

Trade Policy Review Body

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Report of the Trade Policy Review Body for 2010

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Bozkurt Aran (Turkey)

1. This Report by the Trade Policy Review Body provides a brief assessment of the TPRM, and reports on the reviews of Members conducted in 2010. Tables are annexed showing the Members that will have been reviewed up to the end of 2010, the geographical coverage of the reviews conducted to date, as well as the proposed programme of reviews for 2011.

Objectives of the TPRM

2. The TPRB is required to periodically review the trade policies and practices of all Members. By the end of 2010, the TPRB will have conducted 324 reviews since its formation, at 241 review meetings (Annex I). The reviews have covered 140 of 153 Members, representing some 89% of world trade and 97% of the trade of Members.¹ The trade policies and practices of four Members were reviewed for the first time in 2010.²

3. The Trade Policy Review Body will have conducted 19 reviews in 2010 (Annex II). The Secretariat reports for the reviews of The Gambia and Papua New Guinea were prepared with the assistance of consultants, under the close supervision of Secretariat staff. Dutch and German financing in support of TPRs proved invaluable in preparing the reviews of Benin, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, Papua New Guinea, and The Gambia.³ The Secretariat's reports continue to be prepared in close consultation with the authorities of the Member under review.

4. Procedures for the reviews conducted in 2010 have generally 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 documentation, including Members' official web-sites or other authentic sites on the Internet. 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.

¹ Members not reviewed at end 2010 are: Cambodia, Cap Verde, Cuba, Guinea Bissau, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Macedonia, Moldova, Myanmar, Nepal, Tonga, Ukraine, and Viet Nam.

² Albania, Armenia, Croatia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

³ The Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany make financing available under the DDA Global Trust Fund to undertake reviews of the "poorest and most vulnerable" countries and to facilitate the trade-policy review process to better adapt to the requirements of these countries.

5. 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.

6. The Trade Policy Review programme for 2011 comprises 17 review meetings for 19 Members (counting the EU as one) (Annex III).

Coverage of least developed countries (LDCs)

7. Of the 32 least developed Members of the WTO, 28 will have been reviewed by the end of 2010.⁴

8. Trade Policy Reviews of LDCs have increasingly performed a technical assistance function along with increasing understanding of the trade policy structure in place and its relationship with the WTO Agreements. The reviews have helped to enhance understanding in these countries of the WTO Agreements, enabling better compliance and integration in 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. The Secretariat Report includes a section on technical assistance and aid-for-trade needs and priorities, as identified in cooperation with the Member concerned, prepared in close collaboration with staff of the secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework as well as the WTO's Development Division and Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation.

9. When requested by the Member concerned, the Secretariat organizes ex-post seminars to discuss the outcome of the trade policy review process with domestic stakeholders. No seminars were conducted in 2010.

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 informal meetings of the TPRB.⁵ 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 2010 Annual Report will be discussed by the TPRB in December 2010.

⁴ The least developed countries reviewed since the establishment of the Mechanism are: Angola, Bangladesh (three times), Benin (three times), Burkina Faso (three times), Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gambia (twice), Guinea (twice), Haiti, Lesotho (three times), Madagascar (twice), Malawi (twice), Maldives, Mali (three times), Mauritania, Mozambique (twice), Niger (twice), Rwanda, Senegal (three times), Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands (twice), Tanzania (twice), Togo (twice), Uganda (three times), and Zambia (three times).

⁵ These reports were subsequently distributed in documents WTO/TPR/OV/W/1, dated 16 April 2009, and WT/TPR/OV/W/2, dated 15 July 2009 and WT/TPR/OV/W/3, dated 14 June 2010.

Annex I

**TRADE POLICY REVIEWS
WTO Members reviewed, 1989-2010**

| Europe/Middle East | Asia/Pacific | Africa | America |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Albania ^a | Australia (5) | Angola ^b | Argentina (3) |
| Armenia ^a | Bangladesh ^b (3) | Benin ^{b,2} (3) | Antigua and Barbuda ² (2) |
| Austria ¹ | Brunei Darussalam (2) | Botswana ² (3) | Barbados (2) |
| Bahrain (2) | China (3) | Burkina Faso ^{b,2} (3) | Belize (2) |
| Bulgaria ¹ | Fiji (2) | Burundi ^b | Bolivia (3) |
| Croatia ^a | Georgia | Cameroon ² (3) | Brazil (5) |
| Cyprus ¹ | Hong Kong, China (6) | Chad ^b | Canada (8) |
| Czech Republic ¹ (2) | India (4) | Central African Republic ^b | Chile (4) |
| European Union (9) | Indonesia (5) | Congo, D.R. ^a | Colombia (3) |
| Finland ¹ | Japan (9) | Congo, Rep. of | Costa Rica (3) |
| Hungary ¹ (2) | Korea, Rep. of (5) | Côte d'Ivoire | Dominica ² (2) |
| Iceland (3) | Kyrgyz Republic | Djibouti ^b | Dominican Republic (3) |
| Israel (3) | Macao, China (3) | Egypt (3) | Ecuador |
| Liechtenstein ² (3) | Malaysia (5) | Gabon ² (2) | El Salvador (3) |
| Norway (5) | Maldives ^b (2) | Gambia ^b (2) | Guatemala (2) |
| Poland ¹ (2) | Mongolia | Ghana (3) | Grenada ² (2) |
| Qatar | New Zealand (4) | Guinea ^b (2) | Guyana (2) |
| Romania ¹ (3) | Pakistan (3) | Kenya ² (3) | Haiti ^b |
| Slovak Republic ¹ (2) | Papua New Guinea (2) | Lesotho ^{b,2} (3) | Honduras (2) |
| Slovenia ¹ | Philippines (3) | Madagascar ^b (2) | Jamaica (2) |
| Sweden ¹ (2) | Singapore (5) | Malawi ^b (2) | Mexico (4) |
| Switzerland ² (5) | Solomon Islands ^b (2) | Mali ² (3) | Nicaragua (2) |
| Turkey (4) | Sri Lanka (3) | Mauritania ^b | Panama |
| United Arab Emirates | Chinese Taipei (2) | Mauritius (3) | Paraguay (2) |
| Jordan | Thailand (5) | Morocco (4) | Peru (3) |
| Oman | | Mozambique ^b (2) | St.Kitts and Nevis ² (2) |
| | | Namibia ² (3) | St.Lucia ² (2) |
| | | Niger ^{b,2} (2) | St.Vincent & Grenadines ² (2) |
| | | Nigeria (3) | Suriname |
| | | Rwanda ^b | Trinidad and Tobago (2) |
| | | Senegal ^{b,2} (3) | United States (10) |
| | | Sierra Leone ^b | Uruguay (3) |
| | | South Africa ² (4) | Venezuela (2) |
| | | Swaziland ² (3) | |
| | | Tanzania ^{b,2} (2) | |
| | | Togo ^b (2) | |
| | | Tunisia (2) | |
| | | Uganda ^{b,2} (3) | |
| | | Zambia ^b (3) | |
| | | Zimbabwe | |
| 42 Members (59 reviews) | 25 Members (86 reviews) | 40 Members (88 reviews) | 33 Members (91 reviews) |

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

a First review in 2010.

b Least developed Member.

1 Now included in European Union (EU27).

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

Reviews conducted at end-2010 = 324 reviews at 241 review meetings

WTO Members reviewed = 140 out of 153 Members

Least developed WTO Members reviewed = 28 out of 32

Share of world trade of WTO Members reviewed
(excluding significant double counting and intra-EC trade) = around 89%

Annex II**Trade Policy Reviews conducted in 2010**

| Member^a | Meeting date (scheduled) | Review cycle (years) |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Malaysia (5) | 25/01/2010 | 4 |
| El Salvador (3) | 10/02/2010 | 6 |
| Croatia (1) | 24/03/2010 | 6 |
| Armenia (1) | 06/04/2010 | 6 |
| Albania (1) | 28/04/2010 | 6 |
| People's Republic of China (3) | 31/05/2010 | 2 |
| Malawi* (2) | 09/06/2010 | 6 |
| Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen And Matsu (Chinese Taipei) (2) | 05/07/2010 | 4 |
| The Gambia* (2) | 14/09/2010 | 6 |
| Honduras (2) | 20/09/2010 | 6 |
| United States (10) | 29/09/2010 | 2 |
| Benin* (3) | 04/10/2010 | 6 |
| Burkina Faso* (3) | 04/10/2010 | 6 |
| Mali* (3) | 04/10/2010 | 6 |
| Sri Lanka (3) | 03/11/2010 | 6 |
| Belize (2) | 03/11/2010 | 6 |
| Papua New Guinea (2) | 16/11/2010 | 6 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo (1) | 24/11/2010 | 6 |
| Hong Kong, China (6) | 01/12/2010 | 4 |

* Least developed country.

a Figures in brackets indicate number of reviews.

Annex III**Proposed programme of reviews for 2011**

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Two-year cycle | European Union, Japan |
| Four-year cycle | Australia, Canada, India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Thailand, |
| Six-year cycle | Cambodia*, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea Conakry*, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritania*, Nepal*, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Zimbabwe |

* Least developed country.