia ¹	Fiji (2)	Cameroon ² (4)	Brazil (6)
Cyprus ¹	Georgia	Chad ^{b,2} (2)	Canada (9)
Czech Republic ¹ (2)	Hong Kong, China (6)	Central African Republic ^{b,2} (2)	Chile (4)
European Union (11)	India (5)	Congo, D.R. ^b	Colombia (4)
Finland ¹	Indonesia (6)	Congo, Rep. of ² (2)	Costa Rica (4)
Hungary ¹ (2)	Japan (11)	Côte d'Ivoire (2)	Dominica ² (2)
Iceland (4)	Korea, Rep. of (6)	Djibouti ^b	Dominican Republic (3)
Israel (4)	Kyrgyz Republic (2)	Egypt (3)	Ecuador (2)
Jordan	Macao, China (4)	Gabon ² (3)	El Salvador (3)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Malaysia (5)	Gambia ^b (2)	Guatemala (2)
Kuwait	Maldives ^b (2)	Ghana (3)	Grenada ² (2)
Liechtenstein ² (4)	Mongolia	Guinea, Republic of ^b (3)	Guyana (2)
Norway (6)	Nepal ^b	Guinea-Bissau ^b	Haiti ^b
Oman	New Zealand (4)	Kenya ² (4)	Honduras (2)
Poland ¹ (2)	Pakistan (3)	Lesotho ^{b,2} (3)	Jamaica (3)
Qatar	Papua New Guinea (2)	Madagascar ^b (2)	Mexico (5)
Romania ¹ (3)	Philippines (4)	Malawi ^b (2)	Nicaragua (3)
Slovak Republic ¹ (2)	Singapore (6)	Mali ^{b,2} (3)	Panama
Slovenia ¹	Solomon Islands ^b (2)	Mauritania ^b (2)	Paraguay (3)
Sweden ¹ (2)	Sri Lanka (3)	Mauritius (3)	Peru (4)
Switzerland ² (6)	Chinese Taipei (2)	Morocco (4)	St. Kitts and Nevis ² (2)
The FYR of Macedonia ^a	Thailand (6)	Mozambique ^b (2)	St. Lucia ² (2)
Turkey (5)	Viet Nam ^a	Namibia ² (3)	St. Vincent & Grenadines ² (2)
United Arab Emirates (2)		Niger ^{b,2} (2)	Suriname (2)
		Nigeria (4)	Trinidad and Tobago (3)
		Rwanda ^b (2)	United States (11)
		Senegal ^{b,2} (3)	Uruguay (4)
		Sierra Leone ^b	Venezuela (2)
		South Africa ² (4)	
		Swaziland ² (3)	
		Tanzania ^{b,2} (3)	
		Togo ^b (3)	
		Tunisia (2)	
		Uganda ^{b,2} (4)	
		Zambia ^b (3)	
		Zimbabwe (2)	
45 Members (71 reviews)	28 Members (102 reviews)	41 Members (105 reviews)	33 Members (106 reviews)

() Number of reviews completed where this is greater than one.

a First review in 2013.

b Least-developed Member.

1 Now included in European Union (EU28).

2 Joint review but counted as individual Members for statistical purposes from 2009.

Reviews conducted at end-2013

= 384 reviews at 289 TPRB meetings

WTO Members reviewed

= 147 out of 159 Members

Least-developed WTO Members reviewed

= 30 out of 34

ANNEX II

Trade Policy Reviews conducted in 2013

Member ^a	Meeting date (scheduled)	Review cycle (years)
Japan (11)	19 and 21 February	2
Argentina (4)	20 and 22 March	6
Indonesia (6)	10 and 12 April	6
Mexico (5)	17 and 19 April	4
Switzerland (6) and Liechtenstein (4)	23 and 25 April	4
Macao, China (4)	13 and 15 May	6
Suriname (2)	10 and 12 June	6
Brazil (6)	24 and 26 June	4
European Union (11)	16 and 18 July	2
CEMAC (Cameroon (4), Central African Republic [*] (2), Chad [*] (2), Congo, Rep. of [*] (2), and Gabon(3))	29 and 31 July	6
Viet Nam (1)	17 and 19 September	6
Costa Rica (4)	24 and 26 September	6
Peru (4)	13 and 15 November	6
Kyrgyz Republic (2)	19 and 21 November	6
FYR Macedonia (1)	27 and 29 November	6

* Least-developed country.

a Figures in brackets indicate number of reviews.

ANNEX III*Proposed programme of reviews for 2014*

Member	Meeting date
Tonga	11 & 13 February
Malaysia	3 & 5 March
Myanmar*	11 & 13 March
Qatar, Bahrain, Oman	22 & 24 April
Ghana + Sierra Leone*	[26 & 28 May]
Mongolia	3 & 5 June
OECS (6 Members)	17 & 19 June
China	1 & 3 July
Panama	23 & 25 July
Chinese Taipei	16 & 18 September
Djibouti* + Mauritius	22 & 24 October
Hong Kong, China	19 & 21 November
Tunisia	26 & 28 November
Ukraine	9 & 11 December
United States	16 & 18 December

* Least-developed country.

[] Dates to be confirmed.

ANNEX IV*Candidates for TPRB Reviews in 2015
(Due date in parentheses)*

Cuba (2001)	Fiji (2015)
Moldova (2007)	Georgia (2015)
Venezuela, Bolivarian Rep. of (2008)	Guatemala (2015)
Haiti* (2009)	India (2015)
Bolivia, Plurinational State of (2011)	Japan (2015)
Egypt (2011)	Lesotho* (SACU) (2015)
Angola* (2012)	Maldives* (2015)
Barbados (2014)	Morocco (2015)
Cape Verde (2014)	Mozambique* (2015)
Dominican Republic (2014)	Namibia (SACU) (2015)
Jordan (2014)	New Zealand (2015)
Madagascar* (2014)	Niger* (2015)
Pakistan (2014)	Senegal* (2015)
Canada (2015)	Solomon Islands* (2015)
Guyana (2015)	South Africa (SACU) (2015)
Australia (2015)	Swaziland (SACU) (2015)
Botswana (SACU) (2015)	Thailand (2015)
Chile (2015)	Zambia* (2015)
EU28 (2015)	

* Least-developed country.
