



**Trade Policy Review Body**

**REPORT TO THE TPRB FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON  
TRADE-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**

*(Mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017)*

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**Box 1 About the WTO Monitoring Report**

This WTO Monitoring Report reviews trade and trade-related measures implemented by WTO Members during the period from 16 October 2016 to 15 May 2017. It is a mid-year preparatory contribution to the annual report by the Director-General under the TPRM (Trade Policy Review Mechanism) mandate in which he provides the WTO membership with an overview of developments in the international trading environment. The most recent mid-year Monitoring Report was circulated on 4 July 2016 and the last annual Trade Monitoring Report (WT/TPR/OV/19) by the Director-General was issued on 21 November 2016.

This Report is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General of the WTO.

The Trade Monitoring Report is first and foremost a transparency exercise. It is intended to be purely factual and has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of WTO Members. It is without prejudice to Members' negotiating positions and has no legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the report with any WTO Agreement or any provision thereof.

The Monitoring Report aims to shed light on the latest trends in the implementation of a broad range of policy measures that facilitate as well as restrict the flow of trade and provide an update on the state of global trade. The Monitoring Report neither seeks to pronounce itself on whether a trade measure is protectionist, nor does it question the explicit right of Members to take certain trade measures. The Reports continue to evolve in terms of the coverage and analysis of trade-related issues and take into account discussions among WTO Members in the Trade Policy Review Body.

Although the restrictive trade measures as covered by the Monitoring Report have a restraining impact on the flow of trade, almost all such measures appear to have been taken within the flexibilities provided for in the multilateral trading system. With respect to the tariff increases included in the reports, it is equally important to stress that the overwhelming majority of these measures are taken within bound ceilings and do not appear to break WTO rules.

With respect to trade remedy actions it has been highlighted in discussions among WTO Members that several of these measures are taken to address what is perceived by some as a market distortion resulting from trade practices of entities in another trading partner. In fact, the WTO Antidumping and Subsidies Agreements permit WTO Members to impose antidumping (AD) or countervailing (CVD) duties to offset what is perceived to be injurious dumping or subsidization of products exported from one Member to another. The Monitoring Reports are not in a position to establish if, where or when such perceived distortive practices have taken place. The WTO Monitoring Reports have never categorized the use of trade remedies as protectionist, WTO-inconsistent or criticised governments for utilizing them. The main objective of monitoring these measures is to provide added transparency and to identify emerging trends.

With respect to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) measures covered in the Report, it is important to emphasize that they are neither classified nor counted as trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating, and the increasing trend with respect to the number of notifications of such measures is carefully linked to the transparency provisions of the Agreements only. The Reports have consistently underlined the basic premise that an increased number of SPS and TBT notifications do not automatically imply greater use of protectionist or unnecessarily trade-restrictive measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding these measures. Finally, the Reports clearly emphasize that the SPS and TBT Agreements specifically allow Members to take measures in the pursuit of a number of legitimate policy objectives.

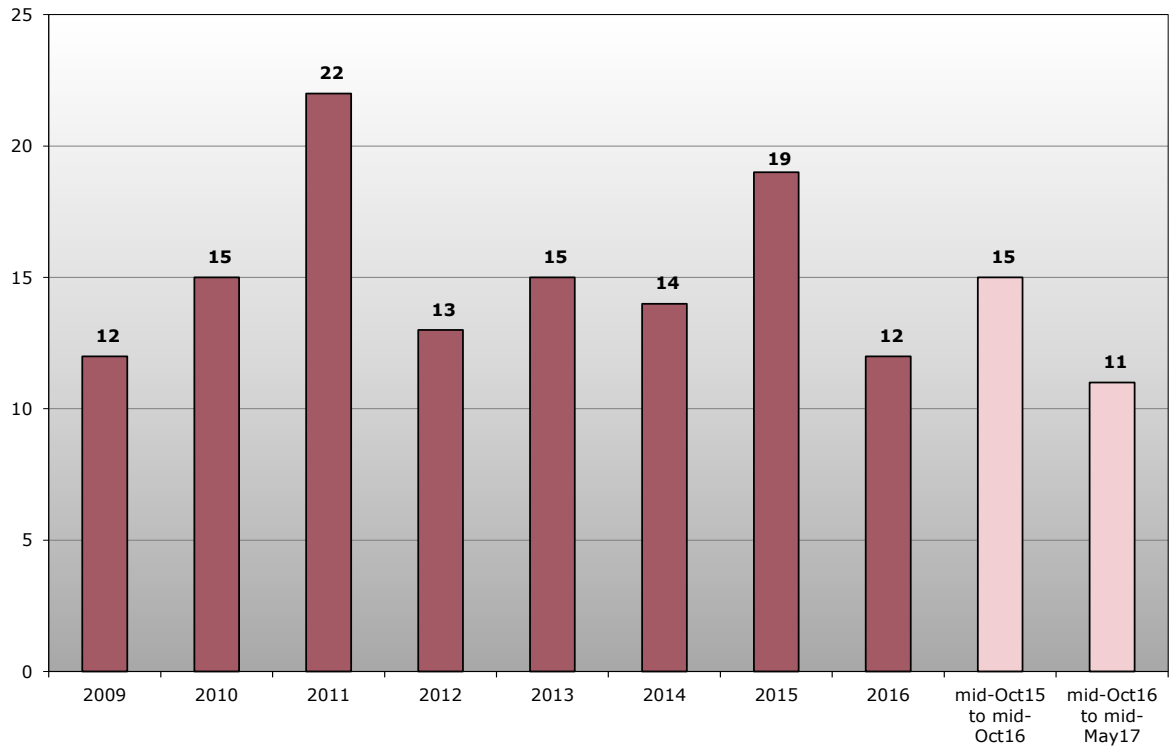
The WTO Secretariat strives to ensure that the Trade Monitoring Reports are factual and objective accounts of recent trends in trade policy making. Since 2008, the Reports have also sought to provide a wider and more nuanced perspective to developments in the area of international trade. For example, the Reports have consistently drawn attention to the fact that although the number of specific and often long-term restrictive trade measures remains a source of continuous concern, other key factors such as the general economic downturn have also played a significant role in the slow-down of trade. With respect to both, vigilance is required.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- WTO Members implemented 74 new trade-restrictive measures during the review period (mid-October 2016 and mid-May 2017), including new or increased tariffs, customs regulations and quantitative restrictions, amounting to almost 11 new measures per month. This represents a significant decrease over the previous period and marks the lowest monthly average since 2008.
- WTO Members applied 80 measures aimed at facilitating trade over this review period, including eliminated or reduced tariffs and simplified customs procedures. This equates to an average of over 11 new measures per month which is the second lowest monthly average since trade monitoring began in 2008.
- During the review period, the estimated trade coverage for trade-facilitating import measures (US\$183 billion) significantly exceeded the estimated trade coverage of trade-restrictive import measures (US\$49 billion).
- This Report also highlights that initiations of trade remedy investigations represented 44% of the total number of trade measures taken during the review period; although the amount of trade covered is relatively small (US\$27 billion for trade remedy initiations and US\$6 billion for terminations).
- Transparency and predictability in trade policy remains vital for all actors in the global economy. WTO Members must show leadership in reiterating their commitment to open and mutually beneficial trade, as a key driver of economic growth and a major engine for prosperity.
- Faced with continuing global economic uncertainties, WTO Members should seek to continue improving the global trading environment, including by implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which entered into force in February this year, and working together to achieve a successful outcome at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December.

**Trade-restrictive measures**

(average per month)

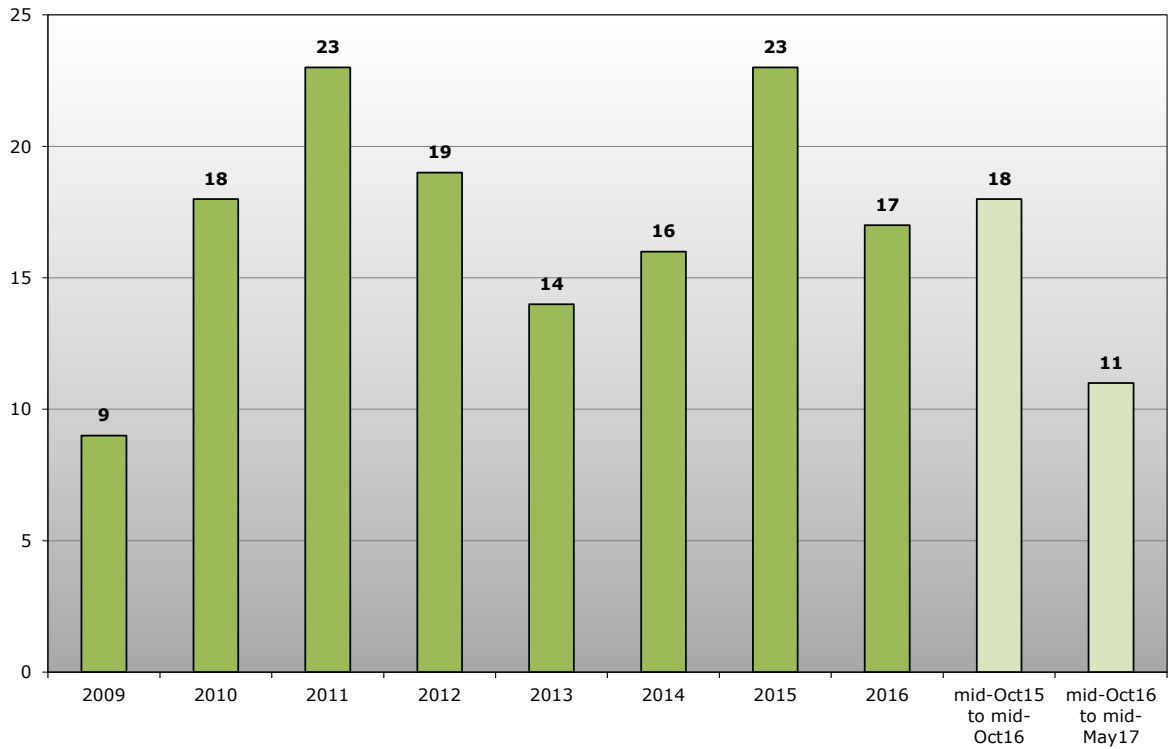


Note: Values are rounded. Changes to averages of previous years reflect continuing updates of the TMDB.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

**Trade-facilitating measures**

(average per month)

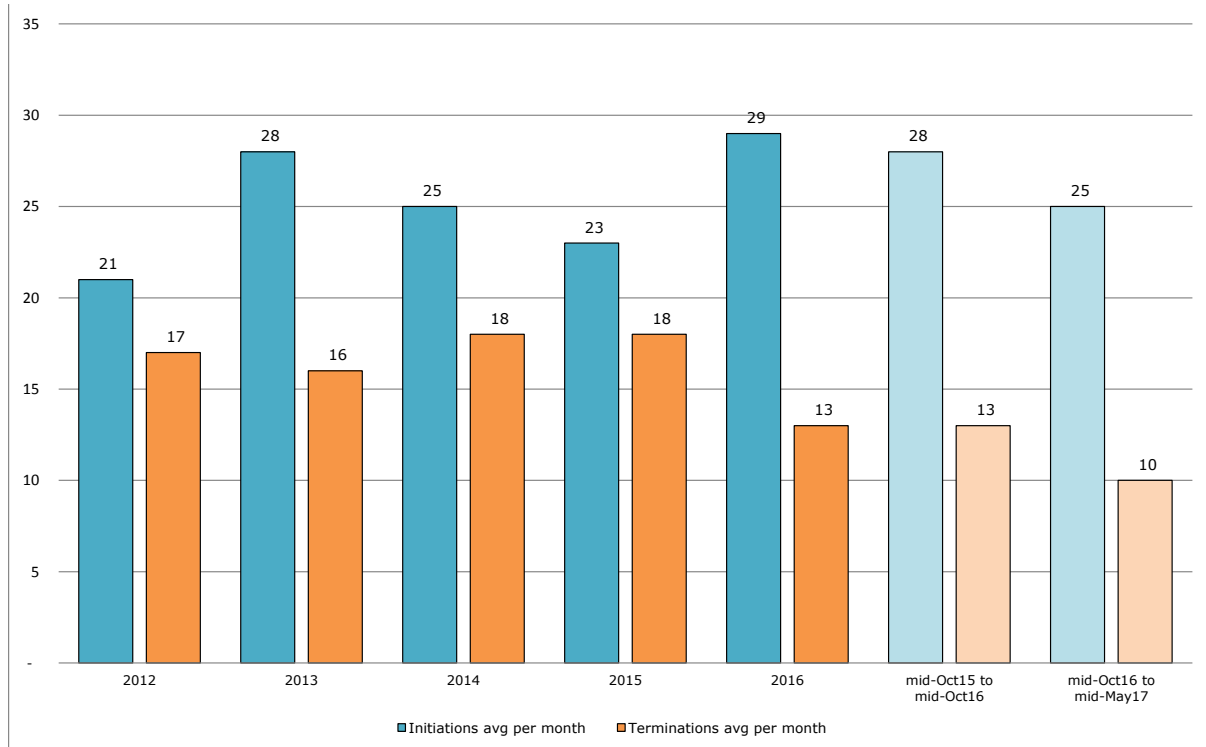


Note: Values are rounded. Changes to averages of previous years reflect continuing updates of the TMDB.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

**Trade remedy trends – initiations and terminations**

(average per month)



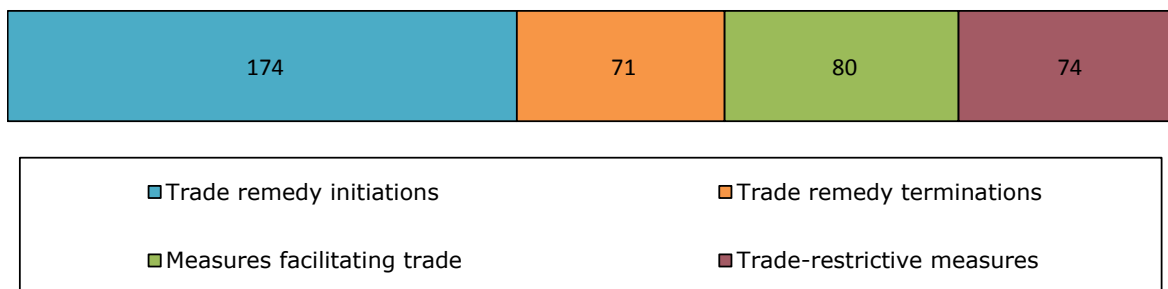
Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

**Overview of trade measures, mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017**

(by number)

**399**

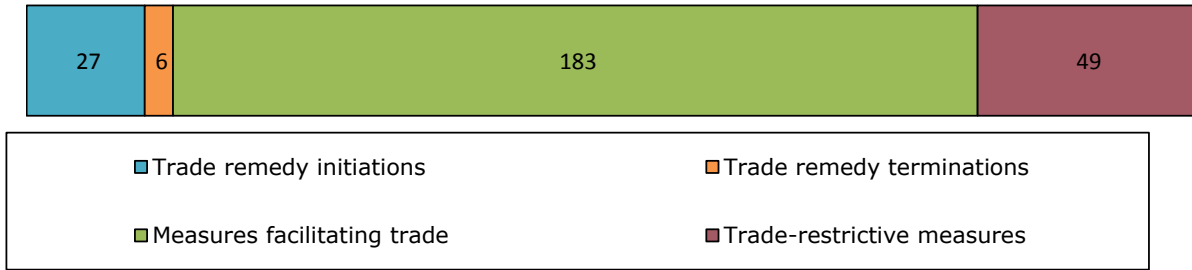


Source: WTO Secretariat.

**Trade coverage of import measures, mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017**

(US\$ billion)

**US\$266**



Note: ITA expansion measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This WTO Trade Monitoring Report reviews trade-related developments during the period from 16 October 2016 to 15 May 2017.<sup>1</sup> The Report continues to demonstrate the importance of transparency and predictability for all actors in the global economy. The rules-based global trading system, under-pinned by the WTO, remains a key pillar in the global economy to create the conditions for improved economic growth and prosperity.

During the review period, 74 new trade-restrictive measures were put in place, including new or increased tariffs, customs regulations and quantitative restrictions, amounting to a monthly average of almost 11 new measures per month. This represents a significant decrease over the previous period and marks the lowest monthly average since the 2008 financial crisis.

WTO Members also implemented 80 measures aimed at facilitating trade during the review period, including eliminated or reduced tariffs and simplified customs procedures. At just over 11 trade-facilitating measures per month, this is the second lowest monthly average since the 2008 financial crisis. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures (US\$183 billion) is more than three times the estimated trade coverage of the import-restrictive measures (US\$49 billion) and more than six times higher than those estimated for trade remedy initiations (US\$27 billion). In addition, liberalization associated with the 2015 expansion of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement (ITA) continues to feature as an important contributor to trade facilitation.

The larger trade coverage of import-facilitating measures during the review period is a very positive development. It is encouraging that WTO Members collectively continue to show moderation and restraint in the recourse to trade restrictions despite the persistent uncertainty facing the global economy.

Initiations of trade remedy investigations represented 44% of all trade measures taken during the review period, with initiations of anti-dumping investigations accounting for around 85% of trade remedy initiations of investigations. The main sectors affected by trade remedy initiations during the review period were wood and articles of wood; vehicles; and furniture, bedding material, lamps. The main sectors where trade remedy duties were terminated were articles of iron and steel; machinery and mechanical appliances; and aluminium and articles thereof. The trade covered by trade remedy initiations and terminations recorded in this Report is estimated at US\$27 billion and US\$6 billion, respectively.

A range of other subjects are also covered by this Report. WTO Members, in particular developing Members, remained very active in notifying their Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. WTO Members continued also to notify their Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures at a stable pace with the majority of new notifications being submitted by developing Members. TBT follow-up notifications have significantly increased during the review period. The SPS and TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced predictability and transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives.

In both the SPS and TBT Committees, WTO Members have dedicated considerable time in discussing Specific Trade Concerns (STCs), suggesting that Members increasingly see the TBT and SPS Committees as fora in which trade concerns may be effectively resolved non-litigiously.

In the area of agriculture, WTO Members continued to make use of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) as a forum to discuss agricultural policies and issues related to the implementation of commitments. In 2016, a peak in the number of questions on individual notifications and under Article 18.6 of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) was recorded. The overwhelming majority of these questions focused on Members' domestic support notifications and commitments.

General economic support measures played an important role in many economies in the immediate aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. The trade monitoring reports have consistently reported on these measures which included domestic bailouts, substantial measures targeting the financial sector, state aid programmes and large-scale multi-sector and sometimes economy-wide stimulus packages. Recent years have seen fewer such support schemes, with measures appearing to be increasingly sector-specific and export-oriented, including various trade finance initiatives, often to

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant Section.



assist SMEs or start-up enterprises. The number of WTO Members that provided information on general economic support measures implemented during the current review period, remained, again, disappointingly low.

Work on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) continued to make progress and reached an important milestone on 22 February 2017 when a sufficient number of ratifications were received for the Agreement to enter into force. Eighteen additional ratifications were received since the end of the last reporting period.

On trade in services, the review period saw a number of significant and diverse policy developments in several economies. Most of the new measures are either horizontal in nature – relating to measures affecting the supply of services through commercial presence and the movement of natural persons – or pertain to financial services and the communication sector. As in the past, the majority of these measures provide for additional liberalization or aim to strengthen or clarify regulatory frameworks. At the same time, however, certain other measures appear to be more trade-restrictive.

The Amendment to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) entered into force on 23 January 2017. This marked the first amendment to a multilateral trade agreement since the creation of the WTO in 1995. The Amendment addresses health-related needs of developing and least-developed country WTO Members (LDCs), by providing a legal pathway for the export of low-cost medicines produced under compulsory licenses. Several WTO Members adopted new national and regional policies related to IP and the digital economy.

During the review period, slower growth in world trade and output partly reflected weak investment spending and although some trade indicators were up in the first quarter of 2017, underlying risk factors remain significant. World merchandise trade volume growth slowed to 1.3% in 2016, down from 2.6% in 2015, as weak economic growth and low commodity prices had a negative impact on import demand in both developed and developing economies. World GDP growth also slowed to 2.3% in 2016, down from 2.7% in 2015. The WTO's most recent trade forecast of 12 April 2017, estimated that world merchandise trade would grow by 2.4% in 2017, within a range from 1.8% to 3.6%. For 2018, world merchandise trade growth is expected to be between 2.1% and 4%.

Faced with continuing global economic uncertainties, WTO Members should show leadership in reiterating their commitment to open and mutually beneficial trade, and continuing to strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system. WTO Members should seek to continue improving the global trading environment, including by implementing in full the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and working together to achieve a successful outcome at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This monitoring report<sup>2</sup> reviews trade and trade-related developments during the period mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017.<sup>3</sup> It is a mid-year preparatory contribution to the annual report by the Director-General provided for in paragraph (g) of the Trade Policies Review Mechanism (TPRM) mandate which aims to assist the TPRB in undertaking an annual overview of developments in the international trading environment that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system. This report is intended to be purely factual and is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General. It has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of Members, nor does it have any legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the report with any WTO Agreement or any provision thereof. This and other important clarifications are covered in more detail in Box 1.

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<sup>2</sup> The previous WTO Trade Monitoring Report presented to the TPRB (WT/TPR/OV/19, 21 November 2016) covered measures taken over the period from mid-October 2015 to mid-October 2016. The WTO trade monitoring reports have been prepared by the WTO Secretariat since 2009. On 30 June 2017, the WTO Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of the OECD and UNCTAD, issued a report on trade and investment measures implemented by G20 economies during the period mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017 (available on the WTO website). The G20 measures identified in that document are reproduced in this report.

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant section.

1.2. Section 2 of the Report provides an overview of recent economic and trade trends. Section 3 presents an account of selected trade and trade-related policy developments during the review period. Policy developments in trade in services and trade in intellectual property are included in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. Annexes to the report list specific trade policy measures of individual Members implemented during the period under review in four categories: trade-facilitating measures (Annex 1); trade remedy actions (Annex 2); other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3) and services measures (Annex 4). For the first time it has not been possible to establish a separate annex on general economic support measures implemented by WTO Members. The country-specific measures listed in the four annexes are new measures implemented by Members and Observers during the period under review.<sup>4</sup> Measures implemented outside this period are not included in these annexes. The compilation of all measures recorded by the trade-monitoring reports since October 2008 is available in the Trade Monitoring Database.<sup>5</sup>

1.3. Specific developments related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) are covered separately under Section 3.

1.4. Information on the measures included in this report has been collected from inputs submitted by Members and Observers, as well as from other official and public sources. Replies to the Director-General's request for information on measures taken during the period under review were received from 68 Members<sup>6</sup>, which represents more than 40% of the membership and covers just over 87% of world imports.<sup>7</sup> One Observer also replied to the request for information. The WTO Secretariat has drawn on these replies, as well as on a variety of other sources, to prepare this report. Country-specific information was sent for verification to 84 delegations. Participation in the verification process was uneven, and in a number of cases the Secretariat received only partial responses and often after the indicated deadline.<sup>8</sup> Where it has not been possible to confirm the information, this is noted in the Annexes.

### Replies to the Director-General's request for information

Argentina	Japan	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
Australia	Korea, Republic of	Serbia*
Brazil	Malaysia	Seychelles
Canada	Mauritius	Singapore
Chile	Mexico	South Africa
China	Moldova, Republic of	Switzerland
Colombia	Mongolia	Chinese Taipei
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Nepal	Thailand
Costa Rica	New Zealand	Turkey
European Union (28)	Norway	Ukraine
Georgia	Pakistan	United States of America
Hong Kong, China	Peru	Uruguay
India	Philippines	Viet Nam
Indonesia	Russian Federation	

\* Observer

## 2 RECENT ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

### 2.1 Overview

2.1. World merchandise trade growth in 2016 was the lowest since the global financial crisis, just 1.3% in volume terms as measured by the average of exports and imports. The pace of expansion

<sup>4</sup> The inclusion of any measure in this report or in its annexes implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in this report implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, as to the consistency of any measure referred to in the report with the provisions of any WTO Agreement.

<sup>5</sup> <http://tmdb.wto.org/>. Measures listed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 in this Report will feature in the TMDb after the TPRB meeting on 24 July 2017.

<sup>6</sup> The European Union and its member States counted separately.

<sup>7</sup> This figure includes intra-EU trade.

<sup>8</sup> The information contained in the annexes reflects the overall participation in the exercise and responses to the verification request and should therefore not be considered exhaustive.

was half as strong as in 2015, when trade grew 2.6%, and well below the 4.7% average rate since 1980.

2.2. Sluggish trade volume growth in 2016 was accompanied by world real GDP growth of 2.3% at market exchange rates, down from 2.6% in the previous year and below the 2.8% average since 1980.

2.3. Reasons for the lacklustre performance of trade and output growth last year are multifaceted, including cyclical and structural factors. The most trade-intensive components of GDP were weak in 2016, as investment spending slumped in the United States and as China continued to rebalance its economy away from investment and towards consumption. Primary commodity prices also remained low compared to their levels of a few years ago, depriving oil-based economies in particular of export revenues needed to purchase imports.

2.4. Export volumes grew at around the same rate in both developed economies (1.4%) and developing economies (1.3%) in 2016. Import growth was modest in developed countries (2%) and stagnant in developing economies (0.2%). Developing economies suffered a sharp 3% quarter-on-quarter decline in their volume of imports in the first quarter of 2016, equivalent to an annual rate of -11.6%, but growth resumed in the second quarter and losses were recovered by the end of the year. Meanwhile imports of developed economies were flat throughout the year.

2.5. Despite weak but positive growth in volume terms, the dollar value of world merchandise trade declined for the second year in a row due to falling export and import prices. World merchandise exports were valued at US\$15.46 trillion in 2016, down 3.3% from the previous year. The pace of contraction was slower than in 2015, when export values fell 13.5% due to a strong appreciation of the U.S. dollar and plunging oil prices.

2.6. The value of world commercial services exports was nearly unchanged in 2016, increasing by just 0.1% to \$4.77 trillion. As with merchandise trade, nominal trade values for commercial services are strongly affected by changes in prices and exchange rates and should be interpreted with caution.

2.7. Trade is expected to strengthen globally in 2017 and 2018, but only if governments pursue an appropriate mix of policies and the global economic recovery proceeds as expected. In its most recent forecast of 12 April, the WTO Secretariat projected merchandise trade volume growth of 2.4% in 2017, but due to a high level of economic and policy uncertainty this is placed within a range from 1.8% to 3.6%. Trade growth should pick up slightly in 2018 to between 2.1% and 4%.

## **2.2 Economic Developments**

2.8. The volume of world merchandise trade has generally grown faster than world real GDP at market exchange rates since the Second World War (about 1.5 times on average), although in the 1990s trade grew more than twice as fast as output. However, since the onset of the global financial crisis in 2008, trade and output have grown at roughly the same rate, with a 1:1 ratio prevailing between the two indicators. Last year marked the first time since 2001 that the ratio of trade growth to GDP growth dipped below 1, falling to 0.6. This ratio is expected to recover partly in 2017, but the continued weakness of trade growth relative to GDP growth remains a source of concern.

2.9. Global economic activity picked up gradually during the review period, although growth remains unsteady and unbalanced. GDP strengthened in major economies in the third and fourth quarters of 2016 before slowing in the first quarter of 2017. Output in the United States grew at an average rate of 2.8% (seasonally adjusted and annualized) in the second half of 2016, up from 1.1% in the first half, but the pace of expansion slowed to 0.7% in the first quarter of 2017. Unemployment has continued to decline, falling to 4.4% in April from 4.9% in the second quarter of last year.

2.10. GDP growth was steady in the European Union in 2016, increasing slightly from 1.8% on average in the first half of the year to 2% in the second half, and remained at 2% in the first quarter of 2017. Unemployment in the European Union has declined gradually to 8% in March from 8.5% in the first half of 2016, but jobless rates vary considerably across EU member

countries. For example, Germany's unemployment rate was 3.9% in the latest period while the rate for France was 10.1%.

2.11. Japan's GDP growth remained weak but positive in the second half of 2016, averaging 1.2% in Q3 and Q4. This is down slightly from the 2% average rate observed in the first half of the year. Figures for GDP growth in the first quarter of 2017 are not available yet. The country's unemployment rate is low by developed country standards and continues to decline, falling to 2.8% in March 2017 from 3% at the start of the year.

2.12. China's GDP growth rose to approximately 7.2% (annualized and seasonally adjusted) in the second half of 2016 from around 6.6% in the first half of the year. No comparable harmonized employment rates are available for China, but economic activity and presumably employment continues to shift gradually away from manufacturing and toward services.

2.13. The economic situation in South and Central America remained deeply negative, as Brazil's economy continued to contract (-3.1% annual rate) in the second half of 2016. In contrast, GDP growth in Argentina picked up to 1.1% in the second half of last year after falling 5.3% in the first half.

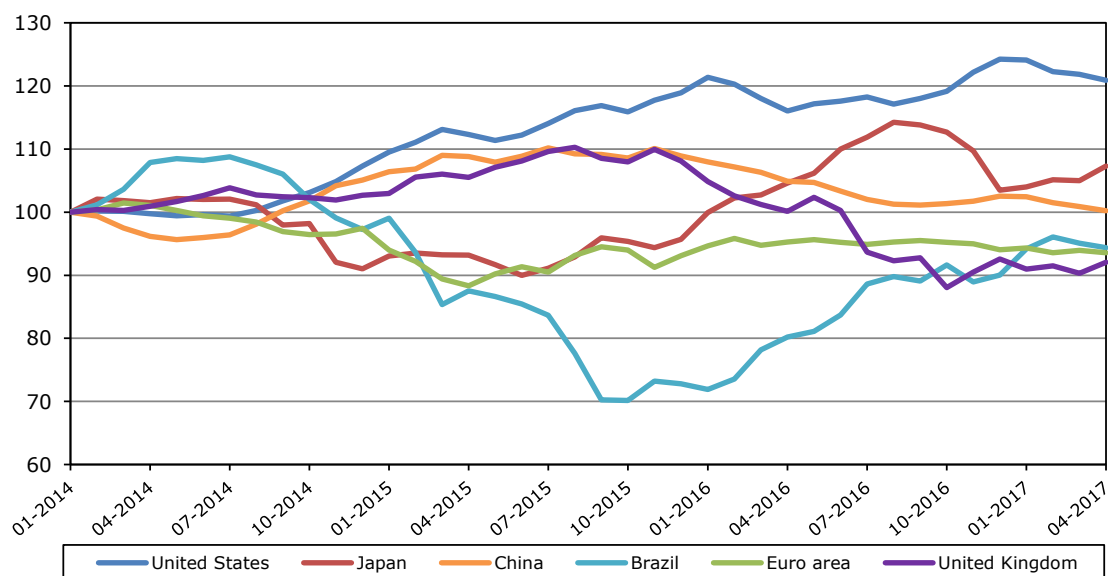
2.14. Significant fluctuations in exchange rates in recent years have strongly influenced nominal trade and economic statistics, most of which are denominated in current U.S. dollars. These developments are illustrated by Chart 2.1, which shows nominal effective exchange rate indices for selected economies from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) through April 2017. In 2016, the U.S. dollar appreciated 4.4% on average against the currencies of US trading partners (i.e. in "nominal effective" terms) after having risen nearly 13% in 2015. Dollar appreciation contributes to lower dollar prices for commodities since it allowed the same quantity of goods to be purchased with fewer units of currency.

2.15. Other exchange rate developments in 2016 included a 4.6% average depreciation of China's yuan against the currencies of its trading partners and a 10% decline in the average value of sterling. The yuan had risen 9.5% in 2015 so the devaluation in 2016 could be seen as a correction. Meanwhile, the nominal effective exchange rate of the euro remained stable in 2016, with a modest rise of 1.9%. The nominal effective exchange rate of the U.S. dollar is up around 20% since the start of 2015, while sterling is down around 8%.

2.16. Dollar appreciation can cause trade denominated in other currencies (e.g. intra-EU trade) to be undervalued when measured in dollar terms. As a result, trade statistics in nominal dollar terms should be interpreted with caution under current circumstances.

**Chart 2.1 Nominal effective exchange rate indices for selected economies, January 2014 - April 2017<sup>a</sup>**

(index, January 2014 = 100)



a Nominal effective exchange rate indices against a broad basket of currencies.

Source: Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

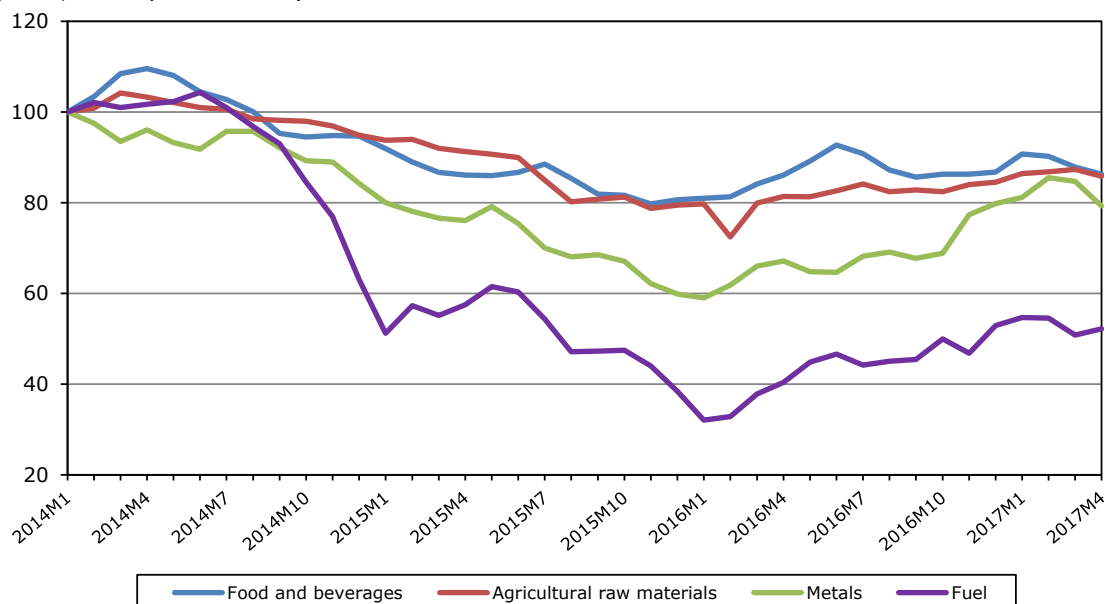
2.17. Monthly primary commodity prices have risen steadily since the start of last year, although growth for the whole of 2016 (i.e. the 12 months of 2016 compared to the previous 12 months) remained negative. Fuels saw the biggest decline in prices of any category of primary commodities year-on-year, falling 16.5%. Smaller declines were recorded for agricultural raw materials (-5.7%) and metals (-5.4%). In contrast, food prices increased slightly (1.3%). Commodity prices overall fell around 10% in 2016, i.e. considerably less than the 35% drop recorded in 2015, but still significant, particularly for resource-producing countries whose export earnings have continued to fall (albeit at a slower pace).

2.18. Commodity prices are up in 2017 for the year-to-date (i.e. January-April). For example, fuel prices are up 48.3% compared to the same period in 2016, but they are still down 47.8% compared to their level at the start of 2014 (Chart 2.2).

2.19. The persistent weakness of fuel prices is partly explained by the resilience of oil production in the United States, including production from non-traditional sources such as shale. According to the US Energy Information Administration, oil output declined in the first half of 2016 but rose in the second half, limiting the year-on-year decline in output to 5.5%. Production for the whole of 2016 was still 77% higher than the level recorded in 2008. Despite a firming of oil prices since the start of 2016, a return to prices in the neighbourhood of US\$100 oil/barrel is unlikely at current production levels.

**Chart 2.2 Prices of primary commodities, January 2014 - April 2017**

(index, January 2014 = 100)



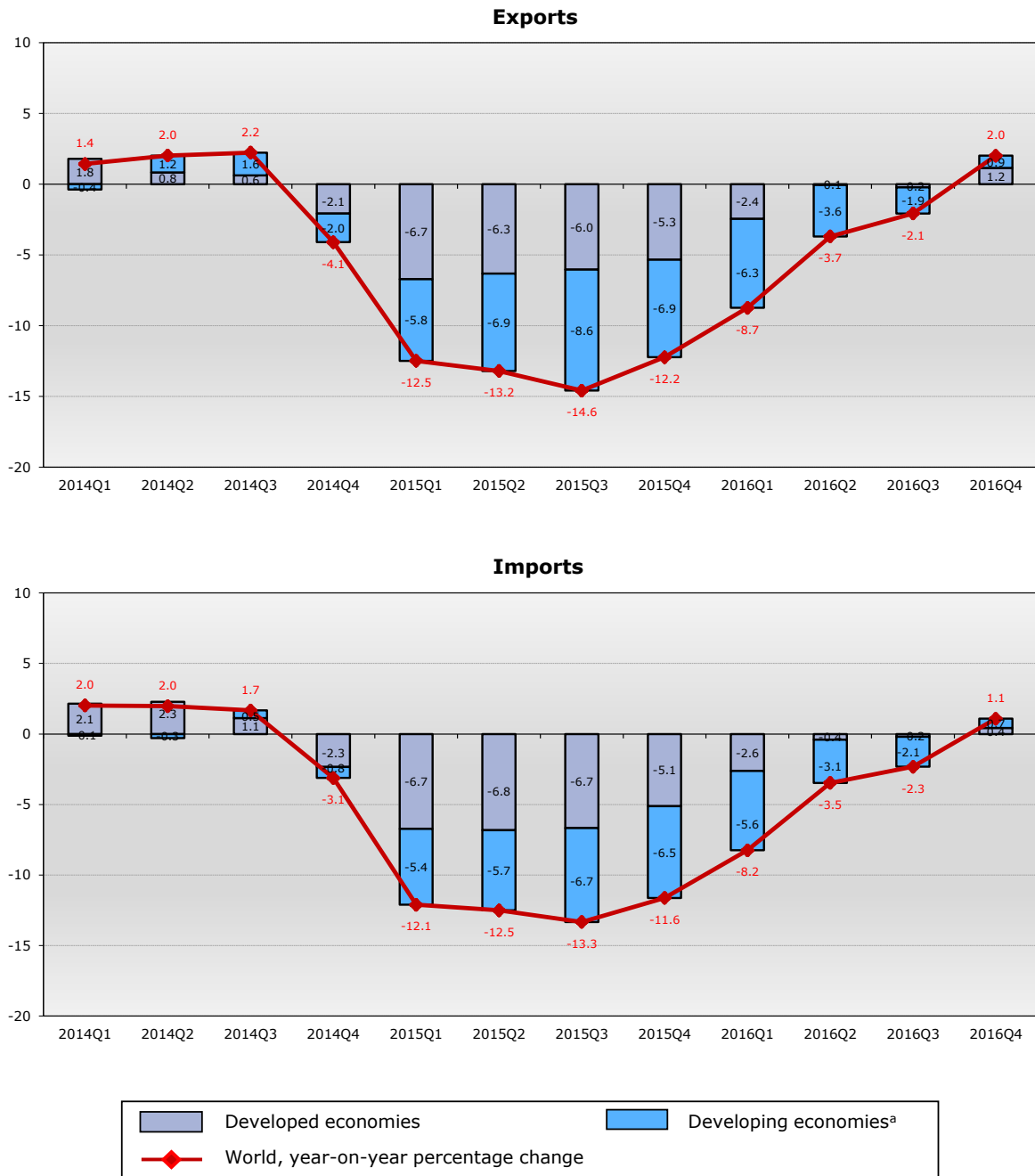
Source: IMF Primary Commodity Prices.

### 2.3 Merchandise Trade

2.20. Chart 2.3 shows year-on-year growth in the dollar value of merchandise trade (red line), as well as relative contributions to nominal trade growth from developed and developing economies (stacked bars). Year-on-year growth in the dollar value of world trade returned to positive values in the fourth quarter of 2016 after eight months of contraction. Developing economies have been a greater drag on world import demand since the fourth quarter of 2015. This stands in contrast to the period during and immediately following the global financial crisis, when imports of emerging markets in particular helped cushion the global downturn. Higher oil prices and reduced financial volatility in Asia may boost imports of developing economies in 2017 and beyond.

**Chart 2.3 Contributions to year-on-year growth in world merchandise exports and imports, 2014Q1 - 2016Q4**

(% change in US\$ values)



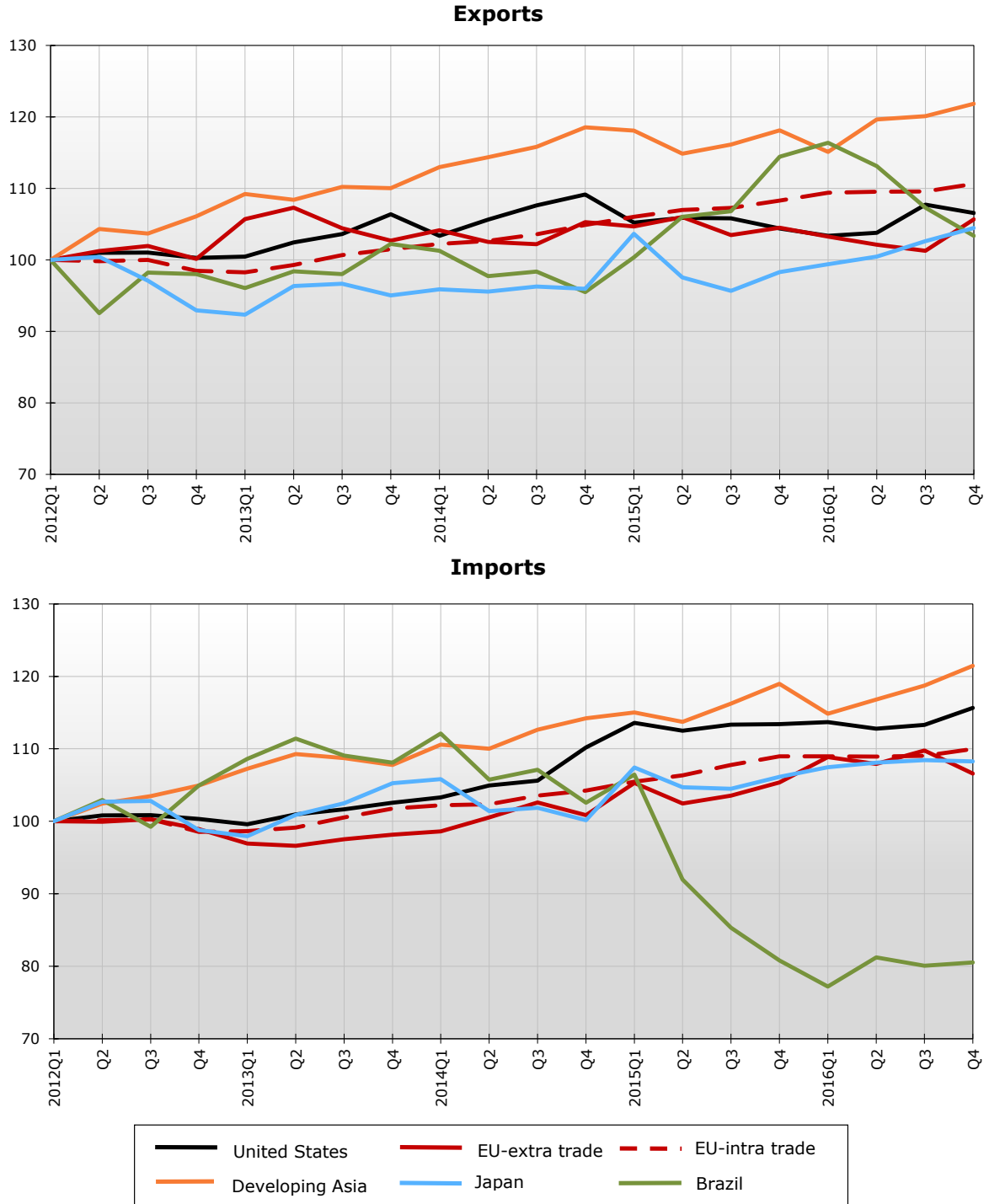
a Includes significant re-exports. Also includes the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Note: Due to scarce data availability, Africa and Middle East are under-represented in world totals.

Source: WTO Secretariat estimates, based on data compiled from IMF International Financial Statistics; Eurostat Comext Database; Global Trade Atlas; and national statistics.

**Chart 2.4 Volume of exports and imports of selected economies, 2012Q1 - 2016Q4**

(seasonally adjusted volume indices, 2012Q1 = 100)



Note: Data for the United States, Japan and the EU were obtained from national statistical sources while figures for Brazil and Developing Asia are seasonally adjusted Secretariat estimates.

Source: WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats.

2.21. Merchandise trade in volume terms grew moderately in leading economies in the second half of 2016, Brazil's exports and extra-EU imports being notable exceptions. Exports and imports of the United States were up 2.7% and 2.6%, respectively, in 2016Q4 compared to 2016Q2. Extra-EU exports were up 3.5% and extra-EU imports down 1.2% over the same period, with



intra-EU trade up by 1.0%. Japan's exports rose 4% between 2016Q2 and 2016Q4, while the country's imports only increased slightly (0.2%) over the same interval. Exports of developing Asia (including China) were only up 1.8% during this period, but imports rose 4%. Finally, Brazil's exports fell 8.6% (albeit from a high level), while imports remained deeply depressed, dropping a further 0.9% between Q2 and Q4.

2.22. Growth in most countries has continued to strengthen in the first quarter of 2017, although the fact that data are reported in nominal U.S. dollar terms means that exchange rate fluctuations have to be taken into account when considering developments for particular economies.

#### **2.4 Trade in Commercial Services**

2.23. Year-on-year growth in world exports of commercial services strengthened in 2016Q3 before weakening in 2016Q4. Weakness in the last period was mostly due to falling services trade in Europe, since export and import growth in North America and Asia remained relatively strong through to the end of the year. The diminished performance in Europe may have been due to increased uncertainty and exchange rate fluctuations following the Brexit referendum and the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. The United Kingdom is a major exporter of commercial services, accounting for 12% of total EU exports and 17% of EU imports in 2015. It remains to be seen whether this weakness will be persistent or temporary.

2.24. Chart 2.5 shows year-on-year growth in the U.S. dollar value of commercial services trade for selected economies through 2016Q4. The strongest export growth in the fourth quarter was recorded by India (11%) followed by Japan (9%). The biggest declines were registered by China (-5%) and the Russian Federation (-4%). EU exports to the rest of the world, i.e. extra-EU exports, were down 4% in Q4. Although not shown in this Chart, exports of the United Kingdom were down 10.1%, including trade with the rest of the European Union.

2.25. Asian economies recorded strong year-on-year import growth in the fourth quarter of 2016, including India (17%), China (13%) and Japan (6%). Growth also turned positive in Brazil (5%) following steep declines earlier in the year. Extra-EU imports declined by 5% in Q3 and by 6% in Q4, partly due to falling imports of the United Kingdom, which dropped 14%. Large declines in EU countries could reflect exchange rate fluctuations. Unfortunately, there is no volume indicator for services trade akin to the WTO's merchandise trade indices to gauge the quantity of services transactions.

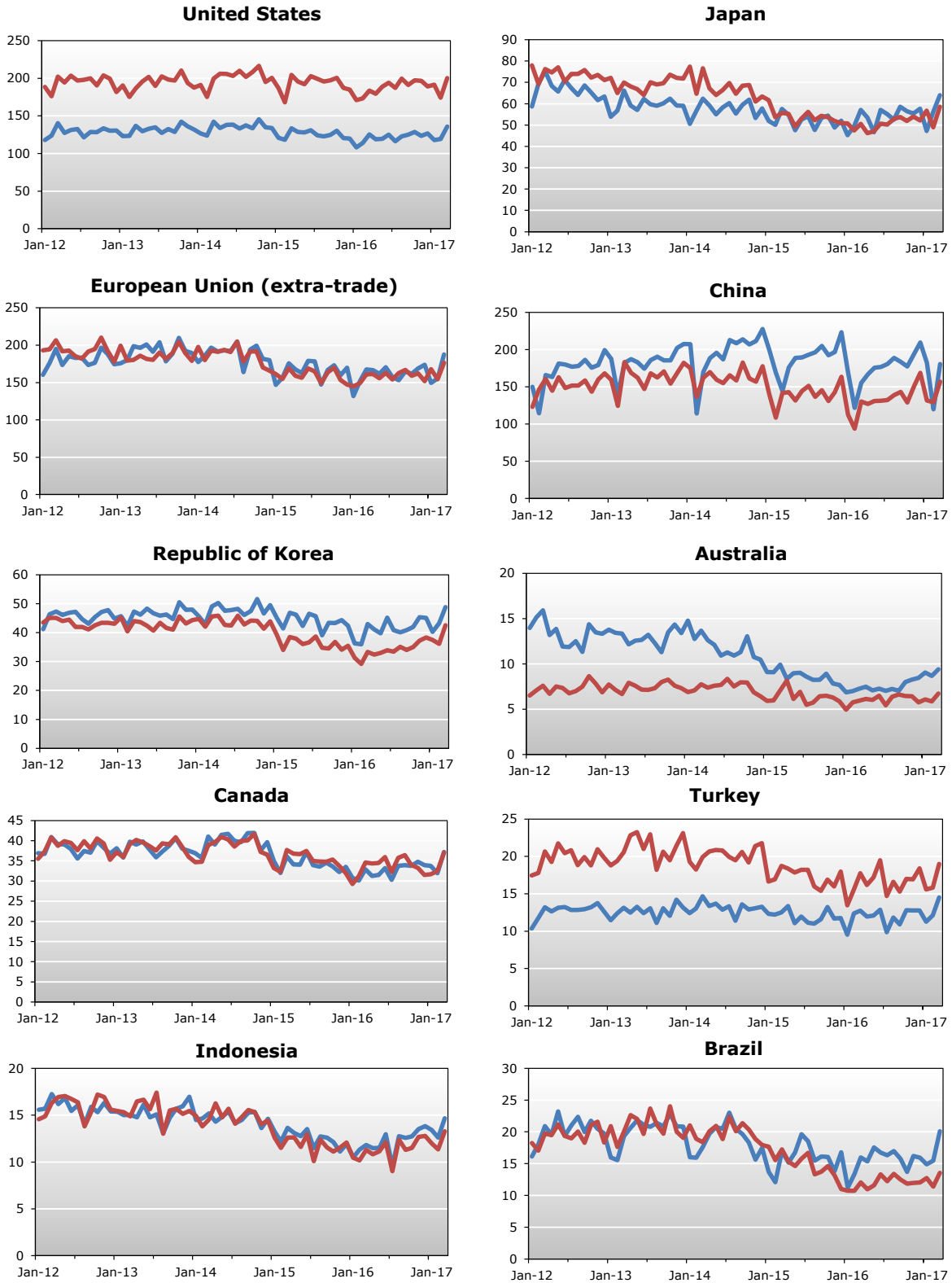
#### **2.5 Trade Forecast and Economic Outlook**

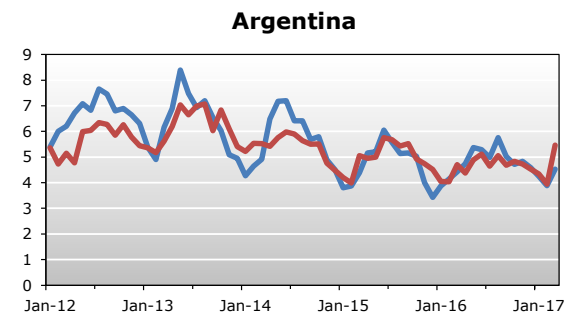
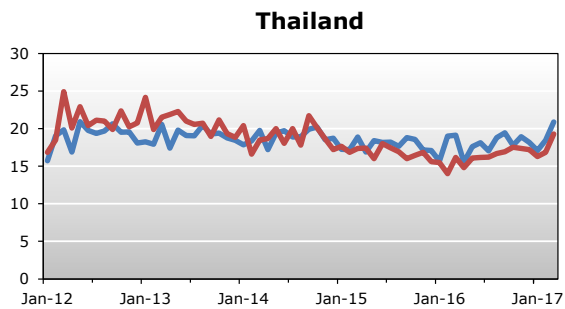
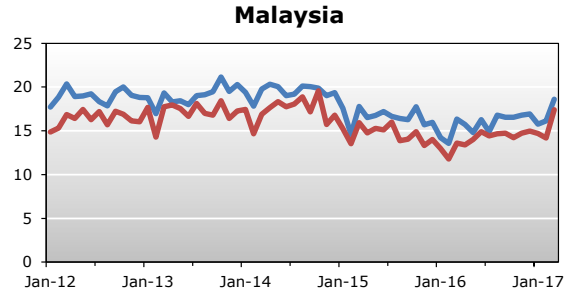
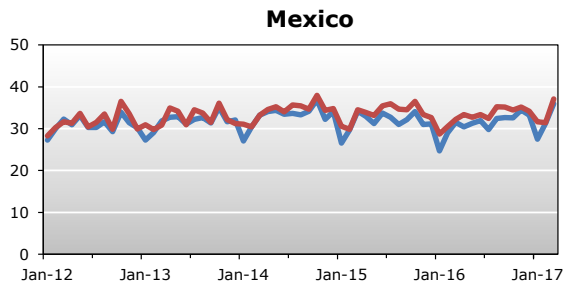
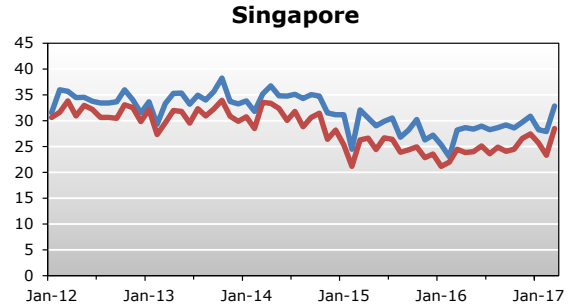
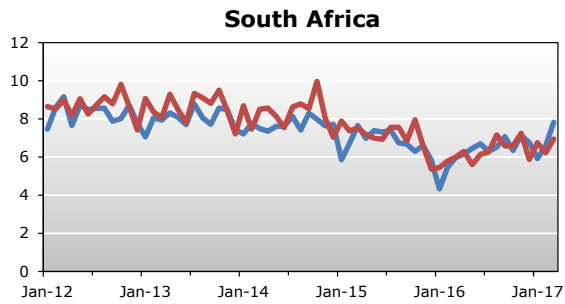
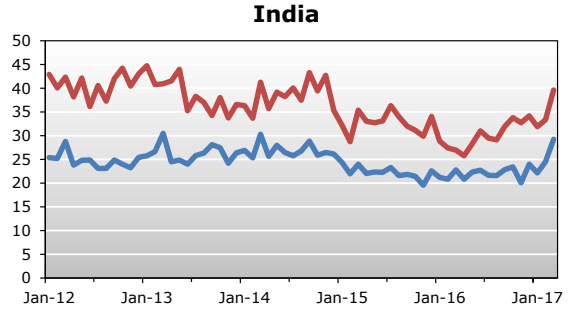
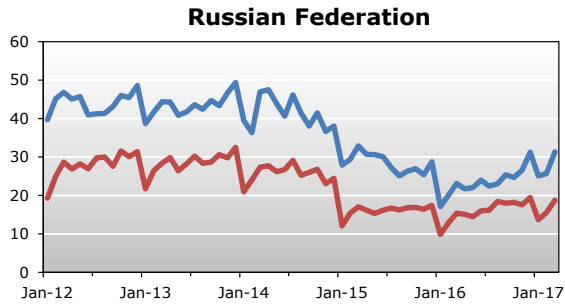
2.26. Several leading indicators of world merchandise trade volumes were up sharply in the first quarter of 2017, including container shipping, air freight and export orders. This could point to stronger global trade growth, at least in the short-run. Balanced against these positive signals are several clear and significant downside risks. Unexpected inflation could force central banks to tighten monetary policy more quickly than they would like, undercutting economic growth and trade. Changes in fiscal policy could also have unintended consequences for economic activity and trade flows. Uncertainty due to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union could also have an impact on regional and global trade growth. Finally, increased use of restrictive trade measures could affect demand and investment over the longer term. In light of these considerations, the likelihood of downside risks emerging in 2017 and beyond is considerable.

2.27. The WTO's most recent trade forecast of 12 April 2017 predicted merchandise trade volume growth of 2.4% in 2017. Due to the presence of significant downside risks and the prolonged weak trade growth in recent years, this estimate is placed within a range of 1.8% to 3.6%. The central estimate depends on developed economies maintaining generally accommodative fiscal and monetary policies, on economic recovery proceeding as expected in emerging economies, and on restrictive trade measures not proliferating. World trade growth could be as low as 1.8% in 2017 if downside risks emerge, or it could be as high as 3.6% if economic conditions strengthen. In 2018 trade volume growth should be between 2.1% and 4% (Table 2.1).

**Chart 2.5 Merchandise exports and imports of selected economies, January 2012 – March 2017**

(US\$ billion)

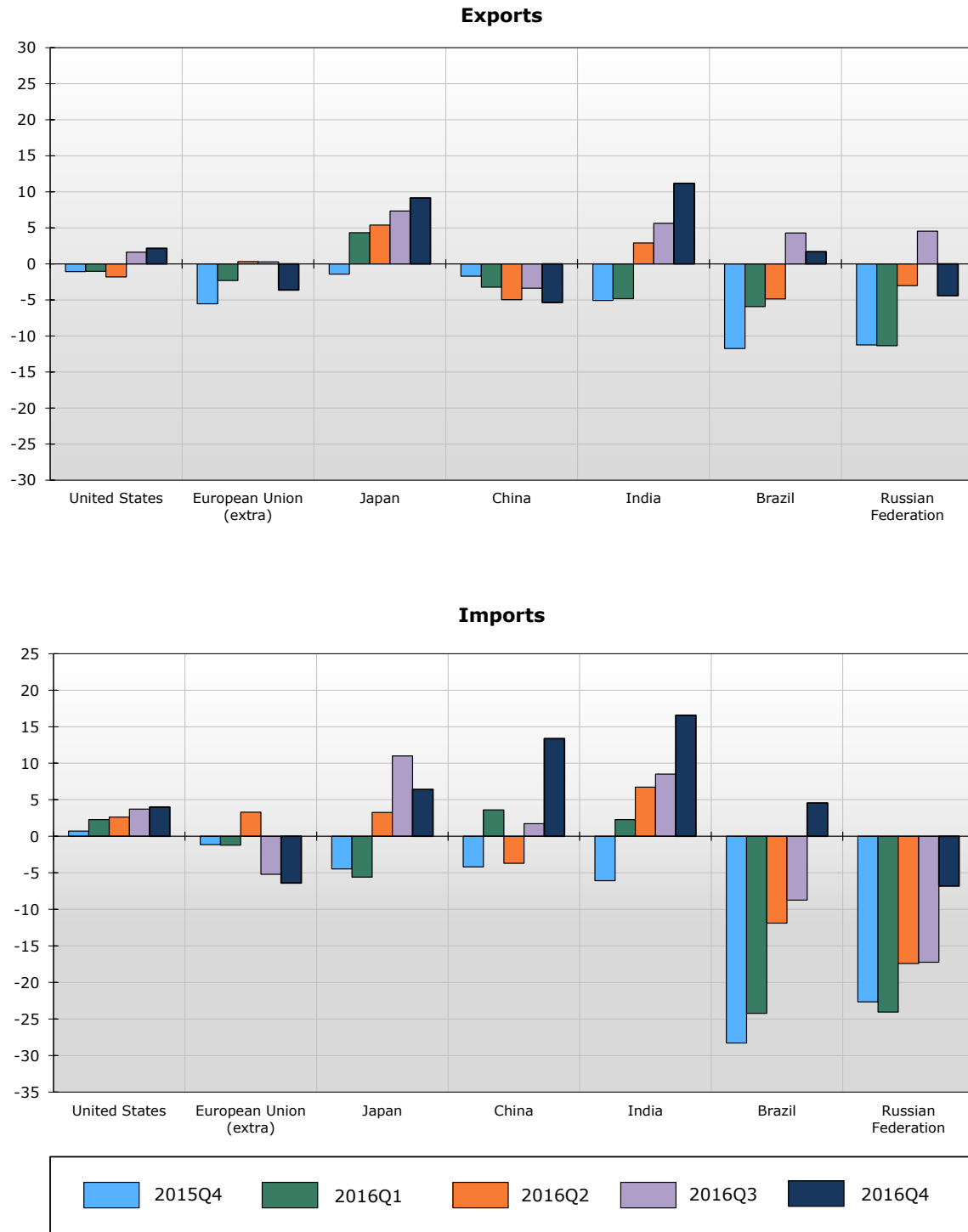




Source: IMF International Financial Statistics, Global Trade Information Services, Global Trade Atlas database, national statistics.

**Chart 2.6 Commercial services exports and imports of selected economies, 2015Q4 - 2016Q4**

(year-on-year % change in current US\$ values)



Source: WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats.

**Table 2.1 Merchandise trade volume and real GDP growth, 2013-2018**

(annual % change)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017P	2018P
<b>Volume of world merchandise trade<sup>a</sup></b>	2.4	2.7	2.6	1.3	2.4 (1.8-3.6)	2.1-4.0
<b>Exports</b>						
Developed economies	1.7	2.4	2.7	1.4	2.8 (1.9-4.0)	2.1-4.2
Developing economies <sup>b</sup>	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.3	2.2 (1.8-3.4)	2.0-4.0
North America	2.7	4.2	0.7	0.5	3.2 (2.7-4.0)	3.7-4.7
South and Central America	1.7	-2.2	2.5	2.0	1.4 (1.3-1.6)	2.2-2.6
Europe	1.7	2.0	3.6	1.4	2.8 (2.0-4.2)	1.9-4.1
Asia	5.4	4.3	1.1	1.8	2.5 (1.7-3.9)	1.9-4.4
Other regions <sup>c</sup>	0.5	0.9	4.3	0.3	0.8 (1.1-2.0)	1.0-3.0
<b>Imports</b>						
Developed economies	0.0	3.6	4.7	2.0	3.0 (2.2-4.4)	2.0-4.0
Developing economies <sup>b</sup>	4.6	1.7	0.5	0.2	2.2 (1.8-3.3)	2.5-4.3
North America	1.3	4.8	6.7	0.4	3.0 (1.8-4.8)	2.5-5.1
South and Central America	4.5	-2.4	-5.8	-8.7	0.1 (-0.6-1.0)	1.0-3.0
Europe	-0.2	3.2	4.3	3.1	2.9 (2.0-4.2)	1.6-3.6
Asia	4.8	3.0	2.9	2.0	3.2 (3.2-4.1)	2.8-4.6
Other regions <sup>c</sup>	1.8	-0.9	-5.1	-2.4	0.5 (-0.4-1.8)	2.5-3.0
<b>Real GDP at market exchange rates</b>	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.8
Developed economies	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.0
Developing economies <sup>b</sup>	4.6	4.2	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.2
North America	1.7	2.4	2.5	1.6	2.3	2.7
South and Central America	3.3	0.6	-0.9	-2.0	1.0	2.0
Europe	0.5	1.6	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7
Asia	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.0
Other regions <sup>c</sup>	2.7	2.5	1.1	1.7	2.4	3.0

a Average of exports and imports.

b Includes the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including associate and former member States.

c Other regions comprise Africa, Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Note: Figures for 2017 and 2018 are projections.

Sources: WTO Secretariat for trade; consensus estimates for GDP, with data source from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and national sources.

### Box 2.1 The WTO World Trade Outlook Indicator

In 2016 the WTO launched the World Trade Outlook Indicator (WTOI), which is designed to provide “real time” information on the current trajectory of world trade and clues about its direction in the near future. The WTOI combines six component indices of trade-related data into an overall index that signals trade conditions 3-4 months ahead of quarterly trade volume data. Index values of 100 indicate trade growth in line with medium-term trends, while readings greater or less than 100 suggest above or below trend growth.

The WTOI’s component indices are either leading with respect to world trade or coincide with trade data but are available earlier. These include:

- export orders reported by manufacturers in purchasing managers indices;
- international air freight in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs) from the International Air Transport Association (IATA);
- container throughput of major ports, in twenty-foot equivalent (TEU) units;
- automobile sales and/or production in selected economies;
- customs data on electronic components trade in physical units; and
- customs data on agricultural raw materials trade in physical units.

The latest WTOI release of 15 May 2017 had an overall reading of 102.2, which is up slightly from 102.0 in the previous release of 14 February 2017. These values suggest that trade volume growth will be above trend in the first and second quarters of 2017 once complete data for these periods are available. These results are broadly in line with the WTO trade forecast issued on 12 April, which foresaw a return to moderate trade growth this year after sluggish expansion last year.

Increased strength in the overall index is tempered by weakness in certain component indices. Export orders, container shipping and air freight have all recorded strong gains in recent months, but these upward trends are balanced by weaker demand for automotive products, electronics and agricultural raw materials.

#### World Trade Outlook Indicator

102.2

(Index, trend = 100)



#### Drivers of trade

	Level of Index	Direction of change
Merchandise trade volume (Q2)	98.6	→
Export orders	104.2	↑
International air freight (IATA)	104.4	↑
Container port throughput	104.1	↑
Automobile production and sales	99.7	↓
Electronic components	97.9	↓
Agricultural raw materials	98.6	→

The main contribution of the WTOI is to identify turning points and to gauge momentum in world trade. It has performed well since its launch in July of last year, correctly signalling weak trade growth in 2016 and acceleration in the first quarter of 2017. Although is not a forecast per se, it complements trade statistics and forecasts from the WTO and other organizations and contributes to better monitoring of global trade developments. The WTO will continuously evaluate the indicator going forward and make adjustment from time to time as necessary to enhance its performance.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### 3 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1. The following Sections provide analysis of selected trade and trade-related policy developments during the period from mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017.

#### 3.1 Overview of trends identified during the period under review

3.2. The trade measures compiled for this report are presented in three categories: (i) measures that clearly facilitate trade (Annex 1); (ii) trade remedy measures (Annex 2); and (iii) other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3). The trade monitoring exercise is first and foremost about transparency and providing WTO Members with background information on recent trends in the implementation of trade and trade-related measures. The Trade Monitoring Report is intended to be purely factual and without prejudice to the rights and obligations of WTO Members.

3.3. The total number of trade and trade-related measures recorded over the period mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017 was 399. This figure includes 80 trade facilitating measures, 245 trade remedy measures and 74 other trade and trade-related measures.<sup>9</sup>

##### 3.1.1 Measures Facilitating Trade

3.4. Annex 1 to this Report lists measures which may be considered as trade facilitating.

3.5. During the review period, 80 measures aimed at facilitating trade were recorded for WTO Members (Table 3.1) which represents 20% of the total number of measures recorded. This amounts to a monthly average of just over 11 trade facilitating-measures, significantly lower than the monthly average (18) recorded in the most recent monitoring report. More importantly, however, is the fact that the estimated trade coverage<sup>10</sup> of the import-facilitating measures recorded for the review period (US\$183.1 billion) is more than three times higher than the estimated trade coverage of import-restrictive measures (US\$49.4 billion). More information on these numbers is provided below.

3.6. From Table 3.1 it can also be seen that among trade facilitating measures, the reduction or elimination of import tariffs continue to dominate.<sup>11</sup> Simplified customs procedures for imports were also recorded for some Members. On the export side, the elimination and simplification of specific customs procedures represent the most important types of export-related measure recorded. No elimination or easing of existing quantitative restrictions on exports was recorded during the review period. Similarly, during the period under review no measures to reduce local content requirements were recorded.

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<sup>9</sup> See annexes 1-3. These annexes do not include SPS, TBT and services measures, which are dealt with in Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 4 and Annex 4

<sup>10</sup> The value of trade is calculated using the UNSD Comtrade database, and is counted at the six-digit tariff line level. In cases where the same product is subject to more than one restrictive measure against the same partner, the trade coverage is counted only once. When the relevant HS codes were not provided or could not be clearly identified, no calculation was done.

<sup>11</sup> For example: reduction or elimination of import tariffs on capital goods, telecommunication and informatics.

**Table 3.1 Measures facilitating trade (Annex 1)**

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16 (WT/TPR/OV/19)	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-May 17 (7 months)
<b>Import</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>68</b>
- Tariff	153	109	155	167	121	128	57
- Customs procedures	24	30	17	35	30	35	10
- Tax	2	4	2	11	5	5	1
- QRs	16	1	12	7	3	3	0
- Other	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
<b>Export</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>
- Duties	11	4	3	19	6	6	2
- QRs	11	9	4	5	1	4	0
- Other	3	2	3	23	28	30	10
<b>Other</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
- Other <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
- Local content	8	3	1	4	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>80</b>
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>11.4</i>

a Other than local content measures.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.7. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures introduced during the review period was US\$183.1 billion, i.e. 1.12% of the value of world merchandise imports.<sup>12</sup> The HS Chapters within which the majority of trade facilitating measures were taken include mineral fuels and oils (HS27) 38.9%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS84) 17.7%, electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS85) 6.1% and animal and vegetable fats and oils (HS15) 3.6%.<sup>13</sup>

### Box 3.1 Trade coverage of the ITA Expansion Agreement

The review period covered by this Report covers measures resulting from the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement.

According to preliminary Secretariat estimates the trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures implemented during the review period in the context of the ITA Expansion Agreement amounted to US\$99.3 billion or around 0.6% of the value of world merchandise imports.<sup>a</sup> These measures were implemented by Australia, Guatemala, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland and are reflected in Annex 1.

Given the very significant trade coverage value of these measures, they have not been included in the figures evaluating the trade coverage of the trade-facilitating measures in Section 3.1.

For more details on the ITA Expansion Agreement see Section 3.7.

a Calculated at HS six-digit level and using 2015 import figures.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### 3.1.2 Trade Remedy Actions<sup>14</sup>

3.8. A detailed overview of trade remedy measures taken by WTO Members during the review period is contained in Annex 2. This Section now applies the same methodology to the counting of

<sup>12</sup> The trade coverage of a measure is calculated to be the value of imports of the specific product concerned from countries affected by the measure as a share of the value of total world merchandise imports. Highly-traded goods may significantly influence trade coverage estimates. Figures are based on 2015 annual imports.

<sup>13</sup> These figures do not include import-facilitating measures implemented in the context of the ITA Expansion Agreement (see Box 3.1).



anti-dumping and countervailing investigations as in Section 3.2, i.e. on the basis of the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation or a termination. Thus, one anti-dumping or countervailing investigation involving imports from  $n$  countries/customs territories is counted as  $n$  investigations. Similarly, a termination of an investigation without the imposition of a measure or a termination of an imposed measure on imports from  $n$  countries/customs territories is counted as  $n$  terminations.<sup>15</sup>

3.9. During the review period, 245 trade remedy actions were recorded (Table 3.2), i.e. 61% of the total of all trade measures recorded for the period under review. As can be seen from the table, WTO Members typically have initiated more new trade remedy investigations than terminations of trade remedy actions.<sup>16</sup> The period under review witnessed a slight deceleration of the monthly average of initiations compared to the period covered by the previous report and to calendar year 2016. The monthly average of terminations also fell. Anti-dumping measures continue to make up the bulk (85%) of total initiations and (89%) of total terminations. Table 3.2 also appears to suggest that the monthly average of new trade remedy initiations taken by WTO Members over the review period has declined to its lowest level since 2015.

**Table 3.2 Trade remedy actions (Annex 2)**

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16 (WT/TPR/OV/19)	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-May 17 (7 months)
<b>Initiations</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>174</b>
- AD	208	287	236	230	300	290	147
- CVD	23	33	45	31	34	33	24
- SG	24	18	23	17	11	17	3
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>24.9</i>
<b>Terminations</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>71</b>
- AD	175	160	186	167	133	132	63
- CVD	21	17	23	25	13	17	7
- SG	10	9	12	20	15	12	1
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>10.1</i>

Note: The information on trade remedy actions for 2012-16 is based on the semi-annual notifications by WTO Members. For mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017, the information is based on the responses and the verification received directly from WTO. Anti-circumvention measures are not included in the above numbers.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.10. The trade remedy actions taken during the review period covered a wide range of products. In the case of initiations of investigations, the most recent main sectors (HS Chapters) were wood and articles of wood (HS44) 26.2%, vehicles (HS87) 18.5%, furniture, bedding material, lamps (HS94) 13.8%, and articles of iron and steel (HS73) 9.4%. For terminations, the main sectors were articles of iron and steel (HS73) 29.1%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS84) 27%, aluminum and articles thereof (HS76) 12.2% and electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS85) 6.4%.

3.11. The trade coverage of trade-remedy initiations introduced during the review period by WTO Members was US\$26.9 billion (0.16% of world merchandise imports). For terminations the trade coverage was valued at US\$6.4 billion (0.04%).

<sup>14</sup> The coverage of trade remedy actions in this report in no way prejudices the right of WTO Members to take trade remedy actions. See also Box 1.

<sup>15</sup> According to many WTO Members, trade remedy measures are taken to address market distortions resulting from trade practices in another trading partner. The WTO Antidumping and Subsidies Agreements permit WTO Members to impose duties to offset what is perceived by some to be injurious dumping or subsidization of products exported from one Member to another. The trade monitoring exercise is not in a position to establish if, where or when such perceived distortive practices have taken place.

<sup>16</sup> Termination means either the termination of the investigation (without imposition of a measure) or elimination of the imposed measure.

### 3.1.3 Other Trade and Trade-Related Measures

3.12. Annex 3 to this Report lists measures which may be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect.

3.13. A total of 74 new trade-restrictive measures were recorded for the review period. This represents 18.5% of the total number of measures recorded and a monthly average of almost 11 measures, down from 15 measures recorded for the previous period, but broadly in line with the monthly average for the whole of 2016.

3.14. Tariff increases make up just over half of all import restrictive measures, followed by a range of customs procedures, quantitative restrictions and an import tax. With respect to export and other measures, quantitative restrictions and local content regulations make up the bulk of the measures recorded (Table 3.3).

**Table 3.3 Other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3)**

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16 (WT/TPR/OV/19)	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-May 17 (7 months)
<b>Import</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>56</b>
- Tariff	72	87	87	105	68	81	32
- Customs procedures	32	26	18	30	18	26	18
- Tax	6	6	7	16	6	11	1
- QRs	14	16	8	12	12	11	5
- Other	2	2	15	6	1	4	0
<b>Export</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>
- Duties	3	5	11	13	7	7	2
- QRs	12	9	9	7	9	12	6
- Other	7	16	6	24	5	15	2
<b>Other</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
- Other <sup>a</sup>	5	6	11	15	8	4	1
- Local content	8	1	1		4	11	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>74</b>
Average per month	13.4	14.5	14.4	19.0	11.5	15.2	10.6

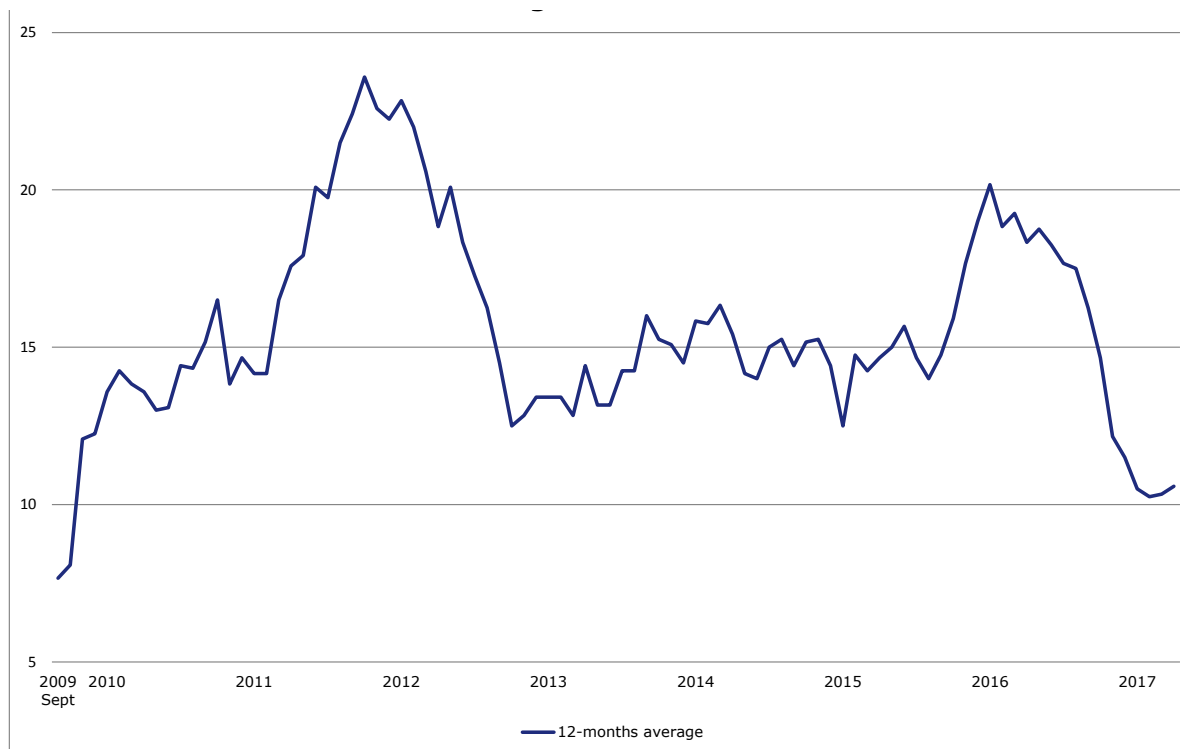
a Other than local content measures.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.15. The other trade and trade-related measures recorded in Annex 3, and which may be considered trade-restrictive, cover a wide range of products. The main sectors (HS Chapters) were: iron and steel (HS72) 18.9%, plastics and articles thereof (HS39) 14.7%, electrical equipment and parts thereof (HS85) 13.5% and precious metals (HS71) 8.6%. The trade coverage of the import-restrictive measures affecting imports introduced during the review period was US\$49.4 billion, i.e. 0.3% of the value of world merchandise imports.

**Chart 3.1 Smoothed averages of trade-restrictive measures**

(number of measures, 12-month averages)



Note: The smoothed averages were calculated as simple averages of the trade-restrictive measures recorded over a period covering the 12 past months. For example, the September 2009 entry corresponds to the average number of trade-restrictive measures implemented from October 2008 to September 2009. Data were sourced from the TMDb and cover the period from October 2008 to April 2017.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

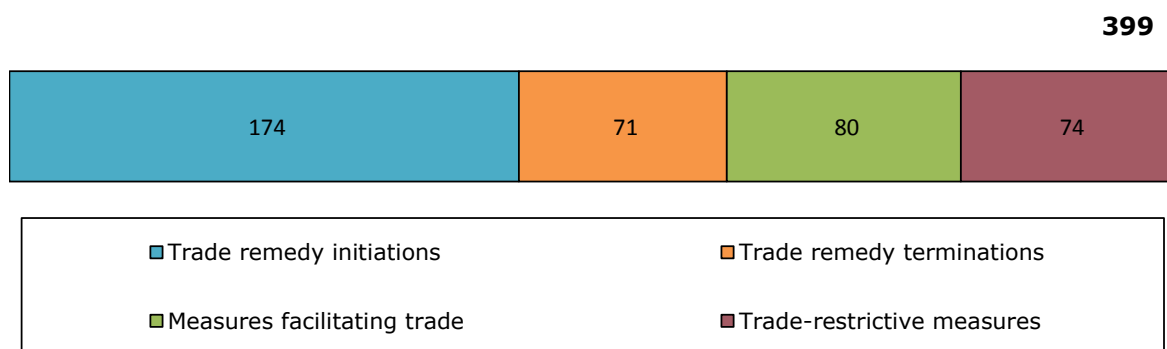
3.16. Chart 3.1 presents a complementary approach in the analysis of the trade-restrictive measures by introducing smoothed averages of measures over time. The purpose of the smoothed averages technique is to reduce the effects of random variations and to reveal underlying trends, including seasonal and cyclical components. The smoothed averages of the number of trade-restrictive measures implemented by WTO Members indicate limited variation despite two peaks recorded in 2012 and in 2016. After a period of intense activity, the current period is characterized by a deceleration in the implementation of new trade restrictions.

3.17. The quasi numerical parity recorded between the number of trade-facilitating and trade-restrictive measures (Chart 3.2 and 3.3) hides the fact that the corresponding estimates of the imports covered by are vastly different. The Charts show that of the 399 trade and trade-related measures recorded in this Report, the trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures is considerably larger (US\$183.1 billion) than the trade coverage of the import-restrictive measures (US\$49.4 billion). The trade coverage of trade remedy initiations and terminations amounts to approximately US\$26.9 billion and US\$6.4 billion, respectively.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> These trade coverage estimates should be treated with caution, as they may be influenced by highly-traded goods, exchange rates effects and availability of import statistics and detailed HS codes.

### Chart 3.2 Overview of measures taken by WTO Members and Observers, mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017

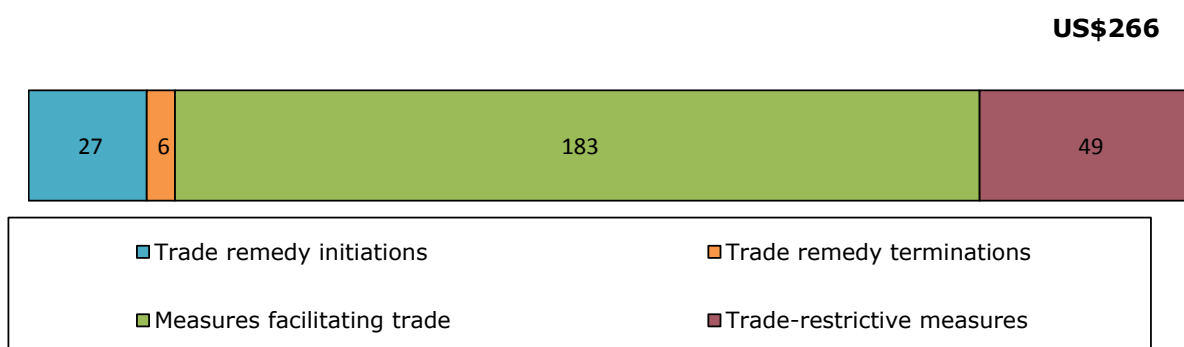
(by number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

### Chart 3.3 Trade coverage of import measures, mid-October 2016 to mid-May 2017

(US\$ billion)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.18. The above Section has provided information on the latest trends in trade policy making among WTO Members and confirmed several developments identified in previous reports. For example, the numerical importance of trade remedy measures, and anti-dumping in particular, in the overall number of trade measures introduced during the review period is fully consistent with previous reports. In addition, it is significant to note that the estimated trade coverage of import-facilitating measures significantly exceeds the estimated trade coverage of import-restrictive measures. This is an important finding because it suggests that despite the persistent uncertainty facing the global economy and fears about protectionist pressures, WTO Members collectively appear to have shown considerable restraint in seeking recourse to trade restrictions.

## 3.2 Trade Remedies<sup>18</sup>

3.19. This Section provides an historical assessment of trends in trade-remedy actions in the periods from January - December 2014 ("first period"), January - December 2015 ("second period") and January - December 2016 ("third period"), including an in-depth analysis of the specific actions of Members and Observers. Concerning anti-dumping, data for the third period indicate a significant increase in the number of new investigations initiated. The number of countervail investigations initiated also increased slightly in the third period compared to the

<sup>18</sup> This section is without prejudice to the right of Members to take trade remedy actions under the WTO. These periods coincide with the Member's semi-annual reporting periods.

previous one, whereas, the number of safeguard investigations initiated decreased. The total number of initiations for the latter two types of trade-remedy investigations remained considerably lower than for anti-dumping.

### Anti-Dumping Measures<sup>19</sup>

3.20. Anti-dumping initiations slightly decreased from the first to the second period, from 236 to 230, before increasing significantly to 300 in the third period (Table 3.4). The table also provides information on which Members initiated anti-dumping investigations.

**Table 3.4 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations**

Reporting Member	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2016
Argentina	6	6	25
Australia	22	10	17
Brazil	35	23	11
Canada	13	3	14
Chile	0	2	1
China	7	11	5
Colombia	6	7	1
Costa Rica	0	1	1
Dominican Republic	0	0	1
Egypt	9	4	14
El Salvador	0	0	1
European Union	14	12	14
Guatemala	1	0	0
India	38	30	69
Indonesia	12	6	7
Israel	0	1	1
Japan	1	2	1
Korea, Republic of	6	4	4
Malaysia	8	14	0
Mexico	14	9	6
Morocco	1	2	4
Pakistan	0	12	24
Paraguay	0	0	1
Peru	0	1	0
Philippines	0	0	1
Russian Federation <sup>a</sup>	7	1	1
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of <sup>b</sup>	0	1	0
South Africa <sup>c</sup>	2	0	0
Chinese Taipei	0	0	8
Thailand	0	7	10
Trinidad and Tobago	1	0	0
Turkey	12	16	17
Ukraine	2	2	1
United States	19	42	37
Uruguay	0	1	0
Viet Nam	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>300</b>

a Notified by the Russian Federation; investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all of its members collectively.

b Notified by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; investigations are initiated by the Gulf Cooperation Council on behalf of all its members collectively.

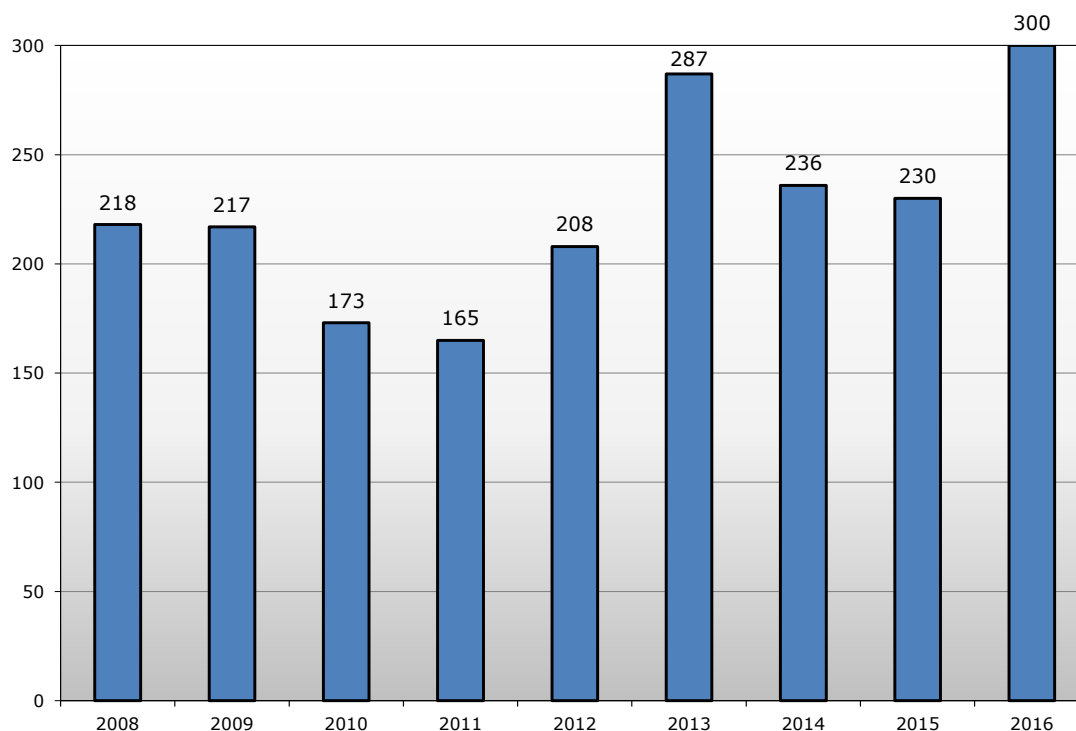
c Notified by South Africa; investigations are initiated by the Southern African Customs Union on behalf of all its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

<sup>19</sup> Anti-dumping and countervailing investigations are counted on the basis of the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation. Thus, one anti-dumping or countervailing investigation involving imports from  $n$  countries/customs territories is counted as  $n$  investigations.

3.21. Chart 3.4 shows that the number of anti-dumping investigations initiated increased from 165 in 2011 to 287 in 2013, decreased to 236 and 230 initiations in 2014 and 2015, respectively, then climbed in 2016 to 300 investigations. This is the highest number of initiations since the 311 of 2002, but still off the all-time high of 372 in 2001.

**Chart 3.4 Total anti-dumping investigation initiations by reporting Member, (2008-2016)**



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.22. While anti-dumping investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures, the significant rise in the number of investigations initiated is an important indicator suggesting a likely rise in the number of measures imposed. Over the three periods, a total of 501 anti-dumping measures were imposed (as shown in Table 3.5). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an anti-dumping investigation to be concluded once initiated, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period.

**Table 3.5 Number of Anti-Dumping Measures Imposed**

	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2016
Measures imposed	157	181	163

Source: WTO Secretariat

3.23. Chart 3.5 shows that there was little change in terms of the products affected by anti-dumping investigations initiated during the three periods examined, with the majority of initiations focused on products in the metals, plastics and rubber and chemicals sectors.

3.24. Metal products were subject to the most initiations in each period, accounting for 38% of all initiations in the first period, 46% in the second period and 43% in the third period. In each period, at least 89 initiations targeted metals, of which 85% focused on steel products (goods classified under HS Chapters 72 and 73). Over the three periods combined, the United States (61), Australia (35), the European Union (28), Canada (27), and Mexico (23) accounted for more than half of the 323 initiations on metals. An increase in the number of initiations targeting metal products was seen in the third period (i.e. January-December 2016) with 13 investigations initiated by Canada and India, 12 by the European Union, ten by Thailand and nine by Egypt. Initiations targeting metals across the three periods were mostly directed at products from China

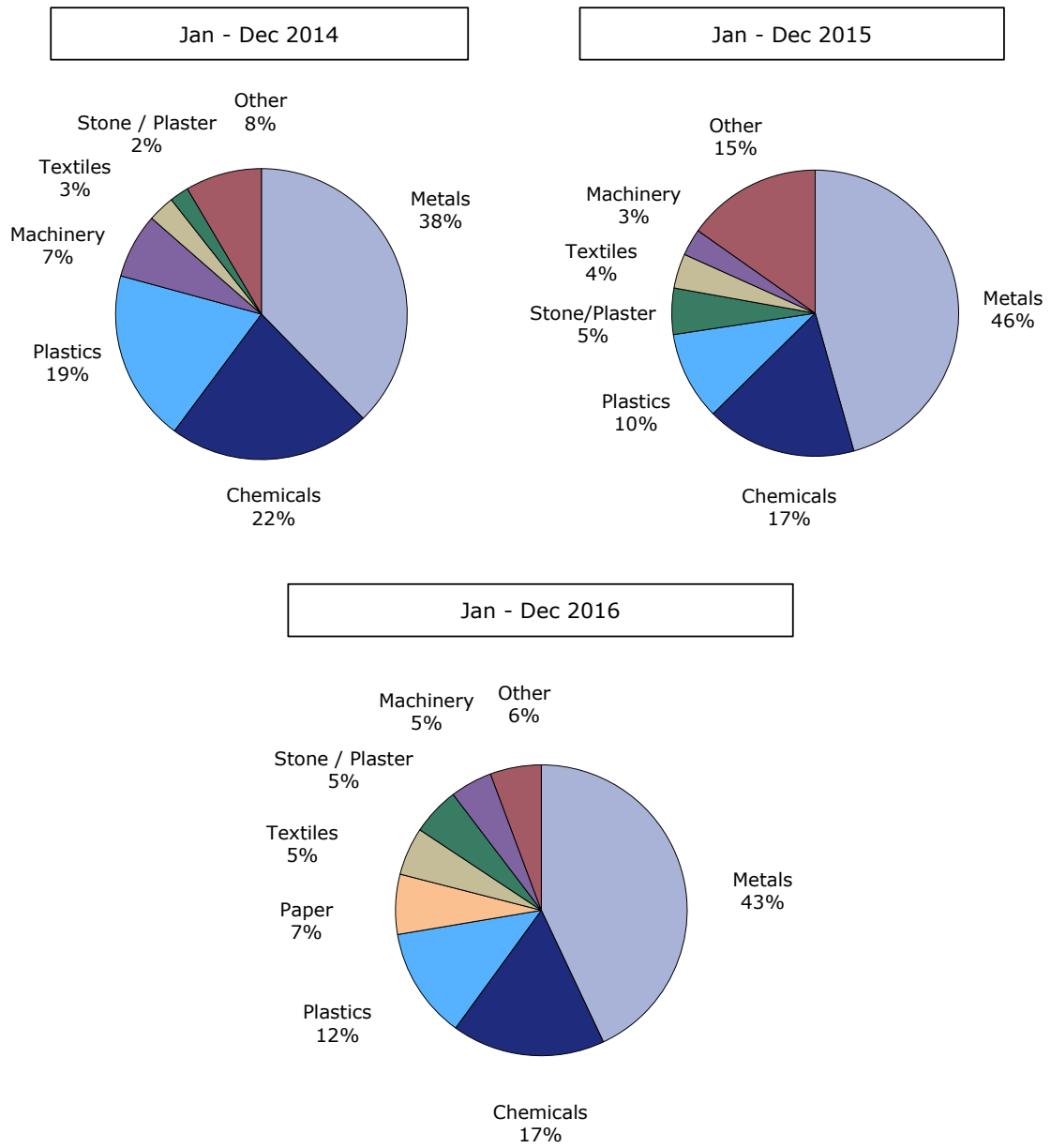
(91, of which 79 involved steel products), the Republic of Korea (33, of which 32 involved steel), India (22, of which 19 involved steel) and Chinese Taipei. In many instances, investigations were launched on the same product from several exporting countries. For instance, four steel products were the focus of 67 investigations.

3.25. Chemical products accounted for the second largest share of initiations over the three reporting periods, with a 22% share of initiations in the first period and a 17% share in the second and third periods. India accounted for 65 of the 143 new investigations on products in this sector over the three reporting periods, followed by Brazil (13) and Pakistan (11). These initiations involved mostly chemical products from China (42), the Republic of Korea (16) and the United States (9). Similarly to metals sector investigations, investigations into chemicals frequently involved the same product from different countries – 18 products accounted for 79 of the investigations in this area.

3.26. Plastics and rubber ranked third over the three periods examined, accounting for 19% of all initiations in the first period, 10% in the second period, and 12% in the third period. Almost one third of the 105 plastics and rubber investigations were initiated by Brazil (30), and the next largest user in this sector was India with 15 investigations, followed by the United States (13). China was once again the main subject of investigations in this sector (23), followed by the Republic of Korea (10), India (8) and Thailand (8).

3.27. In terms of countries affected by new anti-dumping investigations, 41 exporting Members were affected during the first period, while 42 were affected during the second period and 43 in the third period. China remained, by far, the Member most frequently subject to anti-dumping initiations during the three reporting periods – investigations into Chinese products accounted for 30% of all investigations during these periods. The Republic of Korea was the second Member most frequently subject to anti-dumping initiations during the three reporting periods accounting for 9% of the total initiations during these periods, followed by India at 5%.

**Chart 3.5 Anti-dumping initiations by product**



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.



## Countervailing Measures

3.28. Initiations of countervailing duty investigations decreased by 24% between 2014 and 2016, although as shown in Table 3.6, initiations of countervailing duty investigations increased slightly to 34 in 2016 compared to 31 in 2015. Over the three periods examined, 92% of countervail investigations were conducted concurrently with an anti-dumping investigation.

3.29. Among the fourteen Members that initiated countervailing investigations during the three periods examined, the United States initiated the most new investigations accounting for 52% of all initiations in these periods. Canada, the second largest user, accounted for 15%, while Australia accounted for 11%. The remaining investigations were conducted by eleven different countries, including notably Egypt, which initiated eight investigations in these periods.

**Table 3.6 Initiations of countervailing duty investigations**

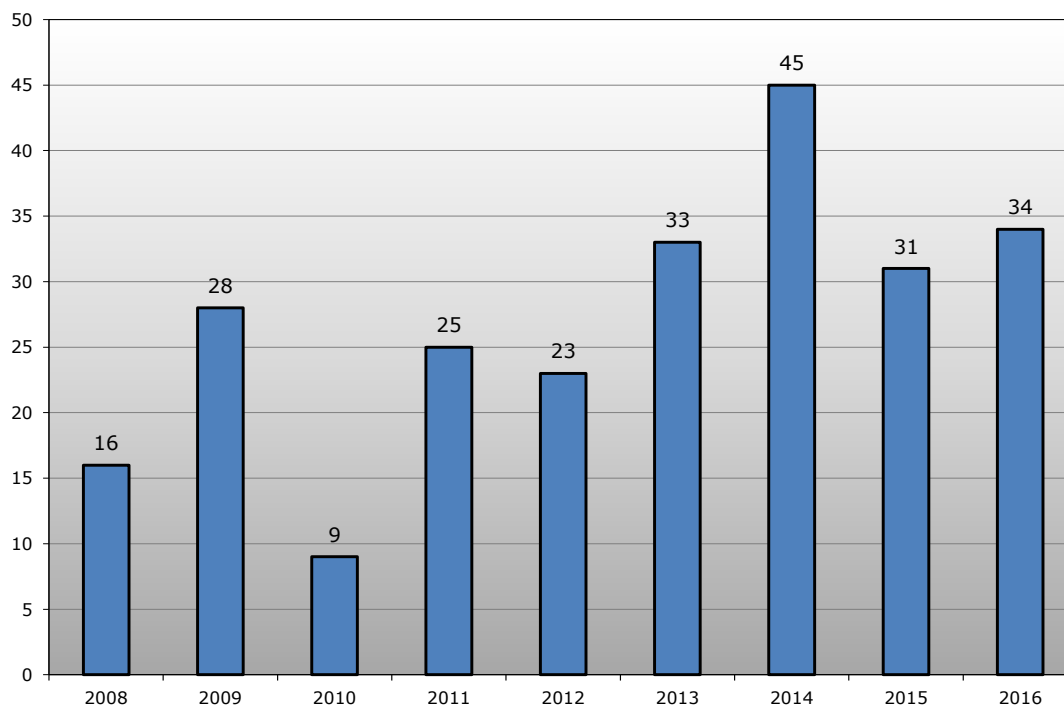
Reporting Member	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2016
Australia	2	2	8
Brazil	1	0	1
Canada	12	3	2
China	0	0	1
Egypt	6	0	2
European Union	2	2	1
India	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	0	1
Pakistan	0	0	1
Peru	1	0	0
Russian Federation <sup>a</sup>	1	0	0
Turkey	0	1	0
Ukraine	1	0	0
United States	18	23	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>

a Notified by the Russian Federation; investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all of its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.30. Chart 3.6, reflecting annual figures, shows an upward trend in countervail initiations since 2010, notwithstanding some fluctuation in 2012. In fact, the number of initiations recorded in 2014 (45) exceeds the previous peak of 41 initiations observed in 1999.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> WTO document WT/TPR/OV/W/2, p. 18. 15 July 2009.

**Chart 3.6 Countervailing investigation initiations**

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.31. As with anti-dumping, countervailing duty investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures. Over the three periods, a total of 49 countervailing measures were imposed (as shown in Table 3.7) and the number of countervailing measures imposed more than doubled between 2014 and 2016. However, as it can take up to 18 months for a countervail investigation to be concluded once initiated, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period.

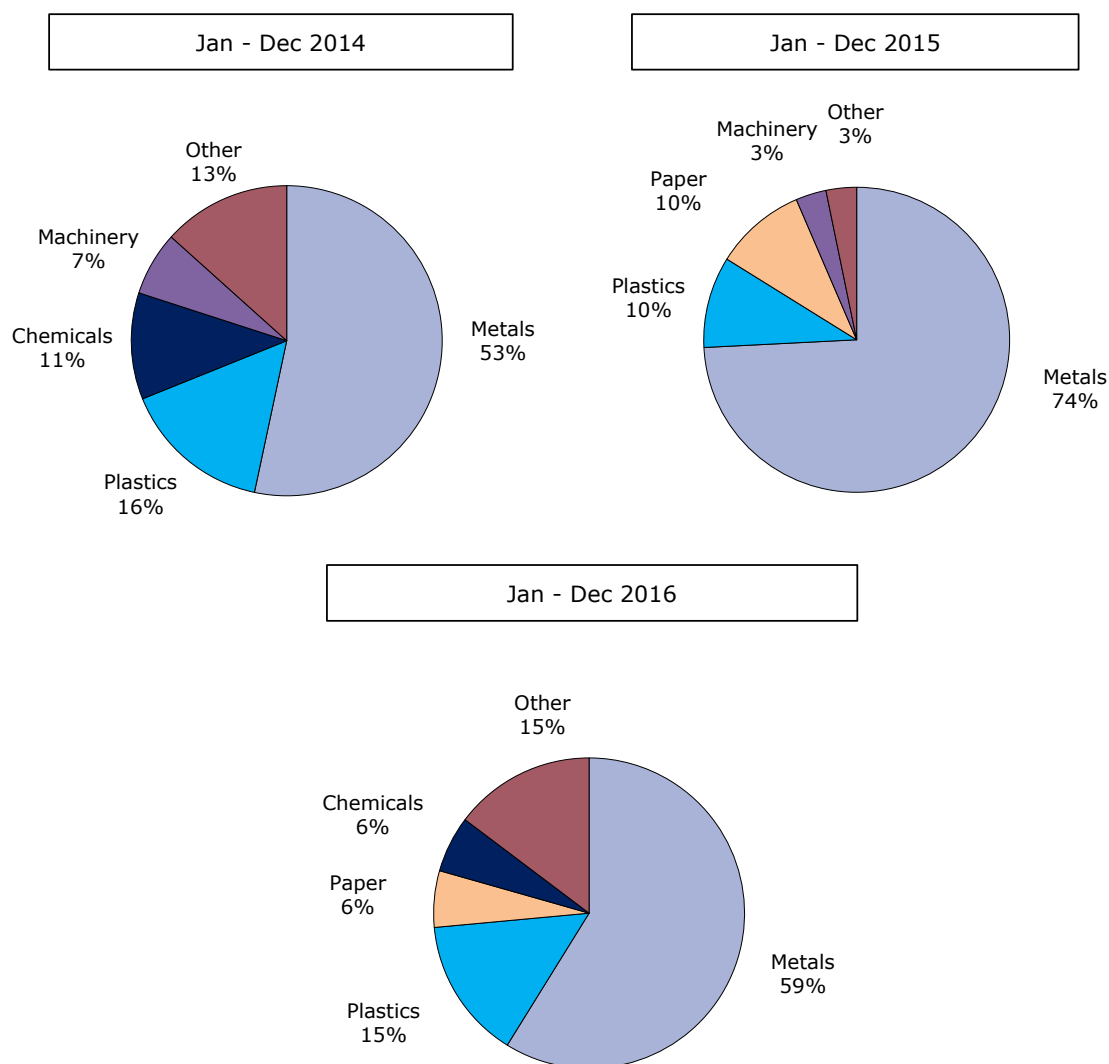
**Table 3.7 Number of Countervailing Measures Imposed**

	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2016
Measures imposed	11	15	23

Source: WTO Secretariat

3.32. Concerning the types of products affected by countervail investigations, Chart 3.7 shows that metals accounted for most of the initiations reported over the three reporting periods, occupying a 53%, 74% and 59% share of all initiations in the first, second and third periods, respectively. For the three periods combined, 67 of the 110 total initiations recorded covered metals, and 62 of these focused on steel products. The United States initiated over half of the investigations of steel products. Ten of the 16 steel-related initiations in the third period involved products from China.

3.33. Over the three reporting periods, plastics were the second most-investigated sector with 15 initiations, followed closely by paper products with 10 initiations.

**Chart 3.7 Countervailing duty initiations by product**

Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.34. In terms of countries or customs territories affected by new countervail investigations, 18 exporting Members were affected during the first, 12 during the second and 11 during the third periods. Similarly to anti-dumping, China was the most affected Member throughout the periods reviewed. Investigations into Chinese products accounted for 39% of all investigations during these periods. India, the second most affected Member during the three reporting periods, accounted for 12% of all initiations during these periods, followed by Turkey, which accounted for 9%.

## Sunset Reviews

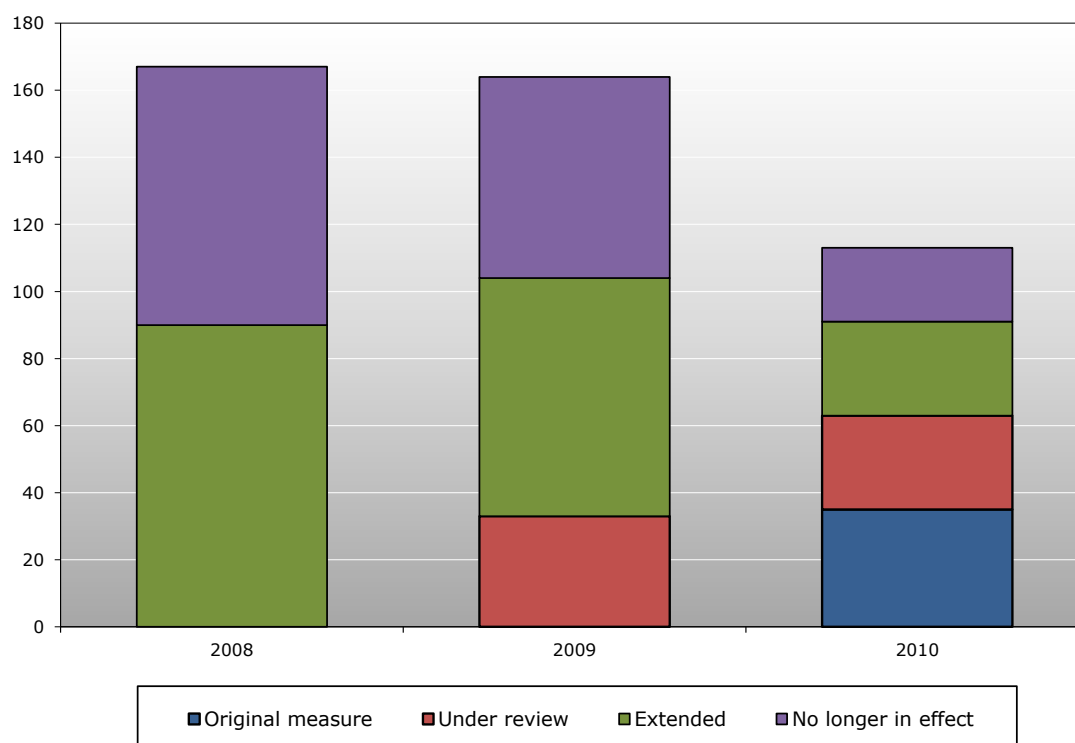
3.35. This Section examines the effect the global financial crisis may have had on anti-dumping (AD) and countervailing actions (CVD), by analysing the extent to which measures imposed following the financial crisis have been extended or have expired (or have otherwise been terminated) - possibly suggesting that the financial crisis could have been a factor that contributed to the imposition of the measure. This Section, therefore, examines measures imposed as a result of investigations initiated in 2008, before the financial crisis, as well as 2009 and 2010, when the full effects of the financial crisis were being felt.<sup>21</sup>

3.36. The relevant WTO Agreements stipulate that anti-dumping and countervailing measures can remain in force only for as long as necessary to counteract injury caused by dumped or subsidised imports. In addition, they must expire no later than five years after their imposition unless it is determined, through a review, that removal of a measure would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping or subsidisation and injury. In such a case, the measure can be extended for up to a further five years. This review process is often referred to as a sunset review. Investigating authorities generally invite applications for a sunset review before a measure expires, and in the absence of a review, they allow the measure to lapse.

3.37. As of 31 December 2016, measures imposed as a result of investigations initiated in 2008-2010 are in various stages of their lifecycle. Some measures are still within the initial five-year imposition period, some are under review<sup>22</sup>, some have been extended and some have expired.

3.38. Chart 3.8 shows the status of AD and CVD measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2008, 2009 and 2010 by WTO Members as at 31 December 2016.

**Chart 3.8 Status of measures resulting from AD and CVD investigations initiated in 2008, 2009 and 2010**



Source: WTO Secretariat.

<sup>21</sup> It is assumed that investigations in response to the financial crisis would not have been initiated before January 2009.

<sup>22</sup> A sunset review must be initiated prior to the expiration date of the measure, but the measure may remain in force after this date pending the outcome of the review.

3.39. All of the 167 measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2008 by WTO Members have now been subject to expiry action (either a sunset review or termination), along with all of the 164 measures for 2009. However, approximately one third of measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2010 (35 out of 113) have not yet been subject to any expiry action.

**Table 3.8 Proportion of expiring measures that were subject to a sunset review for all WTO Members (based on the year the investigation was initiated)**

Expiring measures	Investigation initiated in		
	2008	2009	2010 <sup>a</sup>
Not reviewed	39%	29%	24%
Reviewed	61%	71%	76%

a Only 78 measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2010 have so far expired or been subject to review.

Note: Based on the year the investigation was initiated.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.40. Table 3.8 shows the proportion of measures that were due to expire for which a sunset review has been conducted; noting that measures not reviewed will automatically expire. For measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2009 ("the 2009 measures"), 71% were reviewed, higher than the 61% found for 2008 ("the 2008 measures"), although there is insufficient information to determine whether this difference is significant.

3.41. As at 31 December 2016, 102 sunset reviews had been completed for measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2008, 84 for 2009 and 31 for 2010, as shown in Table 3.9. Available information shows that the expiry of the measure would lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping/subsidisation and injury and extended the measures for 88% of the 2008 measures and 85% of the 2009 measures - no significant change after the financial crisis began.

3.42. Based on the data currently available, there is no discernible change in extension versus expiry of measures coinciding with the financial crisis. As further time passes and additional data become available, other trends may reveal themselves.

**Table 3.9 Results from completed reviews (based on the year the investigation was initiated)**

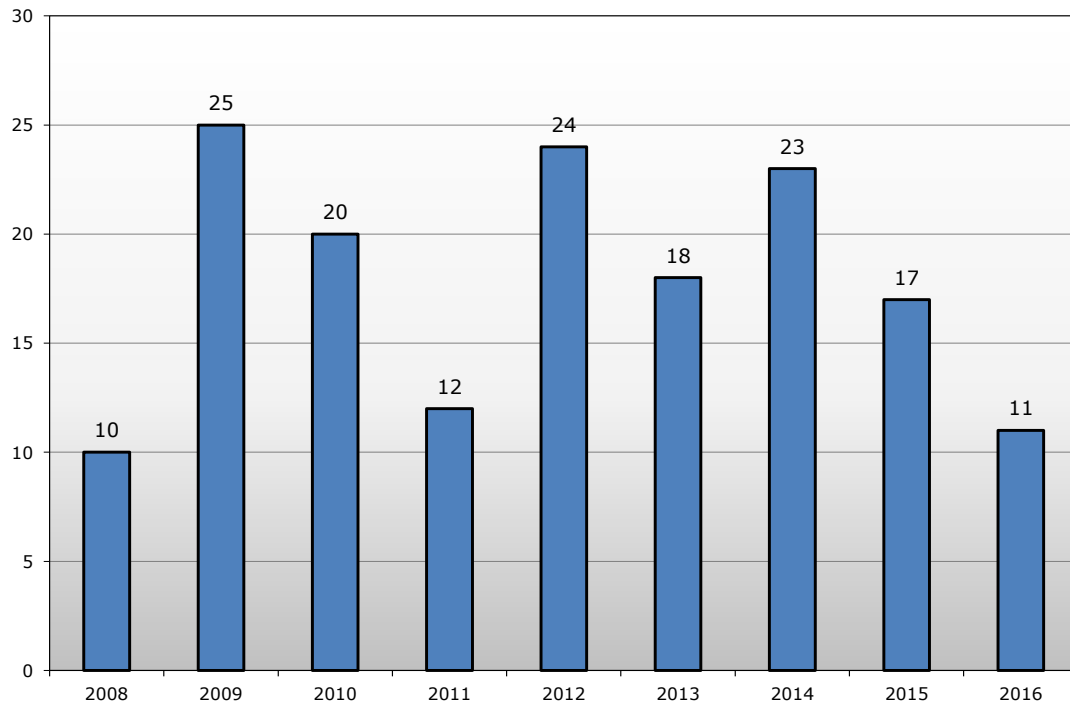
	Investigation initiated in		
	2008	2009	2010
Number of completed reviews	102	84	31
Measure extended	88%	85%	90%
Expiry of measure	12%	15%	10%

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### Safeguard Measures

3.43. Unlike anti-dumping and countervailing measures, safeguard measures are temporary measures imposed in response to increased imports of goods that are causing serious injury and are imposed on products from all sources. Thus, safeguards are subject to different rules and timelines than anti-dumping and countervailing measures and are, therefore, not directly comparable to these other types of trade remedies (Box 3.2).

3.44. Chart 3.9 shows the recent trend of initiations of safeguard investigations. Setting aside the exceptionally large figure (34) recorded in 2002, the year 2009 saw the largest number of initiations since 1995 with 25 (the year 2000 was also 25), and the years 2012 and 2014 saw the second and third largest. From that high level, safeguard actions now seem to be declining. Taken on a yearly basis, the number of initiations has now declined for two consecutive years. This trend can also be confirmed by the fact that the number of measures imposed has more than halved from the high levels recorded in 2014 and 2015 (Table 3.10).

**Chart 3.9 Safeguard investigation initiations (2008-2016)**

Source: WTO Secretariat

3.45. Table 3.10 shows the breakdown of the Members that have initiated recent investigations.

**Table 3.10 Initiations of Safeguard Measures**

(number of new investigations)

Reporting Member	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2016
Chile	0	4	0
China	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0
Ecuador	1	0	0
Egypt	2	2	0
India	7	2	1
Indonesia	3	1	0
Jordan	1	0	1
Malaysia	1	1	2
Morocco	1	1	0
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of <sup>a</sup>	0	0	2
South Africa <sup>b</sup>	0	0	2
Thailand	1	0	1
Tunisia	2	1	0
Turkey	3	1	0
Ukraine	0	1	0
Viet Nam	0	2	1
Zambia	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>

a Notified by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; investigations are initiated by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on behalf of all of its members collectively.

b Notified by South Africa; investigations are initiated by the Southern African Customs Union on behalf of all of its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

**Table 3.11 Imposition of safeguard measures by calendar year**

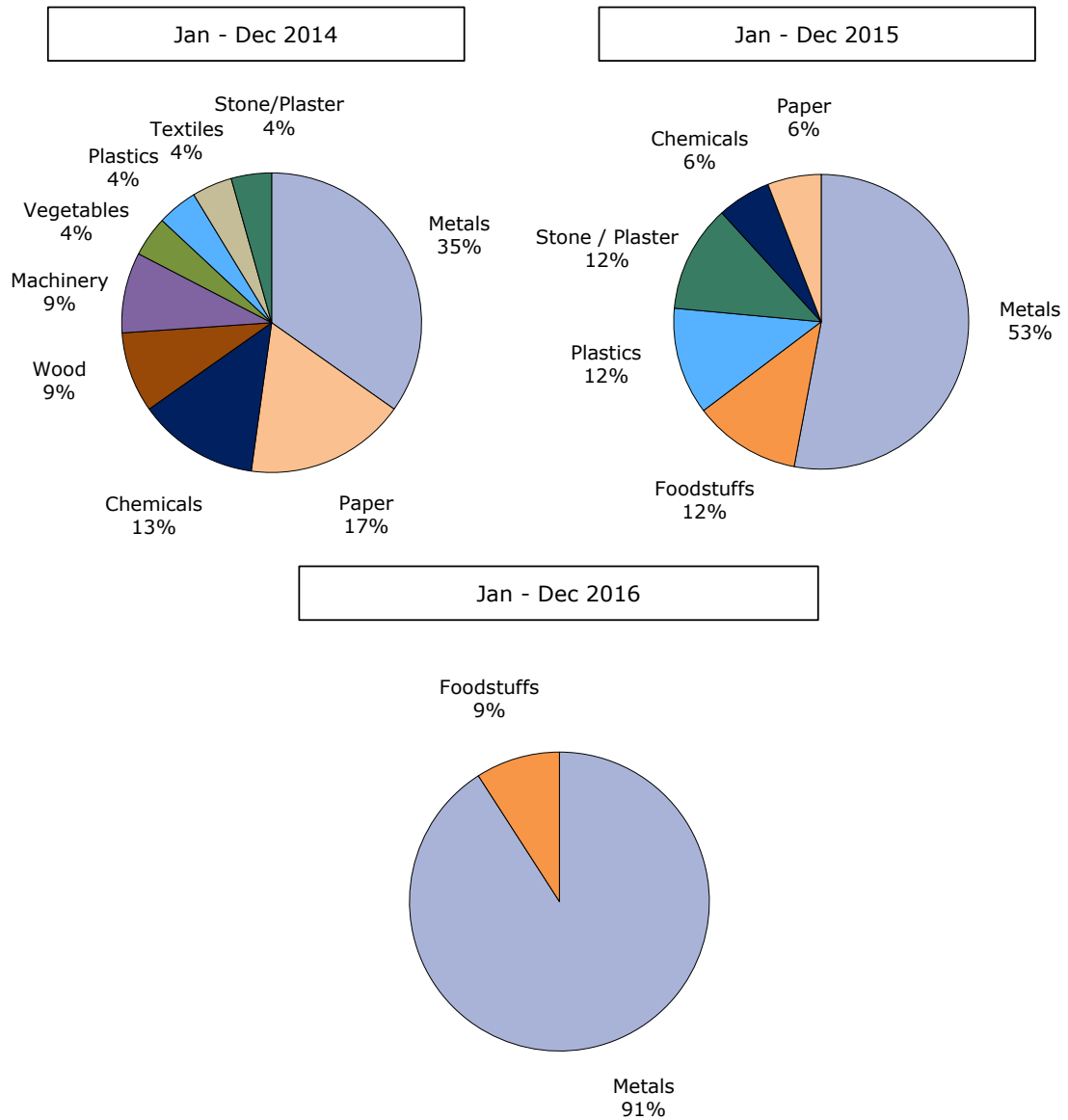
Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
2000	7	2006	7	2012	6
2001	8	2007	5	2013	8
2002	13	2008	6	2014	11
2003	15	2009	10	2015	11
2004	6	2010	4	2016	5
2005	6	2011	11		

Note: Some notifications are ambiguous about the timing when the measure takes effect. For those notifications, Members sometimes subsequently file an additional notification clarifying, ex post, the timing of the taking effect. For this reason, the number of imposition indicated in past reports can differ from the figures indicated in the most recent report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.46. Chart 3.10 shows the products covered by these investigations. There has been a significant increase in of the share of investigations involving metal products (the vast majority of which involve steel products) since 2014. In 2016, 10 out of the 11 initiations occurred in the metal sector, i.e. 91%.

**Chart 3.10 Safeguard initiations by product**



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.



### Box 3.2 Comparing Safeguards with Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties

The three trade remedy instruments – safeguards ("SG"), AD and CVD – share many characteristics. Most importantly, all three instruments are designed to address a situation where (i) the domestic industry of the country importing a product is suffering injury ("material injury" in the case of AD and countervailing duty; and "serious injury" in the case of SGs), and (ii) there is a causal relationship between such injury and certain imports. The pertinent determinations need to be made in an investigation undertaken by the importing Member in accordance with the relevant WTO Agreement.

There are, however, also many differences between the three instruments. Some of the more significant ones are highlighted below:

*First*, the imposition of AD or countervailing measures depends upon a finding that certain "unfair" practices exist. In the case of AD, the importing Member must find that the exported product is sold at dumped prices, as defined under the AD Agreement, while for countervail it must find that the exported product is subsidized within the meaning of the Subsidies Agreement. By contrast, for SGs, the importing Member need only to show that imports of the product have increased in certain ways, and that this increase is a result of unforeseen developments and the effect of WTO obligations. Thus, the imposition of an SG measure does not depend upon a finding of the existence of an "unfair" practice.

*Second*, the imported products examined, and the scope of the resulting measure, are different. An SG investigation examines all imports of a product, irrespective of source, and (with the exception of special and differential provisions for developing countries with small import shares), the SG measure also applies to all imports irrespective of source. By contrast, AD and countervailing investigations relate to imports from particular countries, and the measures apply only to imports from that country. (This does not mean that Members cannot impose AD or CVD on the same product being exported from multiple countries, but each country gets its own distinct measures).

The broader scope of SG measures needs to be kept in mind when comparing the imposition and initiation figures of AD and countervailing measures with those for SG measures. A single SG measure may affect imports from many countries, while it would require multiple AD and/or countervailing measures to imports from all those sources. In this sense, a single SG measure will likely have greater trade implications than a single AD or countervailing measure.

*Third*, while AD and countervailing measures can only take the form of a duty, SG measures may also take the form of a quota or a tariff rate quota.

*Fourth*, because SG measures do not depend upon a finding that there has been an "unfair" practice, the Safeguards Agreement obliges an imposing Member to offer compensation or face the suspension of equivalent concessions (trade retaliation). There are detailed rules governing compensation and suspension.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

3.47. At its 25 October 2016 and 25 April 2016 meetings, the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures<sup>23</sup> reviewed Members' notifications of specific subsidies, notifications of countervailing duty legislation, semi-annual reports of countervailing actions and *ad hoc* notifications of preliminary and final countervailing measures taken.

3.48. Transparency in respect of subsidies emerged as a major topic at both meetings. The Committee discussed the importance of transparency, shortcomings in compliance with subsidy notification obligations and ways to improve the timeliness and completeness of such notifications under the SCM Agreement. In this regard, the Committee discussed a proposal regarding the Committee's review procedures as well as a proposal about fisheries subsidies transparency.

3.49. At both meetings, the Chairs also drew attention to the 31 December 2015 deadline for the elimination of export subsidies by Members that received a final two-year extension under Article 27.4. They reminded beneficiary Members that they should have made their final transparency notifications by 30 June 2016. The Committee reviewed the final notifications that had been received, and discussed the status of notifications by the Members that had not yet made their final notifications. As of 31 May 2017, only nine of 19 beneficiary Members had provided their final transparency notifications.

<sup>23</sup> Minutes G/SCM/M/98, G/SCM/M/99, G/SCM/M/100 and G/SCM/M/101 (to be circulated).

### 3.3 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)<sup>24</sup>

3.50. Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are obliged to provide an advance notice of intention to introduce new or modified SPS measures<sup>25</sup>, or to notify immediately when emergency measures are imposed. The main objective of complying with the SPS notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trade. Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not automatically imply greater use of restrictive measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding these measures.

3.51. In the period from October 2016 through March 2017<sup>26</sup>, 715 SPS notifications (regular and emergency, including addenda) were submitted to the WTO. Notifications from developing-country Members accounted for 66% of the total number. In the previous six-month period, from April through September 2016, a total of 718 notifications were submitted, of which 62% were by developing-country Members, in other words, a 6% increase in the share of notifications made by developing-country Members as compared to the previous six-month period (Chart 3.11).

3.52. If we consider regular notifications (including addenda), from October 2016 through March 2017, WTO Members submitted 583 regular SPS notifications; 60% of which were submitted by developing-country Members. Compared with the previous six-month period (April-September 2016), there was a 15% decrease in the total number of notified measures, while the share of notifications made by developing-country Members remained stable.

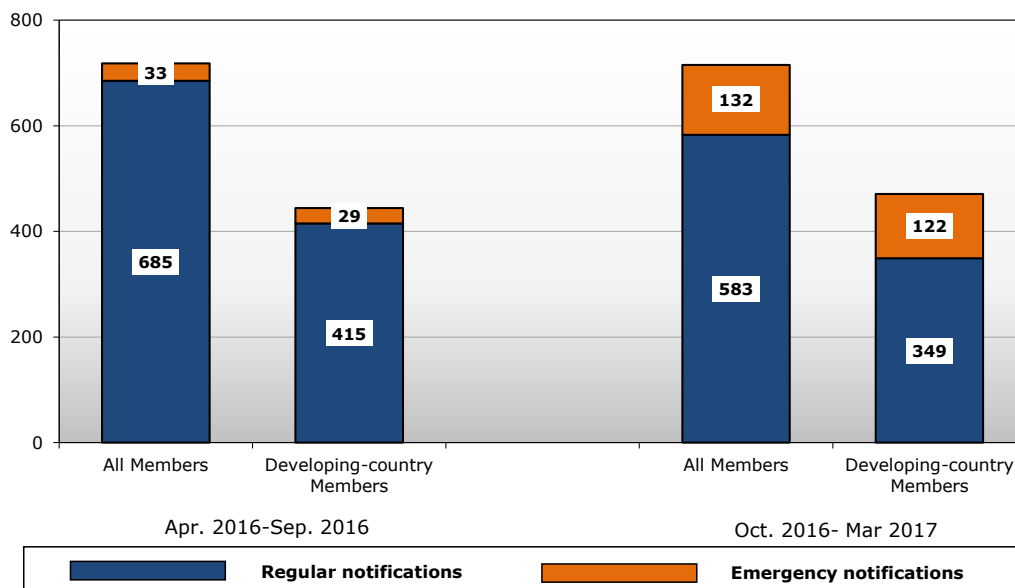
3.53. The number of notifications of emergency measures increased compared with the previous period (Chart 3.11). Moreover, the share of emergency notifications submitted by developing-country Members increased as compared to the previous period. From October 2016 through March 2017, 92% of the 132 notifications of emergency measures were submitted by developing-country Members. For the previous period (April-September 2016), 88% of the 33 emergency notifications had been submitted by developing-country Members. This high proportion of emergency measures notified by developing country Members might stem from the fact that they do not have as extensive SPS regulatory systems as developed-country Members do, and consequently, when facing emergency challenges, they are more likely to have to introduce new regulations or change existing ones.

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<sup>24</sup> Information presented in this section has been retrieved from the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS: <http://spsims.wto.org>). This section is based on notifications to the WTO for the period 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017. Specific trade concerns (STCs) are only raised at SPS Committee meetings. The information in this section summarizes the STCs raised at the October 2016 and March 2017 SPS Committee meetings.

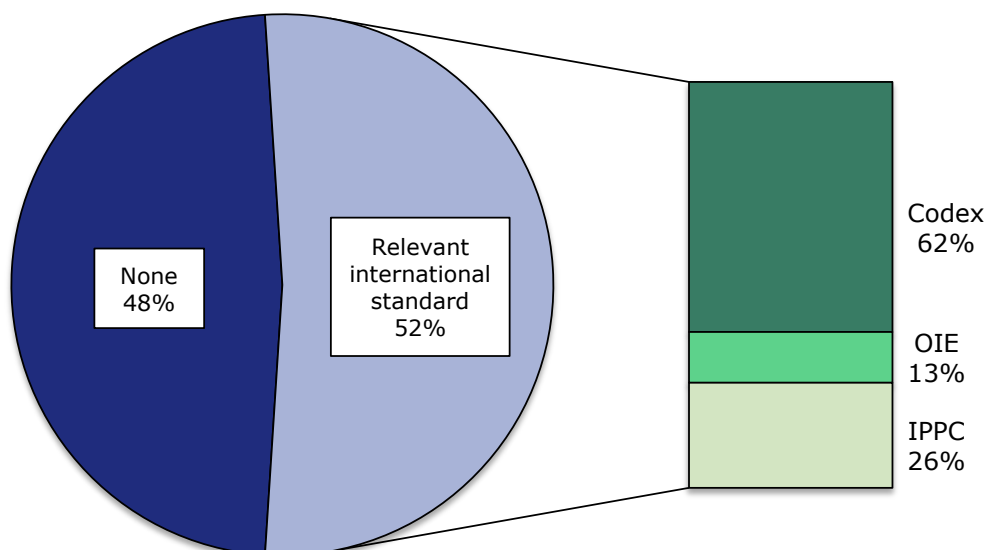
<sup>25</sup> Transparency obligations are contained in Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement. Annex B of the SPS Agreement requires that Members notify measures whose content is not substantially the same as that of an international standard, guideline or recommendation, and when the measure may have a significant effect on trade. However, the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement, adopted by the SPS Committee in 2008 (G/SPS/7/Rev.3), recommend that Members also notify measures which are based on the relevant international standards, and provide a broad interpretation of effects on trade.

<sup>26</sup> For the SPS Section, the review period covers 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017.

**Chart 3.11 Number of SPS notifications, including addenda**

Source: WTO Secretariat.

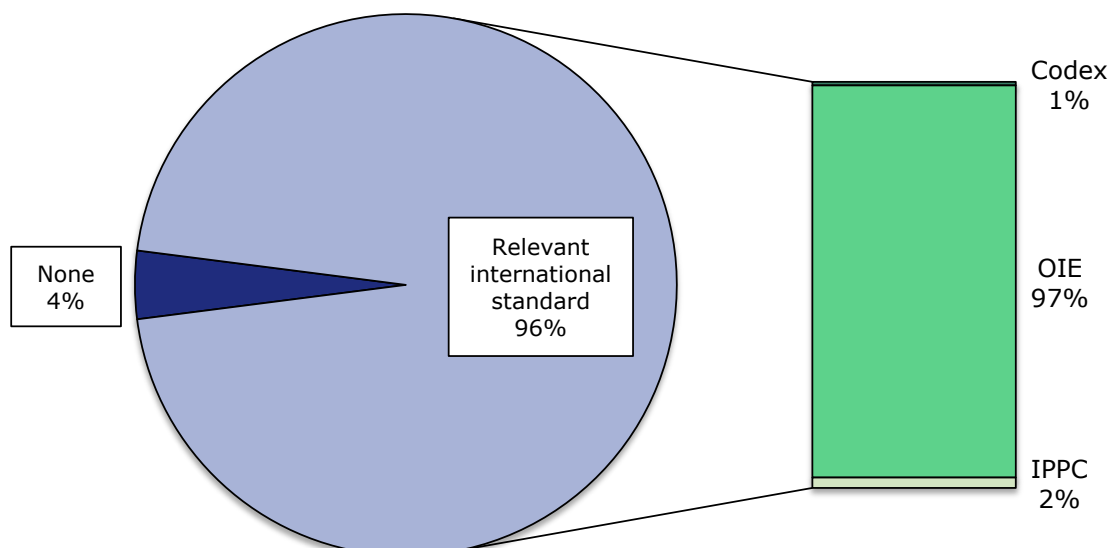
3.54. Many Members are following the recommendation to notify SPS measures even when these are based on a relevant international standard, as this substantially increases transparency regarding SPS measures. Of the 415 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted from October 2016 to March 2017, 216 (52% of the total) indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure. Of these, 62% referred to Codex, 26% to IPPC and 12% to OIE (Chart 3.12). Furthermore, the notification formats include an entry asking whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard. Of the notifications that have identified a relevant international standard, 80% indicated that the measure was in conformity with, or substantially the same as, the existing international standard, guideline or recommendation.

**Chart 3.12 Regular SPS notifications and international standards**

Note: Codex Alimentarius (Codex), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.55. International standards often provide useful guidance regarding measures to address disease outbreaks and other emergency situations. Indeed, 96% of the 125 emergency notifications (excluding addenda) submitted from October 2016 to March 2017 indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure (Chart 3.13). They all indicated that the measure was in conformity with an existing international standard.

**Chart 3.13 Emergency SPS notifications and international standards**

Note: Codex Alimentarius (Codex), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.56. Of the 415 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted from October 2016 to March 2017, the majority were related to food safety.<sup>27</sup> The remaining notifications related to plant protection, animal health, the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests. Several of the regular notifications identified more than one objective per measure.

3.57. Of the 125 emergency measures (excluding addenda) notified in the same period, the majority related to animal health, followed by food safety, measures related to the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests, plant protection and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests. Similarly, the majority of emergency notifications during this period identified more than one objective per measure.

3.58. While there is no formal provision for "counter notification", concerns regarding a notified measure or the failure to notify an SPS measure, can be raised as a specific trade concern (STCs) at any of the three regular meetings of the SPS Committee each year. In the two Committee meetings of October 2016 and March 2017, ten new STCs were raised. Six of these STCs related to food safety, two to plant health, one to animal health, and one to other types of concerns (Table 3.12).

3.59. The SPS Committee meetings provide important opportunities for delegations, which often include experts from capital, to discuss and resolve STCs bilaterally. One new STC included on the proposed agenda for the October 2016 meeting and another two included on the March 2017 agenda meeting were withdrawn following bilateral consultations, i.e. Mexico's concerns regarding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's restrictions on honey imports, Senegal's concern regarding India's fumigation requirements for cashew nuts, and Japan's concern regarding Thailand's import restrictions on plant products.

**Table 3.12 SPS new STCs raised between October 2016 and March 2017**

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
412	EU Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for bitertanol, tebufenpyrad and chlormequat (G/SPS/N/EU/168)	European Union	India		27/10/2016	Food Safety
413	Guatemala's restrictions on egg products	Guatemala	Mexico		27/10/2016	Food Safety
414	Indonesia's food safety measures affecting horticultural products and animal products	Indonesia	Philippines		27/10/2016	Food Safety
415	US seafood import monitoring programme	United States	China	Chile	27/10/2016	Other
416	China's import ban on fresh mangosteen	China	Indonesia		27/10/2016	Food Safety
417	India's import requirements for teak tree wood	India	Panama	Ecuador	27/10/2016	Plant health
418	Viet Nam's suspension of groundnut seed imports	Viet Nam	Senegal		22/03/2017	Food Safety
419	US MRLs for chlorpyrifos	United States	Israel	Ecuador	22/03/2017	Food Safety
420	EU non-recognition of regionalization for avian influenza	European Union	Russian Federation		22/03/2017	Animal Health

<sup>27</sup> The objective of an SPS measure falls under one or more of the following categories: (i) food safety, (ii) animal health, (iii) plant protection, (iv) protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, and (v) protect territory from other damages from pests. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon for more than one objective to be identified for a measure.

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
421	Thailand's import restriction on papaya seeds	Thailand	Chinese Taipei		22/03/2017	Plant health

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.60. Sixteen previously raised STCs were discussed at the October 2016 or March 2017 SPS Committee meetings (ten were discussed in both meetings). Of these, several address persistent problems which have featured regularly on the SPS Committee agenda, some going back over a decade. In particular, two STCs have been discussed 29 and 22 times respectively (Table 3.13). In addition, two STCs raised for the first time in October 2016 were discussed again in March 2017.<sup>28</sup>

**Table 3.13 Previously-raised SPS specific trade concerns discussed in October 2016 and/or March 2017**

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Times subsequently raised
193	General import restrictions due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	Certain Members, specifically Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Republic of, Ukraine	European Union, United States of America	Canada, Switzerland, Uruguay	01/06/2004	29
238	Application and modification of the EU Regulation on Novel Foods	European Union	Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	Argentina, Benin; Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	01/03/2006	22
354	China's import restrictions on Japanese Foods in response to the nuclear power plant accident	China	Japan		27/06/2013	10
289	Measures on catfish	United States of America	China, Viet Nam	Thailand	28/10/2009	8

<sup>28</sup> These were STC 415 and STC 416.

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Times subsequently raised
382	European Union revised proposal for categorization of compounds as endocrine disruptors	European Union	Argentina, China, United States of America	Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Togo, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia	25/03/2014	7
387	Chinese Taipei's import restrictions in response to the nuclear power plant accident	Chinese Taipei	Japan		26/03/2015	6
390	The Russian Federation's import restrictions on processed fishery products from Estonia and Latvia	Russian Federation	European Union		15/07/2015	5
392	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	China	European Union		15/07/2015	5
393	Rep. of Korea's import restrictions due to African swine fever	Korea, Republic of	European Union		15/07/2015	5
395	China's proposed amendments to the implementation regulations on safety assessment of agricultural GMOs	China	Paraguay, United States of America		15/07/2015	5

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Times subsequently raised
344	Measures on shrimp	Brazil	Ecuador		18/10/2012	4
394	Costa Rica's suspension of the issuing of phytosanitary import certificates for avocados	Costa Rica	Guatemala, Mexico	Ghana, South Africa, United States of America, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	15/07/2015	4
184	Lack of transparency for certain SPS measures	China	United States of America		01/03/2004	2
397	India's amendment to its import policy conditions for apples; Restriction to Nhava Sheva port	India	Chile, New Zealand	European Union, United States	14/10/2015	2
406	China's import restrictions due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	China	European Union, United States		16/03/2016	2
411	Russian Federation import restrictions on certain animal products from Germany	Russian Federation	European Union		30/06/2016	2

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### Box 3.3 Enhancing Monitoring and Transparency in SPS and TBT

Accessing relevant information on SPS or TBT product requirements in export markets can be a huge challenge, especially for SMEs. The WTO helps tackling this potential trade barrier through the combination of transparency requirements included in the SPS and TBT agreements and two online tools that make information easily accessible: the SPS and TBT Information Management Systems (SPS/TBT IMSs). WTO Members are required to notify proposed SPS and TBT measures if they may significantly affect international trade. Each year the WTO receives more than 3,500 notifications.

Publicly available online tools help stakeholders find notifications of relevance to their trade:

- the SPS IMS [www.spsims.wto.org](http://www.spsims.wto.org),
- the TBT IMS [www.tbtime.wto.org](http://www.tbtime.wto.org), and
- the new ePing [www.epingalert.org](http://www.epingalert.org).

The SPS/TBT IMSs are search-platforms that help among others find SPS or TBT notifications by using parameters such as products, notifying Member and objective. ePing is an online alert system allowing users to receive daily or weekly email alerts about SPS and TBT notifications covering products and markets of interest to them. ePing helps stakeholders track, discuss and adapt to new regulatory conditions, avoiding trade disruption by addressing potential frictions at an early stage.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

## 3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)<sup>29</sup>

3.61. Under the TBT Agreement, WTO Members are required to notify their intention to introduce new or modified TBT measures, or to notify adopted emergency measures immediately upon their adoption. The main objective of complying with the TBT notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trade.<sup>30</sup> Therefore, an

<sup>29</sup> For the TBT Section, the review period covers 1 October 2016 to 30 April 2017.

<sup>30</sup> Under the TBT Agreement, WTO Members are not *required* to notify all proposed TBT measures (technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures). Rather, they are only required to notify those measures that may have a *significant effect on trade* of other Members and are *not in accordance with* a relevant international standard. However, the TBT Committee in its Sixth Triennial Review encouraged Members, "for the purpose of enhancing predictability and transparency in situations where it is difficult to



increased number of notifications does not necessarily imply greater use of unnecessarily trade-restrictive measures. Rather, TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives, e.g. the protection of human, animal or plant life or health or the environment.<sup>31</sup>

3.62. From 1 October 2016 to 30 April 2017 (the "review period"), WTO Members submitted 931 new regular notifications of TBT measures.<sup>32</sup> This represents roughly the same number of new regular regulations notified by Members compared to the previous seven-month period.<sup>33</sup> Developing country Members (including CIS and LDC Members) notified 74% of new regular regulations during the current review period, i.e. no significant change in this share as compared to the previous period.<sup>34</sup>

3.63. The Members which notified the most new regular regulations during the review period were: United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, State of Kuwait and Yemen (132 collectively); the European Union (101);<sup>35</sup> the United States (86); Uganda (80); Kenya (77); the Republic of Korea and Tanzania (44 each); Mexico (30); Chile (28); Canada and Chinese Taipei (23 each); and Japan (20). One important development during the review period is the significant increase in regionally-harmonized Gulf Cooperation Council draft technical regulations notified by GSO Members in joint notifications (on behalf of all seven Members) to provide a common deadline for comments on these measures and facilitate the handling of comments received.

3.64. Of the 931 new notifications received during the review period, the main indicated objectives<sup>36</sup> were: protection of human health or safety (62%), quality requirements (25%), protection of the environment (25%) and prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection (17%).<sup>37</sup>

3.65. In terms of follow-up notifications<sup>38</sup> a total of 421 were submitted during the review period, significantly higher as compared from the previous seven-month period.<sup>39</sup> Follow-up notifications are important because they help to increase transparency and predictability across the regulatory lifecycle.

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establish or foresee whether a draft technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure may have a 'significant effect on trade of other Members', to notify such measures."

<sup>31</sup> TBT Agreement obligations are also subject to 25 separate Special and Differential Treatment (S&D) provisions conferring developing country Members, LDC Members in particular, certain flexibilities. The TBT Agreement contains more S&D provisions than any other WTO Agreement apart from the GATT 1994.

<sup>32</sup> Viewed at: <http://tbttims.wto.org>

<sup>33</sup> From 1 March to 30 September 2016, the overall number of regular notifications was 1,002.

<sup>34</sup> The great majority of regular notifications submitted from 1 March to 30 September 2016 (around 78%) were from developing-country Members, including LDCs.

<sup>35</sup> 75 EU-wide notifications plus 26 notifications from certain individual EU member states: Czech Republic (4); Estonia (2); Finland (4); France (5); Hungary (2); Ireland (1); Italy (2); Lithuania (1); Slovenia (2); and Spain (3).

<sup>36</sup> A TBT measure may pursue a variety of legitimate objectives, although historically the majority falls under one of the following categories: the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon that more than one objective is identified for a measure.

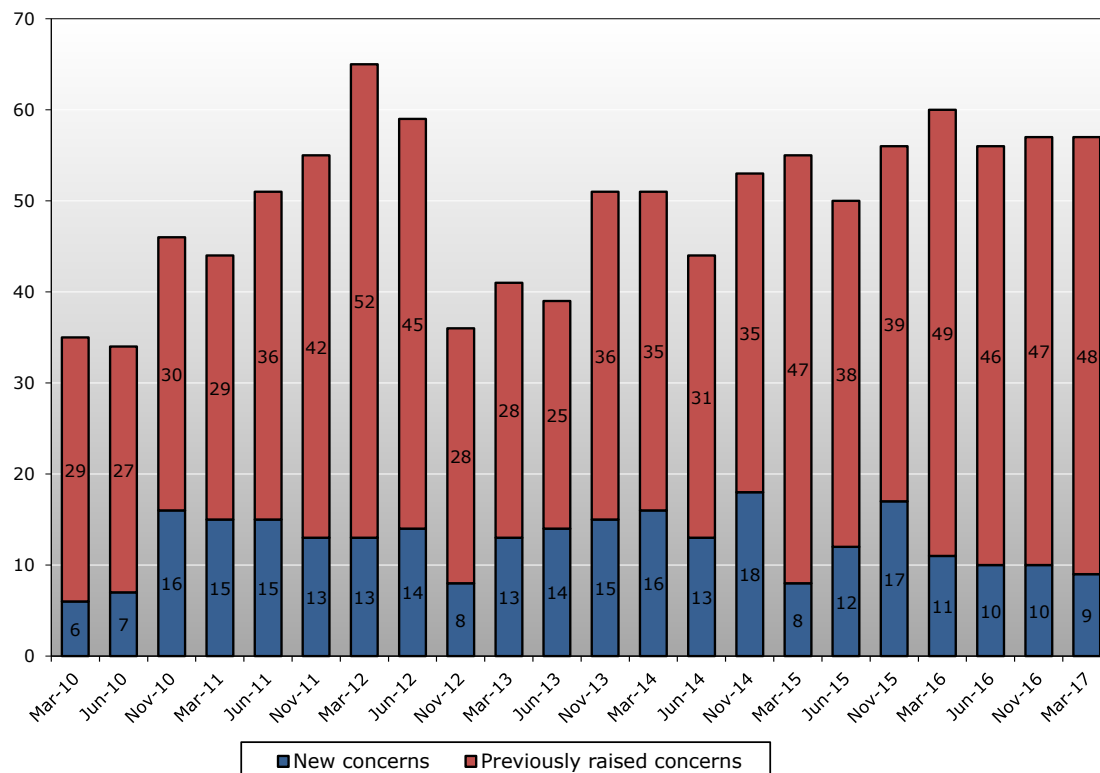
<sup>37</sup> For the review period, the main indicated objectives for new notifications saw that the protection of human health or safety has remained the same from the previous period whereas prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection has increased by 6%; however quality requirements decreased by 5% and protection of the environment decreased by 3%.

<sup>38</sup> These notifications are called "addenda", "corrigenda", or "supplements". They can also be in the form of "revisions" when the original measure has been substantially re-drafted prior to adoption or entry into force. A revision replaces the original notification. They are linked to the original notification of a new regulation and include additional pertinent information, such as updated deadlines for entry into force, access to the final adopted text, withdrawal or cancellation, unofficial translations or other updates with respect to notified regulations. See G/TBT/35 for further information on different types of TBT notifications.

<sup>39</sup> From 1 March to 30 September 2016, the overall number of follow-up notifications was 364.

3.66. Any Member may raise STCs with respect to TBT measures proposed or adopted by other Members.<sup>40</sup> These STCs are frequently discussed in the regular meetings of the TBT Committee, with more than 50 STCs discussed per meeting in recent years (Chart 3.14).

**Chart 3.14 STCs discussed per committee meeting, March 2006-March 2017**



Note: This chart counts the number of STCs on the agenda of the TBT Committee per meeting. The same STC can be raised at all three meetings that ordinarily take place in a year and, in this chart, it is counted under all three meetings.

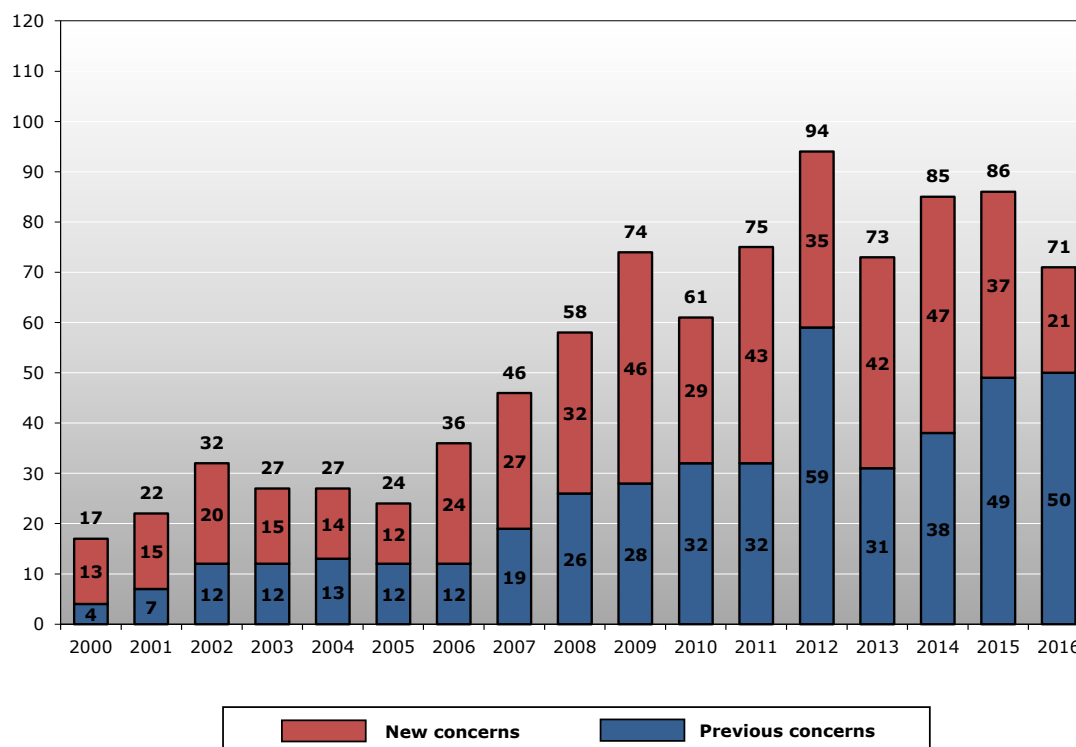
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.67. Depending on the extent of the trade-restrictiveness and importance of the issue to the Members raising the STC, the same measure may come up at one or more meetings of the TBT Committee. For example, a STC may be discussed at only one meeting (as a *new* STC), and subsequently a resolution to the trade concern may be found. Alternatively, an STC may be discussed at subsequent meetings (*previously raised STC*), usually reserved for long-standing and more serious concerns.

3.68. A total of 19 new STCs were raised during the two Committee meetings that fell within the review period: 10 new STCs were raised at the 10-11 November 2016 meeting and 9 new STCs were raised at the 29-30 March 2017 meeting. The data from the last TBT Committee meeting for 2016, confirms the number of new STCs raised during that year (81) was consistent with the number of new STCs during the previous two years (86 in 2015 and 85 in 2014)<sup>41</sup>, as illustrated by Chart 3.15.

<sup>40</sup> Members use the TBT Committee as a forum to discuss trade issues related to specific measures (technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures) maintained by other Members. These are referred to as STCs and normally relate to proposed draft measures notified to the TBT Committee or to the implementation of existing measures. Issues raised range from simple requests for additional information and clarifications to questions on the consistency of measures with TBT Agreement disciplines.

<sup>41</sup> Details on STCs raised in the TBT Committee are available through the TBT IMS (<http://tbtims.wto.org>).

**Chart 3.15 Number of STCs raised with respect to Members' TBT measures per year**

Note: This chart counts the number of TBT measures discussed as STCs per year. The data for 2016 include the STCs raised at the March, June and November 2016 Committee meetings. Previously raised STCs are counted only once even if they are raised in subsequent meetings in the same year.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.69. The Members whose measures attracted new STCs during the review period were: the European Union (5)<sup>42</sup>, the Russian Federation (3), China (2), the Republic of Korea (2), and Bolivia, Plurinational State of, Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, India, Kazakhstan<sup>43</sup>, Uganda and Viet Nam (one each) (Table 3.14). In terms of Members raising most new STCs during the review period, the United States (12), the European Union (8), Mexico (5) and Japan (4) were the most active ones.

3.70. As seen in Table 3.14, new STCs discussed in the review period regulated a wide range of products, including in particular tobacco and alcoholic beverages, ICT products (including "e-waste"), agricultural and food products, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, as well as, toys, vehicles, chemicals and steel.

**Table 3.14 New TBT STCs raised in the Committee meetings of November 2016 and March 2017**

New STCs with respect to measures maintained by Members
<b>Bolivia, Plurinational State of:</b> concerning Technical regulations on the labelling of foods and products destined for human consumption that consist of, contain or derive from genetically modified organisms (ID 517) (raised by Guatemala and Mexico);

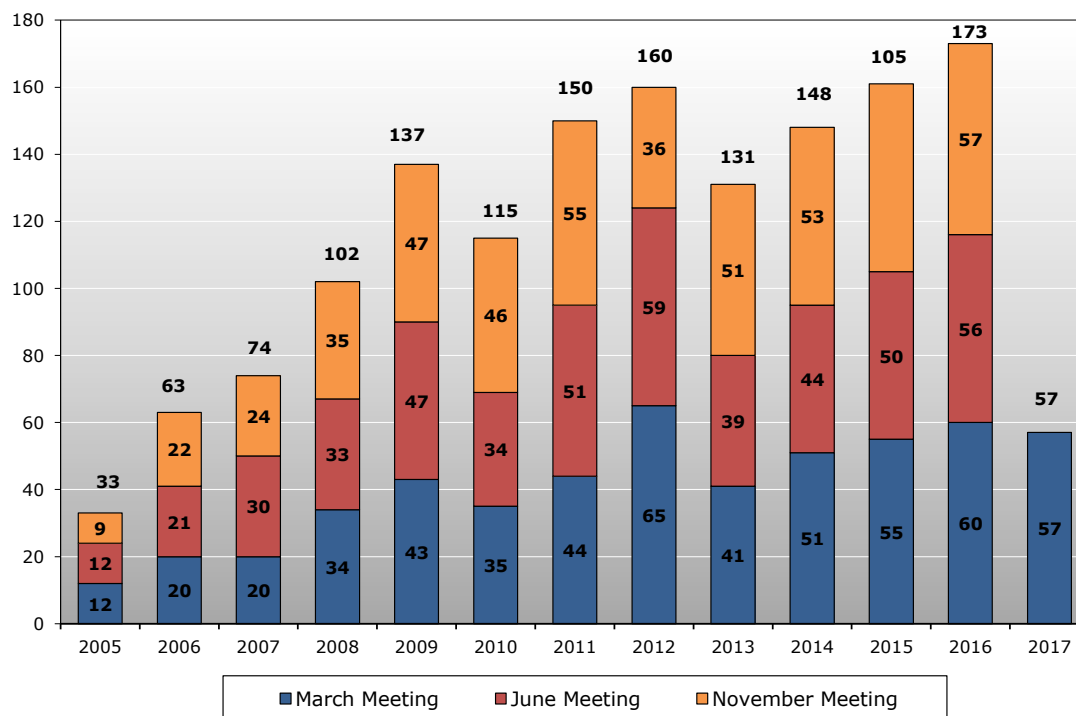
<sup>42</sup> Three STCs with respect to EU-wide measures and two STCs with respect to a measure from Italy and a measure from Ireland (listed below in Table 3.15).

<sup>43</sup> This STC is only counted once because it was raised jointly with respect to both Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (STC IMS ID 514, listed below in Table 3.15).

New STCs with respect to measures maintained by Members
<b>Brazil:</b> concerning Regulation RDC No 123 on food additives and processing aids authorised for use in wine of 4 November 2016 ( <i>raised by the European Union</i> );
<b>China:</b> concerning Tentative Administrative Rules on Enterprises Average Fuel Consumption and New Energy Vehicle Credits and Administration Regulation on the Access of New Energy Vehicle Manufactures and Products ( <i>raised by United States and European Union</i> );
<b>China:</b> concerning Cyber Security Law ( <i>raised by the United States, Japan, European Union and Australia</i> );
<b>Dominican Republic:</b> concerning Requirements for importing steel rebar - RTD 458 and other requirements ( <i>raised by United States</i> );
<b>European Union:</b> concerning Country of Origin Labelling (ID 523) ( <i>raised by New Zealand and United States</i> );
<b>European Union:</b> concerning Organic production and labelling - Maté (erva-mate) ( <i>raised by Brazil</i> );
<b>European Union:</b> concerning Radio Equipment Directive ( <i>raised by China</i> );
<b>Ireland:</b> concerning the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill 2015 (ID 516) ( <i>raised by Guatemala and Mexico</i> );
<b>Italy:</b> concerning Labelling requirements of the origin of grains used in the preparation of dried pasta ( <i>raised by Mexico, United States and Canada</i> );
<b>India:</b> concerning the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016 (ID 515) ( <i>raised by Japan, Republic of Korea and United States</i> );
<b>Korea, Rep. of:</b> concerning Household Chemical and Biocidal Products ( <i>raised by United States and Japan</i> );
<b>Korea, Rep. of:</b> concerning Amendment of the Notifications on Warning Messages on Smoking and Drinking (ID 518) ( <i>raised by Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and United States</i> );
<b>Mexico:</b> concerning Official Standard PROY-NOM-199-SCFI-2015: Alcoholic beverages - Designations, physicochemical specifications, commercial information and test methods (ID 522) ( <i>raised by the European Union</i> );
<b>Russian Federation:</b> concerning Medical devices (ID 520) ( <i>raised by the United States and European Union</i> );
<b>Russian Federation:</b> concerning Pharmaceutical products - Resolution 1314 of the Government of the Russian Federation on determining compliance of medicinal products' manufacturers with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practice (non-notified ); draft decisions of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Union (ID 521) ( <i>raised by the United States and European Union</i> );
<b>Russian Federation and Kazakhstan:</b> concerning the amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union on Safety of Toys (TP MC 008/2011) (ID 514) ( <i>raised by Ukraine, United States and European Union</i> );
<b>Uganda:</b> concerning Alcoholic beverages specifications (ID 519) ( <i>raised by the United States and European Union</i> );
<b>Viet Nam:</b> concerning Alcoholic Beverages ( <i>raised by Mexico</i> ).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.71. In addition, 95 previously raised STCs were discussed during the current review period (47 in the November 2016 meeting and 48 in the March 2017 meeting). Overall, 114 new and previously-raised STCs were discussed during review period. In the last four years, in particular, a higher number of STCs were discussed per meeting, as well as per year. Chart 3.16 shows the total number of STCs discussed per Committee meeting per year since 2005. As this Chart indicates, 173 STCs were discussed during the three Committee meetings held in 2016, the highest number since 1995. This figure also represents a 400%-plus increase as compared to that for 2005, when only 33 STCs were discussed. This Chart also shows that the total number of STCs discussed in the first Committee meeting of 2017 (March) is *identical* to that of the previous meeting in November 2016 (57), which seems to suggest that the upward trend of STCs discussed per year/per meeting is not abating. This may also suggest an increasing use of the TBT Committee as a forum for Members to raise and resolve trade concerns non-litigiously, rather than allowing them to escalate into formal disputes.

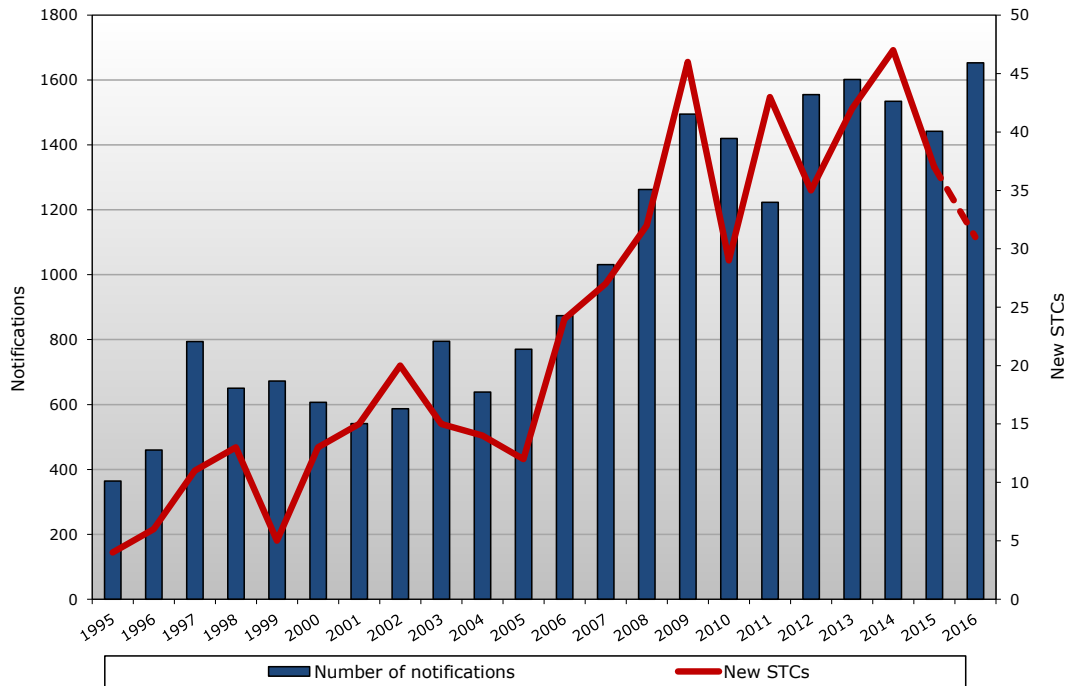
**Chart 3.16 STCs discussed per TBT Committee meeting, 2005-30 April 2017**

Note: This chart counts the number of STCs on the agenda of the TBT Committee per meeting. The same STC can be raised at all three meetings in a year and, in this chart, is counted under all three meetings. Data for 2017 include STCs raised at the March meeting only.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.72. This upward trend also shows that the Committee has spent more time discussing STCs than any other item on the agenda. An average of around 20 STCs were discussed per meeting in 2006 whereas in 2016 that figure was 57. As illustrated by Chart 3.17, there is a marked correlation between the number of new notifications and new STCs raised each year. Since 1995, an average of around 68% of STCs discussed in TBT Committee meetings relate to notified measures. Similarly, and also since 1995, Members have raised 529 *new* STCs, in the TBT Committee, with an upward trend in STCs observed since 2005.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>44</sup> In March 2016, the WTO TBT Committee discussed the 500<sup>th</sup> new STC. Viewed at: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news16\\_e/tbt\\_11mar16\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/tbt_11mar16_e.htm)

**Chart 3.17 Number of TBT notifications and new STCs 1995-2016**

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.73. Among previously raised STCs involving measures implemented by WTO Members, regulations in the area of toys have featured during discussions in the TBT Committee. Box 3.4 takes a closer look at the nature of these regulations.

### Box 3.4 Regulation on toys

**Regulation on toys:**<sup>1</sup> World trade in toys is worth around US\$50 billion (2015) and has been steadily growing since at least 2010. The top importers and exporters of toys are G20 economies.<sup>2</sup> Toys are frequently subject to regulations addressing in particular health or safety risks they may present to children and youth.

Since 1995, WTO Members have notified 200 toy-specific regulations to the TBT Committee.<sup>3</sup> The highest number of toy specific notifications was submitted in 2008.<sup>4</sup> The vast majority (almost 89%) of these notifications concerned toy specific "technical regulations", with the rest mostly concerning "conformity assessment procedures" (CAPs).<sup>5</sup> Most notifications (almost 65%) have been submitted by developing Members. Individually, the main notifying Members are Israel (35), China (25), the United States (24) and the European Union (11).<sup>6</sup> The great majority (around 70%)<sup>7</sup> of notified toy specific regulations address the protection of human health or safety.<sup>8</sup> Among these, the most prominent specific objective is the protection against risks arising from chemical, toxic or hazardous substances, followed by the protection against risks of physical injuries.<sup>9</sup>

Since 2000, and increasingly from 2013, Members have been raising STCs in the TBT Committee with respect to toy specific measures. To date, a total of 21 toy-related concerns have been raised and discussed in the Committee. These concerns mainly focused on three areas: labelling, standards, and CAPs. In this respect, although the vast majority of toy specific notifications are on "technical regulations" (e.g. prescribing or prohibiting the use of certain chemicals in the manufacturing of toys), most concerns raised in the Committee involve instead CAPs, i.e. procedures to assess whether the toy conforms with the specifications prescribed in toy-specific regulations.<sup>10</sup> With respect to the latter, WTO Members are more specifically concerned with: duplicative local testing, non-acceptance of foreign test results or certificates from accredited laboratories, testing methodologies applied, as well as sampling, inspection and registration requirements. With respect to labelling, and international standards on toys, concerns revolve mostly around: excessive and burdensome labelling and marking rules, deviations from relevant international and regional standards on restricting toxic substances, as well as on the scientific evidence upon which the measure's adoption was based.

The 21 toy-related trade concerns have been raised in roughly equal numbers by both developed and developing Members. On the other hand, toy specific measures from developing Members are slightly more often targeted in STCs than those from developed Members; this seems to correlate with the trend identified above that most toy-specific measures are notified by developing Members.

<sup>1</sup> This box only takes into account notifications and STCs concerning TBT regulations and standards addressing toys *specifically*. Apart from such measures, toys can, and commonly are, also subject to other regulations covering a variety of products and/or situations, for instance: general food packaging and labelling regulations *inter alia* prohibiting toys to be attached to certain food products considered to be unhealthy for children; general tobacco-control measures that, among other requirements, prohibit the manufacture and/or sale of toys, or any other objects resembling or in the form of tobacco products; or, conversely, general tobacco-control measures prohibiting tobacco products to be manufactured or sold with the appearance of candies or toys. Toys can also be affected and covered by certain general regulations concerning the recycling of plastic-made products, or the use of chemicals in the manufacture of consumer products. The universe of TBT measures affecting trade in toys may therefore be significantly broader than those covered in this box.

<sup>2</sup> Toy trade has been growing by an average 3% per year since 2010. China and the European Union (28 member States) are by far the largest toy exporters (more than 85% of all exports in 2015), with the United States and the European Union being by far the largest toy importers (more than 70% of all imports in 2015).

<sup>3</sup> Notifications submitted from January 1995 to 30 April 2017. Source: <http://tbtims.wto.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Twenty-four toy-specific notifications were submitted in 2008 (well above the average of 9.5 per year since 1995). This may also explain the high number of toy-related STCs discussed in the TBT Committee in 2008. See e.g. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news08\\_e/tbt\\_20march08\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news08_e/tbt_20march08_e.htm)

<sup>5</sup> 177 toy-specific technical regulations.

<sup>6</sup> Counting both EU-wide notifications as well as notifications by certain EU member States.

<sup>7</sup> 143 out of 200 notifications.

<sup>8</sup> Additionally, but to a much lesser extent (41 out of 200 notifications), another important objective addressed by these measures is the prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection.

<sup>9</sup> 56% of these notifications simply concern health/safety measures addressing "general protection", while 26% specifically address toxicity in toys, 11% physical injury, with the remaining 7% addressing a variety of other specific risks.

<sup>10</sup> 70% (14 out of 20 STCs concerned toy-specific CAPs).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### 3.5 Policy Developments in Agriculture

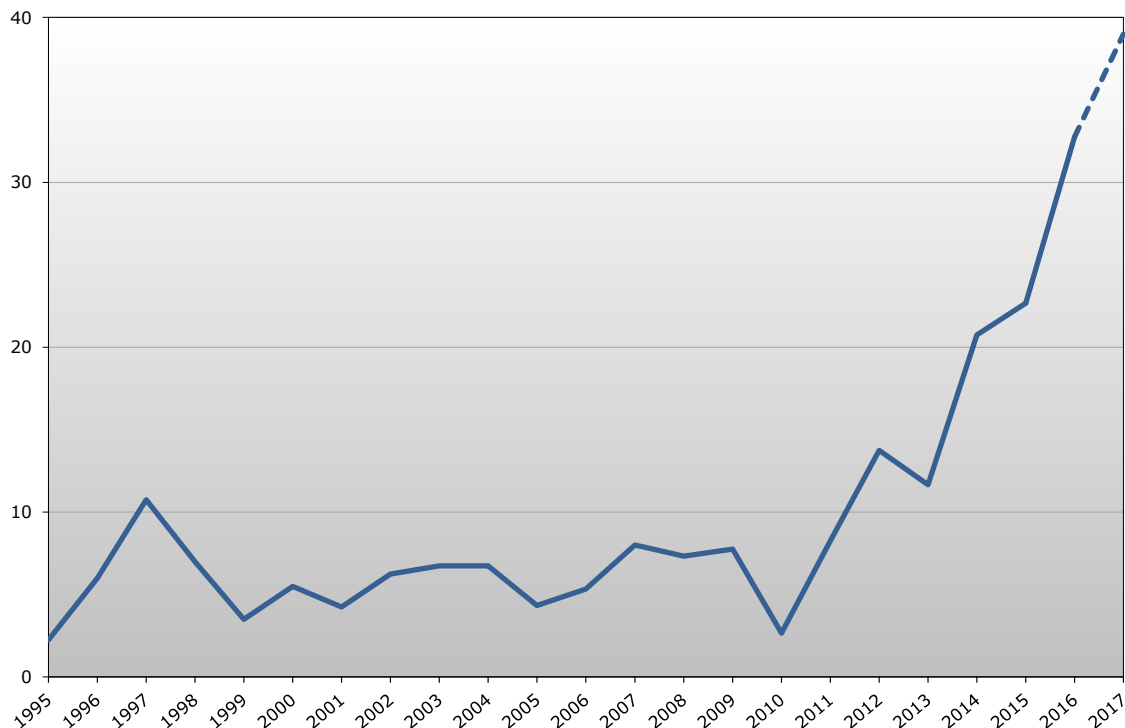
3.74. The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) provides a forum for Members to discuss matters related to agriculture trade and to consult on matters relating to the implementation of commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), including rules-based commitments. The review work by the CoA is based on notifications Members make on their commitments. There is also a provision in Article 18.6 that allows Members to raise any matter relevant to the implementation of the commitments under the AoA.

3.75. In the framework of the CoA meetings in November 2016 and March 2017, Members posed a total of 184 questions, including both questions on individual notifications and under Article 18.6,

with a large number of these questions directed at issues related to domestic support notifications or implementation of domestic support commitments.

3.76. In total, 12 Members raised 66 questions on 40 implementation-related issues (Article 18.6) in the November 2016 and March 2017 CoA meetings. As can be seen in Chart 3.18, the average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting has been increasing since 2011 reaching an all-time high in 2016 with an average of 33 questions per meeting with a total of 131 questions. These numbers include questions that were repeated from one meeting to the next because responses were not provided in the relevant time-frames.

**Chart 3.18 Average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting (1995-2017<sup>a</sup>)**



a 2017 data covers only the March 2017 meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.77. Out of the 40 implementation-related issues raised in the CoA during the review period, 22 issues were discussed for the first time, whereas the remaining issues had been discussed one or more times in previous years (under Article 18.6). Table 3.15 indicates the specific issues relating to implementation commitments that were discussed for the first time in the CoA during the November 2016 and March 2017 meetings.<sup>45</sup>

3.78. Half of the new issues raised in the November 2016 and March 2017 CoA meetings related to domestic support policies, e.g. measures benefiting producers of dairy, fruit, rice, livestock, oilseeds and wheat were subject to questioning by WTO Members. Similarly, questions were also raised regarding agricultural policies of a general scope such as the EU's intervention programmes and Canada's agri-marketing programme. Members also raised a number of questions in relation to measures that restricted, or had the potential to restrict, trade of agricultural products (e.g. Indonesia's draft regulation on supply and distribution of milk products, Russian Federation's higher applied tariffs than bound rates in some agricultural products and Thailand's import permits for feed wheat). For the first time, the subject of how trade policies may be affected by the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union was raised in the CoA. One question sought

<sup>45</sup> The complete questions and answers can be accessed through the Agriculture Information Management System (AG IMS) at <http://agims.wto.org/> by using the ID numbers (Table 3.15) in the function "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995".



clarification in the area of export subsidies, i.e. India's export subsidies for onions and one in the area of export restrictions and prohibitions, i.e. India's export restrictions on sugar.

**Table 3.15 Article 18.6 new issues**

Question Summary	Question raised by	Products	Number of questions	CoA meetings	ID number
Thailand's import permits for feed wheat	Australia, European Union, United States	Animal feed, wheat, corn	3	83	83107, 83045, 83013
Canada's Market price support for dairy products	New Zealand	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	82, 83	83001, 82058
India's minimum support price for Kharif crops	United States	Rice, oil seeds, fats and oils, seeds, vegetable oils and fats, fats/oils of animal origin, other fats and oils, cotton	2	82, 83	83043, 82005
Australia's wine equalization tax	European Union	Alcoholic	1	83	83006
Canada's Agri-Marketing Program	Indonesia		1	83	83067
Egypt's new regulations	Indonesia		1	83	83068
EU intervention programmes	Australia		1	82	82023
European Union's support for livestock sector	New Zealand	Live animals, bovine, swine, sheep and goat, poultry, horses, other	1	83	83055
Greek coffee tax	Viet Nam	Coffee	1	82	82003
India - minimum price for sugar cane in Uttar Pradesh	European Union	Cane or beet sugar	1	83	83010
India's buffer stocks of pulses	Canada	Processed vegetables	1	83	83122
India's export restriction on sugar	European Union	Sugar, cane or beet sugar, other	1	82	82033
India's export subsidies for onions	European Union	Fresh vegetables	1	82	82032
India's minimum support price for wheat	Australia	Wheat	1	83	83106
India's support price for Rabi crops	European Union	Wheat	1	83	83009
India's trade statistics	United States		1	83	83044
Indonesia's draft regulation on supply and distribution of milk products	European Union	Milk	1	83	83011
Japan's mark-up on imported rice	China	Rice	1	83	83035
Russian Federation's higher applied tariffs than bound rates	European Union		1	83	83012
Thailand's financial assistance to fruit farmers	United States	Fruit	1	83	83047
U.S. Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO)	Canada	Milk	1	83	83124

Question Summary	Question raised by	Products	Number of questions	CoA meetings	ID number
United Kingdom - Modification of agricultural schedule of commitments	Indonesia		1	83	83069

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.79. Other discussions related to follow-up questions on persistent areas of concern. A number of these issues have been raised in the CoA multiple times. One case had been raised in 17 CoA meetings (i.e. Brazil's domestic support programmes). India's sugar export subsidies were the subject of questioning in the CoA for the fourteenth time. Canada's wine sale policy, its tariff-rate quota for cheese and its new milk ingredient class continued to receive considerable scrutiny from the membership. Other recurrent issues included India's importation of apples and Sri Lanka's increase in milk powder tariffs, both of which have been discussed in six CoA meetings (Table 3.16).

**Table 3.16 Questions previously raised under Article 18.6**

Question Summary	Question raised by	Products	Number of questions	Number of CoA meetings in which the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
India's sugar export subsidies	Australia, Brazil, Colombia, European Union, Thailand,	Sugar, cane or beet sugar, other	25	14	50, 51, 52, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83	83105, 82024, 81025, 81062, 80011, 80037, 79023, 79047, 78016, 78017, 77035, 77044, 76016, 76025, 76050, 75028, 74007, 74055, 73036, 73055, 73067, 73068, 52005, 51001, 50003
Brazil's domestic support programmes	United States	Wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains, cotton	17	17	65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83	83038, 81008, 80024, 79001, 78002, 77066, 76039, 75023, 74021, 73026, 72051, 71028, 70007, 69027, 68007, 66002, 65011
Canada's New Milk Ingredient Class	Australia, India, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	16	5	79, 80, 81, 82, 83	83054, 83039, 82012, 82059, 82013, 82001, 81001, 81009, 81049, 81054, 81055, 81056, 80003, 80005, 80006, 80025, 79035

Question Summary	Question raised by	Products	Number of questions	Number of CoA meetings in which the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
Canada's wine sale policy	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Alcoholic	14	5	79, 80, 81, 82, 83	83007, 83041, 83104, 83135, 82057, 82002, 81003, 81011, 81024, 81046, 81047, 81097, 80008, 80009, 80094, 80095, 79003
Canada's tariff-rate quota for cheese	New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States	Cheese	8	6	75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 83	83003, 83004, 83005, 81004, 81051, 81052, 80001, 80002, 80007, 77037, 77001, 76023, 75026
Sri Lanka's increase in milk powder tariffs	Australia, New Zealand	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	8	6	69, 70, 78, 80, 81, 82	82062, 81007, 81063, 80016, 78001, 78022, 70006, 69002
European Union's agriculture policies	Australia, India, New Zealand	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, bovine, swine, wheat	7	3	80, 81, 82	82027, 82028, 81005, 81058, 81060, 81061, 80010
India's wheat stocks and exports	Canada, United States	Wheat	7	4	72, 73, 74, 83	83042, 72061, 72008, 73039, 73003, 74048, 74001
India's importation of apples	Chile, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Fruit	6	6	78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83	83056, 82060, 81006, 80014, 79067, 78084, 78085, 78086, 78088
Switzerland's export subsidy budget	Australia, New Zealand		5	3	77, 78, 83	83057, 77006, 77030, 78023, 78025
India's new crop insurance scheme	Canada, European Union		4	3	79, 80, 82	82031, 80068, 79024, 79051
Zambia's public stocks and exports of maize	European Union	Corn	3	3	81, 82, 83	83014, 82030, 81033
Turkey's subsidies aimed at incentivising the use of domestic dairy	New Zealand	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	3	3	81, 82, 83	83058, 82067, 81065
U.S. purchase of cheese stock	Australia, Canada	Cheese	3	2	81, 82	82061, 82025, 81066
China's regional assistance programmes	Australia		2	2	81, 82	81053, 82014
Turkey's domestic support policies	Canada		2	2	81, 82	82056, 81064

Question Summary	Question raised by	Products	Number of questions	Number of CoA meetings in which the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
U.S. Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage programmes	India		2	2	81, 82	82026, 81070,
Argentina's tax policies	Ukraine		2	2	80, 82	80059, 82041

Source: WTO Secretariat.

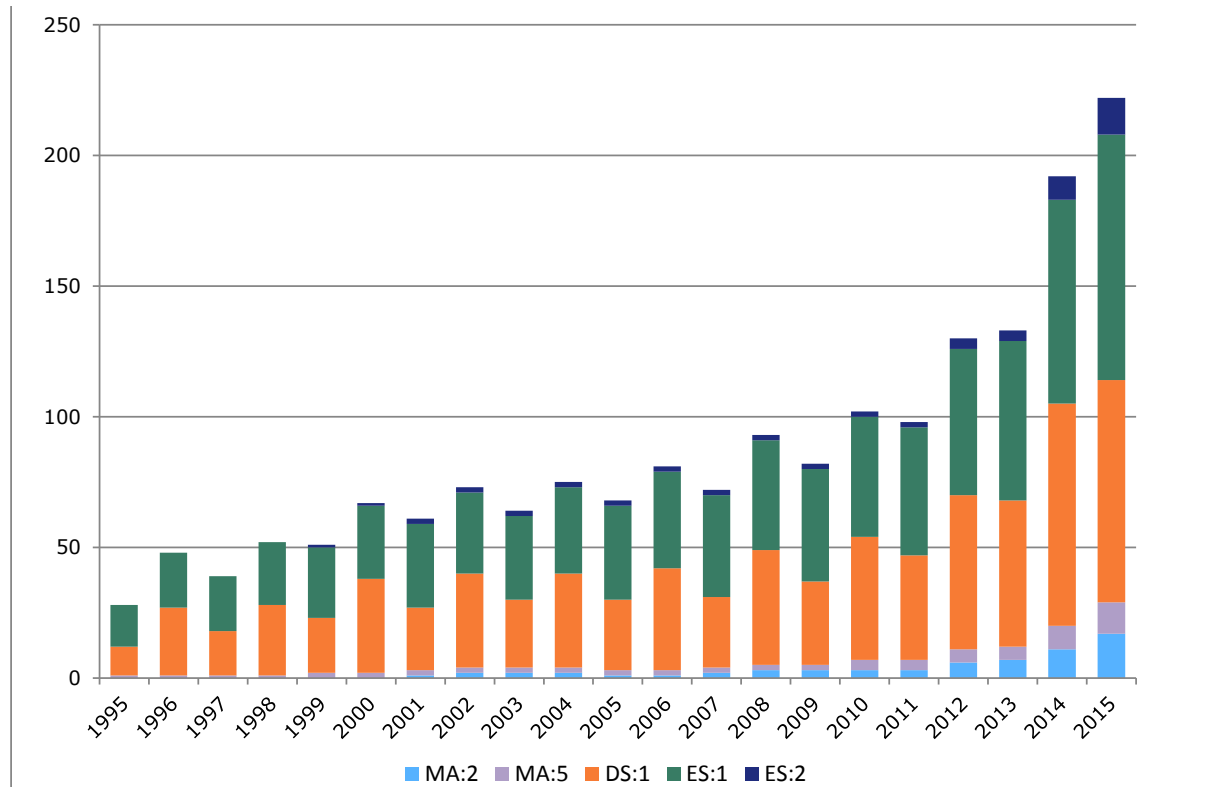
3.80. Regarding the review of notifications, timely and complete notifications are fundamental for effective monitoring of the implementation of commitments. Twelve distinct notification requirements are applicable in the domain of agriculture covering the following areas: market access, domestic support, export subsidies, export prohibitions or restrictions and the follow-up to the Marrakesh NFIDC Decision. The applicability of a notification requirement to a WTO Member is largely dependent on its specific commitments under the AoA. Out of the 12 notification requirements the following five are "regular" or "annual" notification requirements: (i) imports under tariff and other quotas (MA:2), (ii) special safeguards (MA:5), (iii) domestic support (DS:1), (iv) export subsidies (ES:1) and (v) total exports (ES:2). Annual notifications are required to be submitted no later than a certain number of days following the end of the year in question, in accordance with the deadlines set out in document G/AG/2.

3.81. For the period 1995-2015, there were a total of 1,831 outstanding regular notifications.<sup>46</sup> Out of the five annual notification requirements, Domestic Support (DS:1) and Export Subsidy (ES:1) notifications have the highest number of outstanding notifications<sup>47</sup> in every year since 1995. Members' outstanding notifications of imports under tariff and other quotas (MA:2), special safeguards (MA:5) and notification of total exports (ES:2) is much lower Chart 3.19. It should be noted, however, that domestic support and export subsidy notifications must be submitted by the whole Membership, whereas, in the other areas the obligation to notify will depend upon each Members' commitments.

<sup>46</sup> "Ad hoc" notification obligations are applicable only upon maintenance of a specific measure (e.g. application of export restrictions) as well as the annual notifications where it was not possible to determine a priori whether the concerned notification requirement would be applicable (e.g. Table NF:1 applicable to donor Members only).

<sup>47</sup> Note by the WTO Secretariat (G/AG/GEN/86/Rev.27) on compliance with notification obligations

**Chart 3.19 Total outstanding notifications per type of notification requirement per year (1995-2015)**

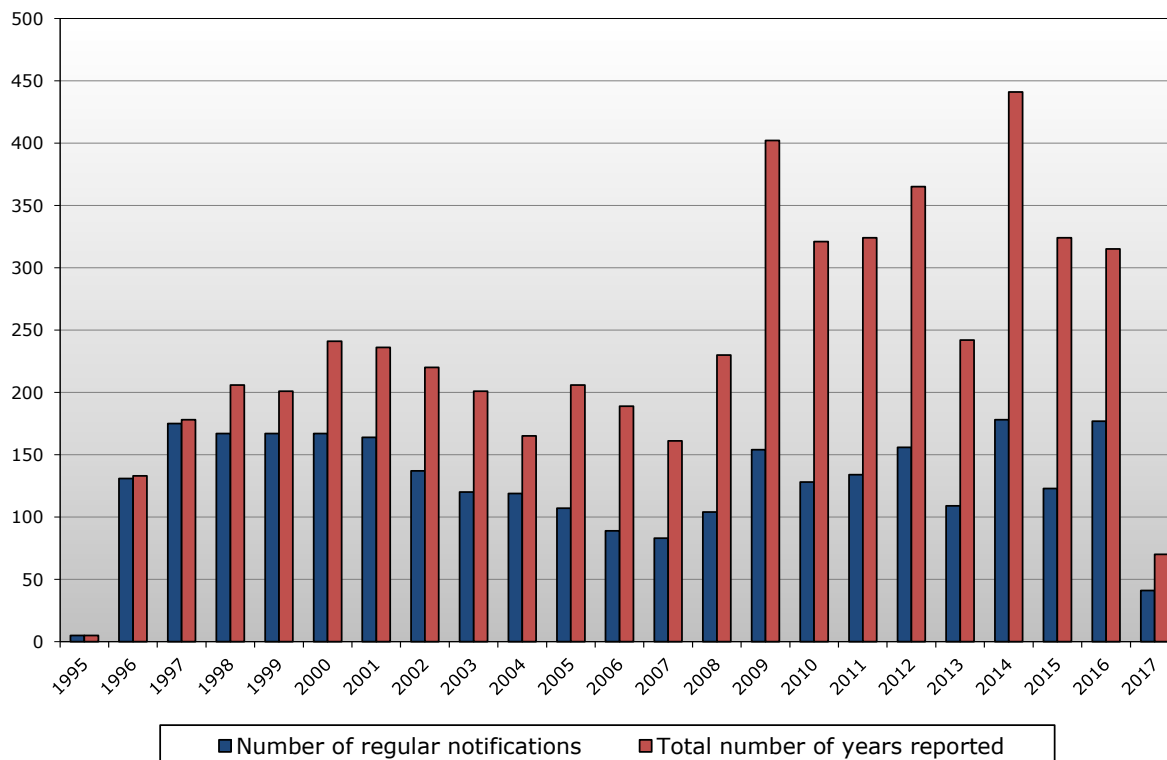


Note: MA:2 - Imports under tariff and other quotas, MA:5 - Special safeguards, DS:1 - Domestic support, ES:1 - Export subsidies, ES:2 - Total exports.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.82. While a large number of outstanding notifications remain, there has been a concerted effort by Members to bring their notifications up-to-date, as can be seen in Chart 3.20, where notifications reporting more than one year (which might include the required year and/or any pending previous years) have been submitted by Members. Since 2009 onwards, the average number of years reported per notification has fluctuated between two and three.

**Chart 3.20 Number of regular notifications in agriculture and years reported (1995-2017<sup>a</sup>)**

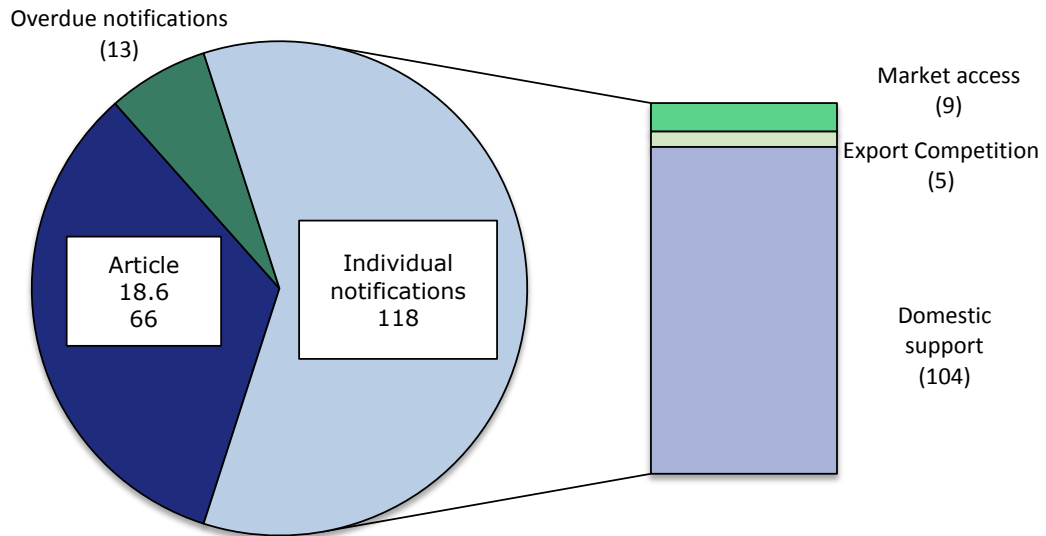


a Until 16 March 2017.

Note: The total number of years reported might include the required year and/or any pending previous year(s). For example, in 2009 Mexico submitted one MA:2 notification reporting in-quota imports for eight years (2000-2007). For the purpose of this table, this means that Mexico reported eight implementation years.

Source: WTO Secretariat (G/AG/GEN/86/Rev.27).

3.83. From 15 September 2016 to 15 April 2017, Members submitted 137 notifications, (including addenda and corrigenda). A total of 118 questions were posed during the November 2016 and March 2017 CoA meetings concerning these and previously submitted notifications. As seen in Chart 3.21, during the review period the majority of questions raised related to domestic support notifications (88%). In particular, domestic support notifications by the United States, the European Union and the Russian Federation attracted a considerable number of questions. There were 13 questions raised concerning the lack of notifications by other Members.

**Chart 3.21 Number of questions raised per section (mid-October 2016 – mid-May 2017)**

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.84. Further to the Nairobi Ministerial Decisions, the Committee held its first annual dedicated discussion in the field of export competition at its June 2016 CoA meeting. The discussion was held on the basis of the Secretariat's background document<sup>48</sup> that was based on the answers to a questionnaire sent to Members, relevant information from export subsidy (ES:1) and food aid (ES:3) notifications and relevant notifications to the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises. In that context, five Members posed questions to 18 Members regarding their policies in the area of export subsidies, export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, agricultural exporting of State Trading Enterprises and international food aid (Table 3.17)<sup>49</sup>. A number of questions requested clarification from Members on how they intended to ensure compliance of their policies with the relevant provisions of the Nairobi Decision on Export Competition.<sup>50</sup> Additionally, at the November 2016 and March 2017 CoA meetings, Chile posed a question to New Zealand on the implementation of the Ministerial Decision on Export Competition.<sup>51</sup>

**Table 3.17 Questions asked in the context of the CoA annual dedicated discussion in the field of export competition held in June 2016**

Question answered by	Question raised by	Areas
Brazil	European Union	Export subsidies; export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
Canada	European Union	Export subsidies
China	European Union	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
Colombia	European Union	Export subsidies
India	Australia, Canada	Agricultural exporting state trading enterprises; export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
Indonesia	European Union	Export subsidies
Israel	European Union	Export subsidies
Japan	Canada	International food aid
Mexico	European Union	Export subsidies
New Zealand	Chile, European Union	Agricultural exporting State Trading Enterprises
Norway	European Union	Export subsidies
Russian Federation	Australia, European Union	International food aid; agricultural exporting State Trading Enterprises
South Africa	European Union	Export subsidies

<sup>48</sup> G/AG/W/125/Rev. 4 and addenda

<sup>49</sup> G/AG/W/155

<sup>50</sup> WT/MIN(15)/45

<sup>51</sup> G/AG/W/159 (ID 82065) and G/AG/W/160 (ID 83037)

Question answered by	Question raised by	Areas
Switzerland	European Union	Export subsidies
Turkey	European Union	Export subsidies; international food aid
Uruguay	European Union	Export subsidies
United States	Australia, Canada, European Union	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes; international food aid
Venezuela, Bolivarian Rep. of	European Union	Export subsidies

Source: WTO Secretariat.

### 3.6 General Economic Support

3.85. Since October 2008 the trade monitoring reports have consistently reported on general economic support measures implemented by WTO Members. In the immediate aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, general economic support measures played an important role in many economies. These measures included very significant domestic bailouts, substantial measures targeting the financial sector, state aid programmes and large-scale multi-sector and sometimes economy-wide stimulus packages.

3.86. The WTO Monitoring Report published in November 2016 provided a brief historical overview in the area of general economic support measures implemented by WTO Members since 2008. At the end of 2016 some 849 general economic support measures had been recorded since the beginning of the monitoring exercise, with a quarter of these measures introduced in direct response to the financial crisis.

3.87. Large-scale, multi-sector or economy-wide stimulus packages constitute the bulk of general economic support measures introduced by WTO Members since October 2008. These types of measures were extensively used during the first three years of the monitoring exercise. Multi-sector measures have been traditionally very broad and can cover, simultaneously and under one programme, a diverse range of sectors from agriculture and forestry to the medical and shipbuilding sectors. Separately, the banking and financial sectors received a very significant share of the general economic support in 2008-09. These subsidies were all but eliminated in the following years. The agriculture and food sectors have been the second largest recipient of general economic support measures. A variety of objectives are covered by these measures, including long-term improvements in productivity, incentive packages through tax breaks and preferential credit lines.

3.88. After 2009, there was a significant decrease in the number of such support programmes with measures appearing to be increasingly sector-specific and export-oriented, including various trade finance programmes, often to assist SMEs or start-up enterprises. Over the years, the annex covering general economic support measures has covered a wide variety of programmes and sectors that have benefitted from general economic support measures which may have had potentially important trade-related effects. Whereas several of the general economic support measures and subsidy programmes which were implemented almost immediately following the onset of the financial crisis included features which had real potential to curb or distort international trade, it has often been very difficult to ascertain the impact of certain measures on trade flows. As a result, and even if reporting these measures provided an important element of transparency, the WTO trade monitoring reports neither classified nor counted such measures as trade-restrictive.

3.89. An important development over the past couple of years has been the increasing number of instances where WTO Members appeared to have reduced or eliminated economic support programs, e.g. a reduction of fuel subsidies or the elimination of financial aid and local content preferences for energy-related equipment.

3.90. However, collecting and verifying information on general economic support measures has continued to represent a significant challenge in the preparation of the Reports. While there seems to be a generic recognition among WTO Members that general economic support and subsidies at the national as well as sub-national level often can have an important impact on trade, the lack of active cooperation in providing relevant information in this area has been a problem since the beginning of the exercise. In addition, the fact that some WTO Members are relatively transparent



regarding general economic support measures compared to others has meant that on several occasions a few Members accounted for more than half of all reported general economic support measures. This, combined with the insistence of others to have their support programs excluded from the Report, has effectively compromised the balance in the reporting of such measures.

3.91. The number of WTO Members that provided information on general economic support measures implemented during the current review period remained again disappointingly low. Yet, it is widely known that several large-scale bailout packages in the dairy and the energy sectors have been implemented over the past six months. This reinforces the conclusion of previous Reports that the universe of general economic support measures is much greater than what this exercise has managed to capture and that such programs will remain attractive policy tools to governments, particularly for strategic sectors, despite the often significant financial cost of such programmes.

3.92. At this juncture, and based on the information provided on general economic support measures, there is little basis for maintaining an annex for this type of policies which would provide a credible and transparent account of recent developments across the full WTO membership.

### **3.7 Other Selected Trade Policy Developments**

3.93. The following Section provides a concise overview of other selected trade policy issues where important developments took place during the review period.

#### **Regional Trade Agreements**

3.94. Between mid-October 2016 and mid-May 2017 eight new RTAs and three accessions to existing RTAs were notified to the WTO. These bring the total to 274 RTAs notified and in force (corresponding to 440 notifications in goods, services and accessions). Since June 2016 all WTO Members are now involved to some degree in RTAs.<sup>52</sup> While most RTAs are bilateral, involving two parties, recent negotiations seem to suggest a trend towards consolidation of existing bilateral agreements within and across regions.

3.95. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement was originally negotiated between 12 partners (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States and Viet Nam, although the United States has since withdrawn) and is an enlargement of an existing RTA.<sup>53</sup> Negotiations for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) involve 16 partners: ten ASEAN members and Australia, China, Republic of Korea, Japan, India and New Zealand. The ASEAN members already have agreements in force with these six partners and the negotiations aim to have one common agreement which is based on the "ASEAN+1" agreements. Negotiations began in November 2012; eighteen rounds of negotiations have been held to date.

3.96. The Pacific Alliance includes Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The parties to this agreement already have bilateral agreements in force. The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is a customs union between five parties of which four are WTO Members (Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation) and one is acceding to the WTO (Belarus). In Europe, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations involve the 28 members of the EU and the United States. On the African Continent, efforts are ongoing to bring existing regional economic communities together through the Tripartite Free Trade Area, followed eventually by a Continental Wide Free Trade Area. Finally, negotiations on the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) concentrate only on the further liberalization of trade in services between 23 parties, including both developed and developing Members.

3.97. While most of these plurilaterals are currently being negotiated, and it remains to be seen what they achieve by way of further trade liberalization, they have the potential to considerably reduce the current fragmentation of trade relations through separate bilateral trade agreements.

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<sup>52</sup> Following the notification of the Japan-Mongolia FTA, Mongolia is also party to one RTA.

<sup>53</sup> The Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership, which has been in force since 2006 between Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore.

## Trade Facilitation

3.98. Work on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) continued to make progress and reached an important milestone on 22 February 2017 when a sufficient number of ratifications<sup>54</sup> was received for the Agreement to enter into force. The required number of 110 acceptances was reached – and even surpassed – with a total of 112 instruments having been deposited by the end of that day. This marks an increase of 18 ratifications since the end of the last reporting period (mid-October 2016).

3.99. Advances were also made on the notification side. Members provided a series of submissions informing of:

(a) the provisions they will implement as of the TFA's entry into force (the so-called "category A commitments");

(b) the provisions they consider to require additional time (the so-called "category B commitments");

(c) the provisions they consider to require both additional time and capacity-building support (the so-called "category C commitments").

3.100. Over 90 Members had submitted related notifications when the TFA entered into force.<sup>55</sup> Ninety-two of them covered category A, with some also designating provisions under categories B (9) and C (8). In addition six WTO Members, i.e. Chinese Taipei; Hong Kong, China; Israel; Korea, Republic of; Mexico and Singapore committed to implementing the entire TFA as of its entry into force, which makes the number of WTO Members with complete A, B and C records even higher.

3.101. Work continued with respect to technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives. In 2014 the Director-General launched a WTO Trade Facilitation Facility<sup>56</sup> (the Facility) to assist developing and LDC Members in implementing the TFA that became operational on 27 November 2014. The Facility works closely with individual Members to ensure they are receiving the information and support needed. It also provides information on assistance programmes and, where needed, it can conduct match-making between donors and recipients. The Facility supports Members' efforts to implement the Agreement by acting as a repository for training materials, case studies and best practices on implementation of the measures. It provides training programmes and support materials to assist Members to fully understand their obligations. This year the Facility assisted Members to prepare their category ABC notifications and build the capacity of the national trade facilitation committees by conducting national and sub-regional workshops. It also offered an advanced course for chairs of national trade facilitation committees, with the cooperation of partner organizations. Two courses were conducted in English in 2016 with courses in French and Spanish planned for early 2017.

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<sup>54</sup> See <http://www.tfafacility.org/ratifications>.

<sup>55</sup> See <http://www.tfafacility.org/notifications>.

<sup>56</sup> Viewed at <http://www.tfafacility.org/>.

### Box 3.5 Trade facilitation and the global economy: 2017 OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators update

Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which entered into force on 22 February 2017, is expected to generate reductions in trade costs of between 12% and 18%<sup>1</sup> for countries (depending on level of development and ambition of implementation) and provide a much needed boost to global growth.<sup>2</sup>

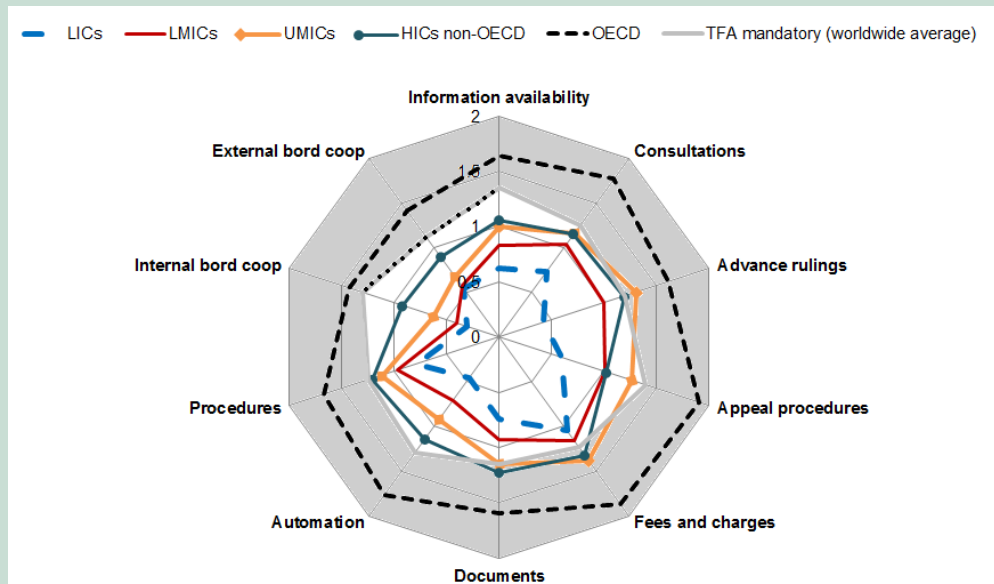
The OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFIs)<sup>3</sup> measure progress on the full range of issues covered under the TFA for more than 160 countries. They provide a targeted tool for monitoring and benchmarking country performance on trade facilitation, for highlighting areas where further reform would bring benefits, and for assessing the impact of reforms. While not designed to assess compliance with specific TFA provisions, at the moment of entry into force of the TFA, the TFIs offer a snapshot of the state of play on trade facilitation around the world, highlighting best practices and the main advances and challenges that countries will need to address on their path to implementing measures in areas covered by the Agreement.

"Trade Facilitation and the Global Economy" (*forthcoming*) provides updated TFIs to 2017 and important new evidence on the gains from trade facilitation reforms in an interconnected global economy, including how fast and efficient border procedures and improved delivery times affect the operation of supply chains. Enhanced transparency, predictability and simplification of border procedures have the potential not only to reduce trade costs and promote economic efficiency but also to remove both the incentives and opportunities for corruption.

The updated TFIs show that, in early 2017 implementation of a wide range of trade facilitation measures falling under the scope of the TFA is well under way (Figure 1). For example, such good progress can be highlighted in the areas of advance rulings, fees and charges and simplification and harmonization of documents. Significant improvements have also been achieved since 2015 in other areas such as involvement of trade community, automation or streamlining of procedures. The biggest challenges lie in co-operation among all the agencies involved in border processes, both domestically, and across borders.

Overall, performance within income groups is far from homogeneous in most policy areas, as both high and low performers can be found within all groups. That said, a number of policy areas, such as advance rulings or automation, appear to be closely associated with income, which suggests that aid for trade investments in capacity building in these areas are likely to yield significant benefits.

**Figure 1. TFIs 2017: full sample snapshot, income groupings**



Note: The shaded area depicts measures that go beyond the mandatory provisions of the TFA. The dotted portion of the grey line highlights the fact that all TFA provisions for external border agency co-operation are "best endeavours".

<sup>1</sup> OECD (2015), "Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: The Potential Impact on Trade Costs", [http://www.oecd.org/tad/tradedev/WTO-TF-Implementation-Policy-Brief\\_EN\\_2015\\_06.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/tad/tradedev/WTO-TF-Implementation-Policy-Brief_EN_2015_06.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> OECD (forthcoming), "Economy-wide effects of trade facilitation: a METRO model simulation".

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/trade/facilitation/indicators.htm>

Source: OECD.

## Government Procurement

3.102. At present, the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) has 19 parties comprising 47 WTO Members. Another 29 WTO Members participate in the GPA Committee as observers. Out of these, nine Members are in the process of acceding to the Agreement. Substantive discussions on the accessions of Australia, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic have taken place since the last report, in the hope that negotiations on these accessions might be concluded in principle in 2017. Constructive dialogue also took place regarding accession to the Agreement by China. Separately, during the review period the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia initiated their respective GPA accessions.

3.103. Significant work was done by the Committee in relation to its agreed Work Programmes which were adopted at the time of the conclusion of the renegotiation of the Agreement in 2012. The Work Programmes are intended, broadly, to: (i) promote transparency with respect to Parties' implementation of the Agreement; (ii) facilitate, where relevant, improvements in the administration of the Agreement; and (iii) contribute, where appropriate, to preparations for future negotiations that are called for in the revised GPA. Activity focused, in particular on the Work Programmes dealing with: (i) access to government procurement activities by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); (ii) the collection and reporting of statistical data; (iii) exclusions and restrictions in Parties' Annexes; and (iv) the promotion of sustainability in Parties' procurement processes. An important input to the latter work programme was a Symposium which took place on 22 February 2017 and in which civil society representatives offered relevant suggestions for consideration by the Committee (Box 3.6).

### Box 3.6 Symposium on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)

The Symposium on Sustainable Procurement, organized by the WTO Secretariat at the request of the Committee on Government Procurement, took place on 22 February 2017. It featured inputs from diverse non-governmental experts on sustainability issues in addition to national experts and representatives of other international organizations.<sup>1</sup>

In the course of the Symposium:

- The scope for promotion of sustainability objectives under the revised Agreement on Government Procurement (adopted in 2012) was highlighted.
- The experience of several WTO Members in successfully implementing SPP projects was discussed.
- The following dimensions of SPP were considered: (i) protection of the environment; (ii) social dimensions (e.g. human rights, working conditions) and (iii) economic opportunities (e.g. innovation research/investment, open competition, supply chain competitiveness and the promotion of small business).
- SPP was defined as a strategic tool, regarding which prioritisation and assessment are important at every stage of a procurement process.

<sup>1</sup> All presentations are available at:  
[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/qproc\\_e/gp\\_symp\\_22feb17\\_e.htm#fnt-1](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/qproc_e/gp_symp_22feb17_e.htm#fnt-1)

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.104. The Secretariat launched an enhanced version of its e-GPA web portal to better service the information needs of GPA Parties, accession candidates and their suppliers (<https://e-gpa.wto.org/>). The system is intended to provide user-friendly access to Parties' market access schedules and other information that Parties provide pursuant to the Agreement, in a modern and interactive format. It synergizes importantly with particular elements of the revised GPA text that are aimed at promoting the use of electronic tools in Parties' procurement systems. Separately, interest has been expressed by some Parties in exploring possibilities for expanded use of electronic tools for exchanging information on actual procurement opportunities and statistical data.

3.105. To ensure the transparency and predictability of its Parties' procurement regimes, the GPA sets out notification obligations for its Parties in five areas, i.e. national implementing legislation on government procurement; procurement thresholds in national currencies; statistics on procurement activities; modifications to schedules of commitments; and media for the publication of procurement-related information.

3.106. Numerous notifications were made during the reporting period pursuant to these requirements. Some of the foregoing obligations have been simplified in the revised version of the GPA, to enable Parties to use electronic tools in providing relevant information.

### Box 3.7 Identifying Measures affecting Government Procurement

Behind the border measures have emerged as significant barriers to trade. One such measure is home-bias in government procurement, which refers to a government's tendency to favour domestic suppliers over foreign suppliers in government procurement. This bias can be explicit, as when regulations and policies are written to favour domestic firms, but also implicit, such as when the procurement procedures do not expressly target foreign bidders but effectively reduce their access to procurement opportunities.

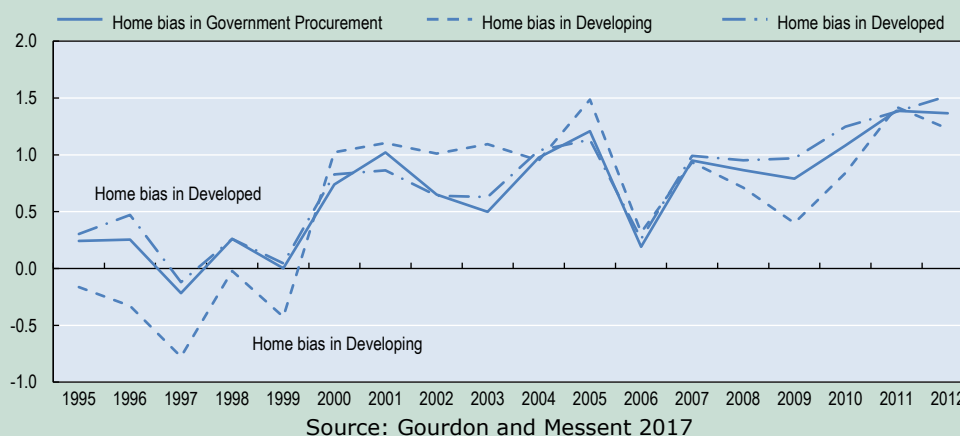
To assist governments in identifying measures affecting government procurement in their own - or other countries' - systems, the OECD has created a taxonomy of measures affecting government procurement.<sup>1</sup> The taxonomy is not designed to pass judgment on the legitimacy of the public policy objectives that measures seek to achieve, but rather to highlight the trade impact of the measures as one element for consideration in policy-making and with a view to promoting consideration of less trade-restrictive measures to achieve the same policy objectives.

The taxonomy covers 44 different sub-categories of both explicit and implicit measures that can affect cross-border procurement and provides a methodology to guide collection of information.<sup>2</sup> The categories of explicit measures include, for example, market access restrictions, domestic price preferences, and local content requirements. The categories of implicit measures include, for example, the type of tendering system, the qualification or evaluation criteria for purchasing decisions, the review and complaints mechanisms, and the transparency of the system, all of which - depending on how they are implemented - can deter companies wishing to enter a foreign GP market.

Domestic bias in government procurement markets appears to be increasing over recent years (Figure 1) in both developed and developing economies. These figures need to be treated with caution, however, as more intensive use of domestic suppliers can also reflect the fact that, first, the goods and services that governments procure are likely to have a higher proportion of non-tradable products and second, local companies can be simply better placed for certain types of services (e.g. cleaning services).

**Figure 1 Evolution of home-bias over time**

Positive sign indicates home-bias, which is defined as the government's propensity to spend procurement funds on domestic rather than imported goods and services.



Source: Gourdon and Messent 2017

Joining the WTO GPA is found to reduce home-bias in procurement markets. Additionally, where procurement rules require local presence, access can be made more difficult by separate restrictions on FDI. The combination of local presence requirements and sectoral restrictions or requirements related to foreign investment can also increase the burden on foreign suppliers and serve as a disincentive for contesting procurement opportunities. Indeed, results show that, the effect of the GPA in reducing discrimination is strengthened in economies with low barriers to foreign direct investment, while trade agreements that include investment provisions are found to increase the impact of GPA in reducing domestic bias (Gourdon and Messent, 2017). This suggests that countries negotiating procurement agreements could also benefit from negotiating investment agreements in parallel.

<sup>1</sup> OECD 2017, "Taxonomy of Measures Affecting Trade in Government Procurement Processes". This work also forms part of UNCTAD MAST project.

<sup>2</sup> A pilot exercise involving 6 countries showed that the incidence of measures across countries is highly varied, with firms in different countries facing very different challenges in dealing with GP related measures.

### **ITA Expansion**

3.107. Under the newly concluded WTO ITA Expansion agreement, import duties will be eliminated on 201 high-tech products whose annual trade is estimated at US\$1.3 trillion, accounting for approximately 10% of world trade in goods. Products covered by the ITA Expansion include new generation multi-component integrated circuits (MCOs), touch screens, GPS navigation equipment, portable interactive electronic education devices, video game consoles, and medical equipment, such as magnetic resonance imaging products and ultrasonic scanning apparatus.

3.108. The ITA Expansion agreement will result in the rapid and meaningful liberalization of trade in new generation IT products.<sup>57</sup> According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, customs duties on 95.4% of Participants' imports on these products will be fully eliminated by 2019. Negotiations were conducted by 25 Participants<sup>58</sup>, representing 54 WTO Members and accounting for approximately 90% of world trade in these products. The ITA Expansion agreement is open to any other WTO Member wishing to join it. The new tariff commitments will be recorded in each Participant's WTO Schedule of concessions and applied on an MFN basis, which means that all WTO Members will benefit from duty-free market access for the covered products.

### **Dispute Settlement**

3.109. The trend in recent years of an increasing number of cases being handled by the WTO dispute settlement system continued during the review period. Between mid-October 2016 and mid-May 2017, the Dispute Settlement Body received 11 new requests for consultations and established 10 new panels, including based on earlier filed requests. Seventeen requests submitted within the last two years remained in consultations at the end of the review period. As of mid-May 2017, there were 21 active panels, Appellate Body and arbitration proceedings, while 11 established panels were awaiting composition.

3.110. During the review period, eight panel reports and two Appellate Body reports were circulated to WTO Members. In addition, Arbitrators circulated two arbitration awards on the reasonable period of time for implementation under DSU Article 21.3(c). An Arbitrator in one dispute circulated its decision concerning the level of retaliation in proceedings brought under DSU Article 22.6. In terms of subject matter, a number of disputes raised claims under the GATT Agreement, while trade remedies and subsidies remained among the most actively litigated topics. A number of recent and on-going disputes involve complex factual and legal issues. A recent trend has seen the growing role of expert evidence in proceedings, in particular in disputes concerning the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. An increased focus on compliance proceedings was another highlight of WTO dispute settlement during the review period. As of mid-May 2017, there were four ongoing compliance proceedings before panels and one before the Appellate Body. A high number of compliance proceedings could be an indication that implementing WTO rules is not always a straightforward process.

### **Aid for Trade**

3.111. The 2016-2017 Aid for Trade Work Programme, themed "Promoting Connectivity" draws on the results of the 2015 Global Review, which recognised the burden of high trade costs on developing countries, particularly LDCs, in connecting to the global trading system.

3.112. A key activity underpinning the work programme is the Aid for Trade monitoring and evaluation (M&E) exercise, carried out in partnership with the OECD. The 2016 M&E exercise focused on: how and why Aid for Trade priorities have changed since 2015; the status of implementation of the WTO TFA; e-commerce and digital connectivity; and infrastructure enhancement and the improvement of related services markets through support of investment climate reforms. As part of the joint M&E work, the OECD tracks Aid for Trade flows. OECD figures highlight that overall disbursements in Aid for Trade reached US\$39.8 billion in 2015. Total commitments recovered after a US\$1 billion drop in 2014, growing to a new high of US\$53.8 billion in 2015. LDC Aid for Trade commitments grew from US\$13 billion in 2014 to

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<sup>57</sup> Members implementing the ITA Expansion agreement are reflected in Annex 1.

<sup>58</sup> On 9 December 2016, Macao, China joined the ITA Expansion and became the 25<sup>th</sup> Participant.



US\$17.2 billion in 2015. Disbursements to LDCs increased from US\$9.3 billion in 2014 to US\$10.6 billion in 2015.

3.113. Analysis of the M&E exercise submissions will be published in the 2017 edition of the Aid for Trade at a Glance to be launched at the 2017 Global Review of Aid for Trade, scheduled for 11-13 July 2017. The Global Review provides an opportunity for stakeholders to examine how Aid for Trade is contributing to the integration of developing countries and least developed countries into the multilateral trading system, and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Trade Financing**

3.114. Unmet global demand for trade finance, as measured annually by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with the support of several institutions, remained high and stable at US\$1.6 trillion, in 2015, or 10-15% of the total value of trade finance markets. Disproportionally affecting SMEs and developing countries, most of the gap is recorded in developing Asia, as well as in Latin America, Africa and the CIS countries. According to the 2016 Global Enabling Trade Report by the World Economic Forum, trade finance features among the top three obstacles to exporting for more than half of the countries in the world. Globally, 58% of SMEs saw their trade finance requests rejected, against 10% for multinational companies, according to the ADB. New types of trade finance providers are entering the market and banks are digitizing their internal processes to reduce costs. Nevertheless, 70% of 800 surveyed firms from 91 countries were unfamiliar with digital finance.

3.115. With the support of WTO Members, the Director-General outlined in 2016 a number of possible measures aimed at addressing the challenges of accessing trade finance<sup>59</sup>, i.e. enhancing trade finance facilitation programmes, helping local banking sectors to grow by improving training, better monitoring of problems, and maintaining a closer dialogue with regulators.

3.116. Progress has been recorded in the past year. Multilateral development banks are in the process of adapting trade finance facilitation programmes, with a view to better respond to the needs of SMEs. For example, supply chain finance for SMEs has been made available by the ADB, and plans to increase current exposure are being discussed. The World Bank's International Financial Corporation (IFC) has been increasing trade finance in Africa. The Board of the African Development Bank decided to lift the four-year sunset clause on the Bank's trade finance programme, introduced in 2013, to make trade finance a regular activity of the Bank. The Islamic Development Bank has increased the amount of trade supported in its geographical area from US\$5 to US\$7 billion annually, particularly in the poorest countries of its membership. The EBRD has continued to expand its trade finance facilitation programme in North Africa. Also, synergies are being explored by multilateral development banks. The IFC and ADB have been exploring co-risk sharing arrangements to provide more trade finance in Viet Nam and such partnerships are being considered by other multilateral institutions. It is estimated that up to 8,000 trade transactions, involving mainly SMEs in the developing world are being facilitated by multilateral development banks.

3.117. Part of the trade finance gap reflects a knowledge gap, notably in developing countries. To address this, professional organizations from the private sector are strengthening their cooperation with multilateral development banks. For example, the International Chamber of Commerce e-learning Academy has started to cooperate with the Factoring International Association and other professional institutions, while obtaining support from the ADB. Private sector organizations are in a better position to engage now that the WTO has helped increase awareness and promoted the development of the international trade finance registry.

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<sup>59</sup> "Trade Finance and SMEs: Bridging the Gaps in Provision", see at [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/tradefinsme\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/tradefinsme_e.pdf)

### Box 3.8 Developing a typology to analyse and measure digital trade

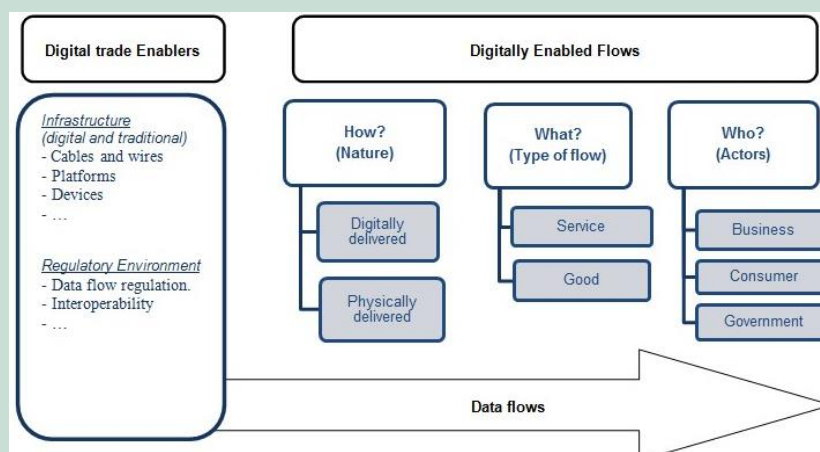
In some ways, digital trade is not new. Digitally related transactions - in relation to goods or services - have been part of the landscape for many years and often raise the same, or similar, issues as non-digital transactions. But what *is* new is the scale of transactions, the pace of change and the emergence of new players transforming production processes and industries. In this fast-evolving environment, governments are facing growing regulatory challenges, not just in managing digital disruption, but also in ensuring that the opportunities and benefits from digital trade can be realised and shared in an inclusive manner.

The digital transformation is increasingly changing how and what we trade. Digitally enabled trade is not just about digitally delivered services, it is also about supply-chain trade in goods and services enabled through growing digital connectivity increasing access to foreign markets for firms, not least SMEs, in a way that would previously have been unimaginable. It is also about more bundled goods (packages of goods or services or both and services embodied in goods); growing trade in smaller, often lower value physical packages and in digitally delivered services; and increased trade in emerging 'information industries' providing at-a-distance 'big data' analytics or quantum computing services.<sup>1</sup>

Digital trade is underpinned by data flows. In addition to being at the core of innovations such as cloud computing, the Internet of Things and Additive manufacturing (including 3D printing), data flows also underpin trade less directly by enabling control and coordination along global value chains (GVCs) or by enabling trade facilitation measures. Data flows are thus a means of production, an asset that can be traded, a way of delivering some services, and the means of organising GVCs.

Broadly cast, digital trade encompasses digitally enabled transactions in goods and services which can be either digitally or physically delivered and which involve consumers, firms and governments. A flexible and modular typology can help unpack the How (physically or digitally delivered); the What (good or service) and the Who (the actors) of digital trade, and serve as a tool for thinking through trade policy and measurement issues (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Towards a flexible typology of digital trade**



Digital trade raises a number of trade policy issues. For example, the significant growth in trade in small packages ordered online poses challenges from both a trade facilitation and revenue point of view, with countries looking again at *de minimis* thresholds and the management of parcel trade. A range of issues for market openness can arise from the combination of goods and services trade along the digital trade supply chain. And with the movement of data across borders to digital trade, the organisation of GVCs and trade facilitation, policy-makers face new challenges in finding policy approaches that combine the need for privacy and security with the significant benefits of open markets. Critically, more needs to be done to ensure that countries at different stages of development are able to fully benefit from the new opportunities from digitalisation.

Measuring digital trade is also challenging. The flow of funds across a border may be classified differently from the service provided; for example, the flow of funds from a ride-sharing platform operating cross-border may appear as a financial or an intermediation service, while the service delivered is a transport service. Other issues can arise for social media platforms which earn revenue through advertising services, based on data from consumers to whom they are providing a "free" service (i.e., the flows from their clients do not result in a monetary transaction but can support one). Progress has been made, and further efforts are underway to better identify which goods and services transactions are digitally ordered, platform enabled or digitally delivered.

<sup>1</sup>Lopez-Gonzalez, J and Jouanjean, MA. (2017) « Digital Trade : developing a framework for analysis" OECD Trade Policy Papers, OECD publishing, Paris



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## 4 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN SERVICES

4.1. Several new measures affecting trade in services were introduced during the period covered by this report. Most of the new measures are either horizontal in nature – relating to measures affecting the supply of services through commercial presence and the movement of natural persons – or pertain to financial services and the communication sector. While the majority of the measures covered provide for additional liberalization or aim to strengthen or clarify regulatory frameworks, certain other measures appear more trade restrictive. Annex 4 provides additional information on all these measures, which concern 36 WTO Members.

### Measures affecting supply through commercial presence

4.2. Various governments have introduced changes to their investment policy that affect the supply of services through commercial presence. For example, the governments of Egypt, Myanmar, and Tunisia each adopted new investment laws, generally aiming to improve the investment climate, attract more foreign investment, and clarify and streamline procedures. Myanmar's Investment Law, for instance, effective since 1 April 2017, subject only selected investment proposals to government screening. In Tunisia, the new investment law increases the number of sectors open to foreign investment and makes it easier for investors to hire foreign managing personnel. In Egypt, the new law will, among other things, reduce documentary requirements on investors and ease restrictions on the employment of foreign employees in investment projects. For these three countries, additional regulations will need to be issued to further specify important aspects in the application of the new investment regimes.

4.3. In addition, Kenya repealed a provision that required companies established in the country to have at least 30% of their shareholding held by Kenyan citizens. Viet Nam amended its list of 'conditional business lines' pursuant to its Law on Investment, removing a number of services from the list and adding a number of other activities. Such conditional business lines are subject to additional investment conditions. For its part, China adopted a number of distinct measures aiming to promote investment in several sectors and regions. This includes the creation of new free trade zones providing for better treatment of foreign investment, as well as the adoption of revised rules with respect to priority industries for foreign investment in the Central and Western regions.

4.4. A number of other countries, for example Brazil and Colombia, introduced amendments in relation to registration and other requirements related to foreign investments. For its part, the Democratic Republic of Congo adopted a law that reserves sub-contracting by established multinational companies to domestically-owned enterprises. The same country removed restrictions that made it difficult for women to engage in commercial activities.

### Services supplied through the movement of natural persons

4.5. Various Members adopted new measures affecting the supply of services through the movement of natural persons. For example, Australia announced in April 2017 that its "457 visa" for temporary work by skilled foreign workers would be abolished in March 2018 and replaced by a new Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa. Implementation of this reform is taking place in different stages. From 19 April 2017, the occupation lists that underpin the 457 visa have been condensed from 651 to 435 occupations.

4.6. France has adopted new measures in relation to intra-corporate transferees, providing in particular for the creation of "ICT Mobile Permits", which allow foreign nationals holding an intra-corporate transferee permit in one EU Member State to work temporarily in France without the need to obtain a new work permit. India introduced improvements to its visa schemes. It expanded the number of countries eligible under its e-Visa programme, which allows entering the country for up to 60 days for business visits and other specific activities, and launched a new "intern visa" category. For its part, the Republic of Korea issued new guidelines that limit the use of the Short Term Travellers Visa to non-profit activities. All for-profit activities, including the supply of services pursuant to a contract, require an employment visa before entry.

4.7. Switzerland has increased by 1,000 its maximum number of work permits for highly qualified workers from non-EU and non-EFTA countries for 2017, compared to the previous year. This brings the total of such work permits to 7,500. Half of the additional work permits are for short stays (L permit) and the other half for long stays (B permits). These 1,000 additional work permits are held as a federal reserve by the Confederation in order to meet, on request, further needs from the cantons. Kazakhstan introduced a number of modifications to existing laws relating to migration and foreign employment, including the removal a quota on intra-corporate transferees.

### **Communication services**

4.8. Several Members have adopted new measures in relation to the communication sector or broader frameworks relating to electronic transactions and data. For instance, Argentina established rules and standards with respect to the convergence between television, telecommunication, and information technology services, the European Union adopted a new Directive on security of network and information systems, and the United States adopted a new measure easing the capacity of Internet Service Providers to commercialize user data. Indonesia, for its part, issued a new regulation on data protection, which, among other things, requires electronic system providers to have data centres located in Indonesia and sets out procedures for cross-border data transfers, which are subject to coordination with the responsible Ministry.

4.9. In China, a new Cybersecurity Law, effective since 1 June 2017, requires "personal information and important data" collected and generated in China to be stored domestically. Security assessments by authorities will be conducted in relation to information and data transferred abroad because of business requirements. China also adopted a new Film Industry Promotion Law that sets out new requirements and procedures in relation to the production, distribution, review, and exhibition of feature films in China. For instance, the law requires local theatre operators to ensure that the screening time for Chinese films is no less than two-thirds of the annual screening time of all films.

4.10. The Russian Federation adopted, on 1 May 2017, a law that limits foreign participation in certain audiovisual services. The new measure applies to systems that distribute collections of audiovisual works online, provided they have more than 100,000 users per day in the Russian Federation and that they offer content for a fee or conditional on viewing advertising targeted at residents of the Russian Federation. The law provides that only a Russian legal entity or a Russian Federation citizen that does not hold the citizenship of another state can own such systems. Foreign persons that own an information resource used for online distribution of collections of audiovisual works that has less than 50% of its users in the Russian Federation are not allowed to own more than 20% of the capital of such Russian legal entities, unless permission is received from a government commission. The law will not apply to Internet search systems or information resources that primarily distribute content posted by individual Internet users.

### **Financial services**

4.11. Various policy changes took place in the financial services sector. For instance, as regards insurance, Thailand liberalized foreign shareholding limits for life and non-life insurance companies. Foreign insurance companies in Thailand may be permitted, under certain conditions, to hold more than 49% of the voting shares of a Thai insurance company and to have foreigners comprise more than half of its directors.

4.12. Argentina adopted a new resolution easing limits on the cross-border supply of reinsurance and retrocession services. Insurance companies will be allowed to place their risks directly with Admitted Reinsurers (cross-border reinsurers) according to the following scheme: up to 50% of their ceded premiums for contracts beginning 1 July 2017; up to 60% of their ceded premiums for contracts beginning on 1 July 2018; up to 75% of ceded premiums for contracts beginning on 1 July 2019. Brazil also introduced new liberalization measures for the reinsurance market. Regulations increased to 70% the percentage of risks that can be ceded to foreign reinsurers. This figure will continue to increase each year until it reaches 85% in 2020. Previously, reinsurance allocation required preferential offers to the local market.

4.13. Indonesia announced that it will limit foreign ownership in insurance companies to 80%. The amended regulations will be applied to established companies with foreign ownership below

80% and to new insurance companies. For existing insurance companies where foreign ownership currently exceeds 80%, adjustments would not be required, except in the context of new capital injections. Since 16 January 2017, every insurer in India must comply with the order of preference for cessions by Indian insurers prescribed by Regulation 28(9) of the Branch Office Regulations. The order of preference contained in the regulation sets out the hierarchy between the various entities with which an Indian insurer can place its reinsurance business. The regulations specify that an Indian insurer is first required to approach India's official reinsurer GIC Re before reaching out to the branch operations of foreign reinsurers. After exhausting these two channels, insurers are allowed to approach reinsurers located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Indian primary insurers, and, lastly, reinsurers located outside the country. In Kenya, since 1 January 2017, marine cargo insurance (MCI) is reserved to local insurance companies.

4.14. With respect to banking and other financial services, China eased approval requirements for foreign-owned banks to supply some investment banking services in the country and to invest in domestic banking institutions. Approval from the China Banking Regulation Commission (CBRC) is no longer required for foreign-invested banks (which include foreign-invested legal entity banks and onshore branches of foreign banks) to provide the following services: underwriting of treasury bonds, custodian services, and financial advisory and consultancy services (beyond that which is only related to traditional banking). Instead, foreign-invested banks are now only required to report to CBRC within five days upon commencement of the relevant business, subject to the administrative approval of other regulatory authorities where applicable. For its part, Indonesia imposes since 15 November 2016 a 20% limit on foreign ownership of enterprises that supply electronic payment processing services. The limit applies to (i) new enterprises in the electronic payment services sector, (ii) existing enterprises that expand into this sector, and (iii) enterprises already active in the sector that experience a change of ownership.

#### **Other Services Sectors**

4.15. Only a few policy changes over the review period touched on sectors not mentioned above. These mostly concerned the transport sector, where, for example, Vanuatu, a LDC, adopted its new Maritime Sector Regulatory Act. The new law establishes an independent regulator for the maritime transport sector, which will oversee the safety and security of Vanuatu's shipping and ports, and regulate to ensure fair and equitable access to Vanuatu's port services. In addition, the Kingdom of Bahrain took new measures permitting up to 100% foreign ownership in domestic tourist transport services, and up to 49% foreign ownership in certain other transport services.

### Box 4.1 SMEs and the cost of services trade restrictions

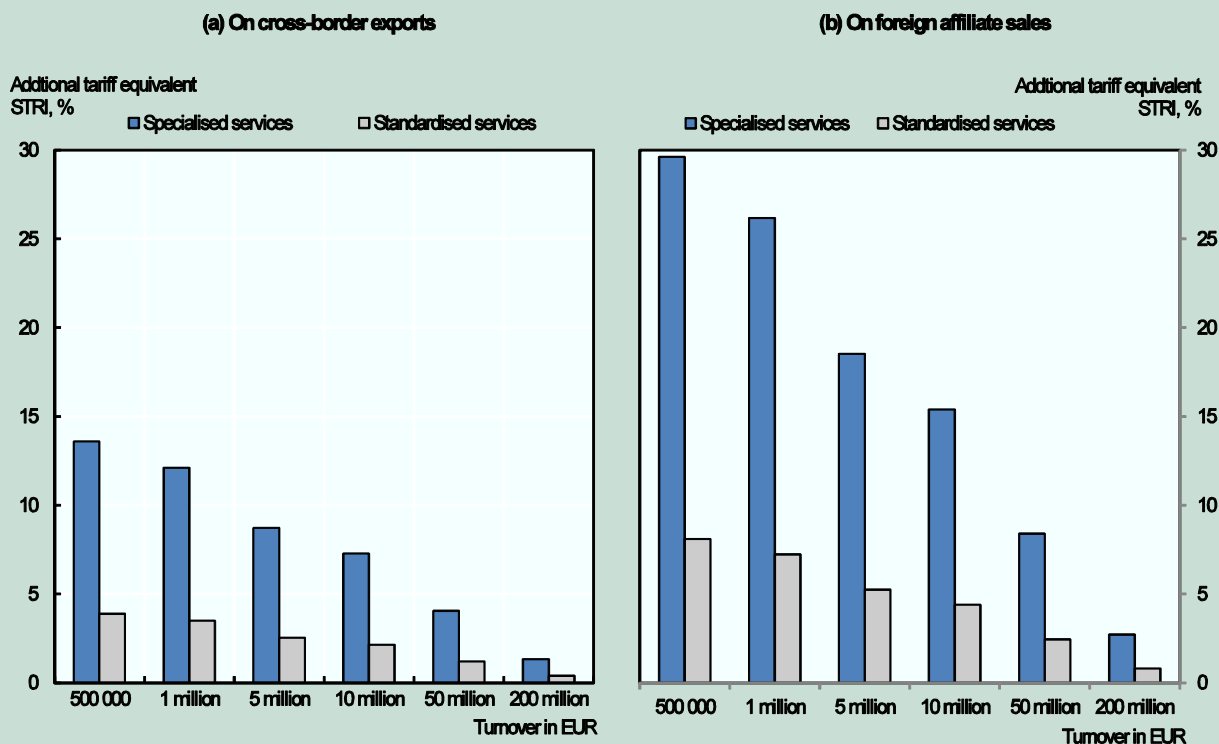
Smaller and less experienced exporters face a heavier cost burden in more restrictive regulatory environments. Fixed trade costs are difficult to absorb for firms that export modest amounts, as such costs cannot be spread over a large volume of foreign sales. Yet more and more often, small and young firms seek growth opportunities abroad in response to lower domestic demand and rising scale economies in the digital world.

A common way of quantifying the impact of trade policies is to convert indicators such as the OECD's Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) into *ad valorem* trade cost equivalents. For cross-border exports, an average level of services trade-restrictiveness represents larger trade costs for smaller firms - - up to an additional 14% relative to large firms with turnovers of €400 million and over (Figure 1a). Establishing an affiliate abroad involves an even wider range of sunk and fixed costs. For instance, for a medium-sized firm of €5 million in turnover selling specialised services through foreign affiliates, an average level of services trade-restrictiveness is estimated to be equivalent to an additional 19% tariff compared to large firms (Figure 1b).

Opening up services markets would primarily benefit SMEs, which are responsible for the greater part of new job creation. Reducing the costs of market entry would therefore help improve the inclusiveness of services trade by allowing more SMEs to take up global opportunities.

**Figure 1. Additional trade cost of regulatory restrictions for SMEs**

Estimated additional tariff equivalent of an STRI of 0.2 compared to large firms of €400 million or more



Notes: The numbers indicate the *ad valorem* tariff equivalent of an STRI score of 0.2 for small and medium-sized enterprises on top of what is paid by firms of EUR 400 million and more in turnover. Specialised services correspond to an import demand elasticity of -1.5, and standardised services to an import demand elasticity of -5.

Source: OECD; see OECD (2017), *Services Trade Policies and the Global Economy*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264275232-en> and Rouzet, D., S. Benz and F. Spinelli (2017), "Trading firms and trading costs in services", *OECD Trade Policy Papers*, forthcoming.

## 5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1. The period under review saw some important developments in the area of TRIPS.

5.2. The Amendment to the TRIPS Agreement entered into force on 23 January 2017, adding Article 31bis, as well as an Annex and an Appendix to the text of the Agreement. This is a key milestone, marking the first amendment to a multilateral trade agreement, since the creation of the WTO in 1995. The Amendment follows the 2005 Decision<sup>60</sup> to amend the TRIPS Agreement in order to address public health needs of developing and least-developed country Members by providing an additional legal pathway for the export of low cost generic medicines under a compulsory licence tailored specifically for export. The amended TRIPS Agreement applies to all Members who have currently accepted the Amendment.<sup>61</sup> Members who are yet to accept the Amendment have until 31 December 2017 to do so; in the meantime the Decision of 2003<sup>62</sup> continues to apply.

5.3. During the review period, the linkage between intellectual property (IP) and trade continued to consolidate, as evidenced by the entry into force of laws clearly linked to trade in goods and services (see for example the "Swissness Legislation" in Box 5.1); as well as the implementation and further development of national policies aimed at streamlining IP into the economy. Technological innovation, new business models and the need to enforce intellectual property rights in the e-commerce ecosystem are consolidating the relation of IP with trade and economic development.

### Box 5.1 IP Policy Initiatives – Two Examples

#### **Swissness Legislation – Entry into Force<sup>1</sup>**

The "Swissness" legislation strengthens protection for the "Made in Switzerland" designation and the Swiss cross, domestically and with a view to law enforcement abroad. The core of the bill establishes precise rules in the Trade Mark Protection Act concerning the conditions under which a product or service may be labelled as being Swiss. The possibility of registering non-agricultural geographical indications of source in a new register, on the basis of it being a geographical mark (for example, 'Genève' for watches), allows interested industries to obtain an official IP right in Switzerland. The "Swissness" legislation was passed in September 2015 by the Swiss Federal Council and came into force on 1 January 2017.

#### **South Africa's IP National Policy – Recent Developments<sup>2</sup>**

South Africa is in the process of developing a National IP Policy with the objective of ensuring a coordinated and balanced approach to provide effective protection of intellectual property rights and, at the same time, responds to the country's socio-economic dynamics and developmental objectives.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ige.ch/en/indications-of-source/swissness.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Submission by South Africa to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

5.4. The network of bilateral and regional trade agreements that contain specific IP provisions continues to expand. As of May 2017, the WTO RTA Database contains 151 RTAs that incorporate IP-related provisions<sup>63</sup>, including for example, on: enforcement measures applied at the border or covering the online environment; examination and administration of industrial property rights; the scope of rights accorded to IP holders; and the substantive standards defining the eligibility for protection of certain forms of IP subject matter. Substantive provisions in RTAs continue to evolve, as some recent agreements also cover e-commerce, exhaustion of IPRs and provide for competition policy measures that may have implications for the IP system.

### TRIPS Council

5.5. Health-related issues took prominence in the meetings of the TRIPS Council in November 2016 and in January and March 2017. The January 2017 high-level meeting was

<sup>60</sup> WT/L/641

<sup>61</sup> See [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/amendment\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/amendment_e.htm).

<sup>62</sup> WT/L/540 and its Corr.1.

<sup>63</sup> This total includes CETA, as it is already in the WTO RTA DB list of early announcements.

dedicated to the entry into force of the Amendment of the TRIPS Agreement. Members welcomed the entry into force and encouraged those Members that had not yet accepted the Amendment to do so as soon as possible.

5.6. At the November 2016 and March 2017 meetings, Members exchanged views on the United Nations High Level Panel Report on Access to Medicines.<sup>64</sup> Some Members referenced the recommendations in this Report, including making full use of TRIPS flexibilities, while others highlighted the need for a coherent and holistic approach recognizing the role of intellectual property rights in the development of new medicines. Additionally, Members acknowledged the need to focus work on how to effectively implement the Amendment to the TRIPS Agreement.

5.7. Debate continued on the possibility of non-violation and situation complaints under the TRIPS Agreement, as per the directions of the WTO's 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference<sup>65</sup> and Article 63.3 of the Agreement itself. Members expressed their long-standing positions and also discussed the need to engage in factual analysis and work towards a permanent solution.

5.8. Discussions on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce continued, at the request of Canada,<sup>66</sup> as well as Brazil and other co-sponsors.<sup>67</sup> Members highlighted the importance of IP in e-commerce and its benefits for innovative technologies, ideas and business models, including its role in trade and development. Some Members expressed support for focused e-commerce discussions on the protection of copyrights and related rights, trademarks and access to technology.

5.9. The TRIPS Council has always given importance to the work on transparency. During the review period, 13 Members<sup>68</sup> notified legislative measures under Article 63.2. Some of these measures were briefly introduced during the meetings which provided insights into recent legislative changes in several areas, including copyrights and related rights; trademarks; use of country brands; geographical indications; protection of specific agricultural, forestry and fishery products; industrial designs and models; patents; compulsory licences; trade secrets; integrated circuits; plant variety protection; anticompetitive practices; enforcement as well as procedural IP registration updates such as fees and electronic filing and accession to WIPO Treaties.

5.10. Additionally, the TRIPS Council concluded its review of the implementing legislation submitted by St. Kitts and Nevis and the Seychelles and continued with the review of Kazakhstan. As part of the review of national implementing legislation, the European Union and the United States presented their respective trade secret legislation, highlighting the vital role of trade secrets to foster innovation and to protect the exchange of knowledge between different economic actors. El Salvador and Switzerland shared information on their systems for the protection of geographical indication, which had led them to prepare and update their respective checklists.

5.11. Members continued to share their experiences on regional innovation models; as well as on experience sharing between micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and other companies, including academia and government entities, to foster inclusive innovation. Delegations converged on the need for better understanding the economic links between the IP regime and innovation; providing legal certainty for businesses and investors; cross border collaboration in research and development; fostering academic-public-private partnerships; recognizing IP as a key element in support of collaborative innovation and cross-sectoral partnerships; and, the role of open trade and investment regimes in support of innovation and economic growth.

### **TRIPS-Related Discussions in Trade Policy Reviews**

5.12. During the review period, the Trade Policy Reviews of 11 Members<sup>69</sup> included discussions on a wide range of IP issues with bearing on trade policy. In particular, the discussion touched upon

<sup>64</sup> See at <http://www.unsgaccessmeds.org/final-report/>

<sup>65</sup> WT/MIN/(15)/41 and WT/L/976.

<sup>66</sup> IP/C/W/613/Add.1.

<sup>67</sup> JOB/IP/19 to JOB/IP/22.

<sup>68</sup> Bahrain, Kingdom of; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; China; Croatia; Ecuador; Greece; Japan; Madagascar; Mexico; Moldova, Rep. of; Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

<sup>69</sup> Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Salomon Islands, United States of America, Sierra Leone, Japan, Mexico, Belize, Mozambique and Switzerland/Liechtenstein.

exhaustion regimes; copyrights and related rights; copyright protection in the digital environment; statutory licences; collective management of copyright trademarks; geographical marks; opposition procedures; implementation of standard essential patents; patent quality; compulsory licences; trade secrets; protection of plant varieties; anticompetitive practices; enforcement measures online and at the border; *ex officio* border procedures; adjudication procedures; judicial review of administrative decisions; national IP strategies; and ratification of WIPO Treaties.



**ANNEX 1****MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE<sup>1</sup>**

(MID-OCTOBER 2016 to MID-MAY 2017)

**Confirmed information<sup>2</sup>**

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Argentina</b>		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on disperse dyes and preparations based thereon (NCM 3204.11.00), under an import quota of 1,000 tonnes; and on paper and paperboard of the kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes, of which more than 10% by weight of the total fibre content consists of fibres obtained by a mechanical or chemi-mechanical process (NCM 4810.19.90), under an import quota of 2,500 tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (21 April 2017)	Effective 7 December 2016 for 12 months
Further extension of the deadlines (from 1,825 calendar days to 3,650 calendar days) for exporters to register foreign currency originating from export operations (all NCM Chapters) with the financial system	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017); Resolución Secretaría de Comercio No. 47-E/2017 Ministerio de Producción (19 January 2017); and WTO document WT/TPR/OV/19, 21 November 2016	Effective 19 January 2017
Elimination of import tariffs on 72 informatics and telecommunication tariff lines (NCM 8443; 8471; 8473; 8517; 8523; 8531; 8541; 8542; 8543; 8471)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Decreto No. 117/2017 Comercio Exterior (17 February 2017)	
Elimination of export duties on hydrocarbons	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective 7 January 2017
Termination on 4 May 2017 of "reference values" for exports of natural honey (NCM 0409.00.00), to certain specified destinations (effective 24 November 2015)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (21 April 2017) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4038-E (2 May 2017)	Effective 4 May 2017
<b>Australia</b>		
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (136 tariff lines at 6-digit level, in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 49; 59; 84; 85; 88; 90; 95)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.1-24, 26 January 2016	Effective 1 January 2017, with all covered tariffs to be phased out by no later than 1 July 2019

<sup>1</sup> The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

<sup>2</sup> This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.



Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Brazil</b>		
Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on 538 capital goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 84; 85; 86; 87; 89; 90) and 45 informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines, through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunications equipment not locally produced)	Camex Resolutions Nos. 107/2016, 108/2016 (31 October 2016) and 113/2016, 114/2016 (23 November 2016)	Effective as of October 2016/November 2016 until 30 June 2018
Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on an aqueous solution (soda lye or liquid soda) (NCM 2815.12.00), under an import quota of 180,000 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); certain printing ink (NCM 3215.19.00), under an import quota of 924 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); polycarbonates (NCM 3907.40.90), under an import quota of 35,040 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); poly(ethylene terephthalate) (NCM 3907.60.00), under an import quota of 20,000 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); other amino-resins (NCM 3909.30.20), under an import quota of 105,000 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); other plastics of poly(vinyl butyral) (NCM 3920.91.00), under an import quota of 11,130,250 kg (effective 10 November 2011 to 9 November 2017); certain synthetic filament yarn (NCM 5402.47.10), under an import quota of 2,200 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); acrylic or modacrylic synthetic filament yarn (NCM 5501.30.00), under an import quota of 4,800 tonnes (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 November 2017); malt, not roasted (NCM 1107.10.10), under an import quota of 156,531 tonnes (effective 28 November 2016 to 27 November 2017); sardines (NCM 0303.53.00), under an import quota of 80,000 tonnes (effective 15 December 2016 to 14 December 2017). Temporary elimination of import tariffs on antisera and other blood fractions ( <i>soroalbumina humana</i> ) (NCM 3002.10.37), under an import quota of 556,080 flasks of 10 g (effective 10 November 2016 to 9 September 2017); vaccines for human medicine (NCM 3002.20.29), under an import quota of 2,250,000 doses (effective 10 November 2016 to 8 May 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017); Camex Resolutions Nos. 109/2016, 110/2016 (8 November 2016), 123/2016 (23 November 2016) and 138/2016 (29 December 2016); and Secex Portarias Nos. 47/2016 (11 November 2016) 49/2016 and 50/2016 (29 November 2016)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<p>Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on isocyanates (NCM 2929.10.10), under an import quota of 23,000 tonnes (effective 11 January 2017 to 10 January 2018); hop cones, ground, powdered or in the form of pellets, lupulin (NCM 1210.20.10), under an import quota of 1,800 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018); methylamine, di or trimethylamine and their salts (NCM 2921.11.21), under an import quota of 12,000 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018); certain isocyanates (NCM 2929.10.30), under an import quota of 1,000 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018); disodium sulphate (NCM 2833.11.10), under an import quota of 910,000 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018); black printing ink (NCM 3215.11.00), under an import quota of 396 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018); polyamide-6 or 6,6 (NCM 3908.10.24), under an import quota of 5,400 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018); other yarn, single, of viscose rayon, untwisted or with a twist not exceeding 120 turns per metre (NCM 5403.31.00), under an import quota of 625 tonnes (effective 22 February 2017 to 21 August 2017); unwrought nickel, not alloyed (<i>catodos</i>) (NCM 7502.10.10), under an import quota of 3,600 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 July 2017); rectangular (including square) plates, sheets and strip of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm of aluminium alloys (NCM 7606.12.90), under an import quota of 600 tonnes (effective 23 January 2017 to 22 July 2017); aluminium foil, not backed, rolled but not further worked (NCM 7607.11.90), under an import quota of 2,137 tonnes (effective 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018); certain rectangular plates, sheets and strip of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm of aluminium alloys (NCM 7606.12.90), under an import quota of 2,937 tonnes (effective 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018); coffee, not roasted and not decaffeinated (<i>variedade Conilon</i>) (NCM 0901.11.10), under an import quota of 60,000 tonnes. Temporary elimination of import tariffs on vaccines for human medicine (<i>Hepatitis A</i>) (NCM 3002.20.29), under an import quota of 2,250,000 doses (effective 10 May 2017 to 9 November 2017); vaccines for human medicine (<i>Papillomavirus Humano</i>) (NCM 3002.20.29), under an import quota of 3,000,000 doses (effective 22 February 2017 to 21 August 2017); vaccines for human medicine (<i>tetano</i>) (NCM 3002.20.27), under an import quota of 2,500,000 doses (effective 22 February 2017 to 21 August 2017); cotton, not carded or combed (NCM 5201.00.20), under an import quota of 75,000 tonnes (effective 21 February 2016 to 31 July 2017)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017); Camex Resolutions Nos. 123/2016 (23 November 2016), 1/2017 (19 January 2017), 14/2017 and 15/2017 (17 February 2017); and Secex Portarias Nos. 2/2017 (10 January 2017) 5/2017, 6/2017, 7/2017, 8/2017 (24 January 2017) and 11/2017 (22 February 2017)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>
<p>Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on 1,022 capital goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 84; 85; 86; 90; 94) and 66 informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines, and temporary elimination of import tariffs on 3 capital goods tariff lines, through the "ex-out" regime</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017), Camex Resolutions Nos. 133/2016, 134/2016 (22 December 2016), 18/2017, 19/2017 (17 February 2017) 27/2017, 28/2017 (29 March 2017) and 37/2017, 38/2017 (5 May 2017)</p>	<p>Effective as of December 2016/ February 2017/ March 2017 until 31 December 2018</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on artificial staple fibres of viscose rayon, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning (NCM 5504.10.00), under an import quota of 40,000 tonnes (effective 9 March 2017 to 8 March 2018); on titanium oxides (NCM 2823.00.10), under an import quota of 8,000 tonnes (effective 24 April 2017 to 23 April 2018); on mono-acids, their salts and esters (NCM 2915.40.10), under an import quota of 4,500 tonnes (effective 24 April 2017 to 23 April 2018); on lignin sulphonates (NCM 3804.00.20), under an import quota of 72,000 tonnes (effective 24 April 2017 to 23 April 2018); on other film of polymers of propylene (NCM 3920.20.19), under an import quota of 600 tonnes (effective 24 April 2017 to 23 April 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017), Camex Resolutions Nos. 21/2017 (8 March 2017) and 30/2017 (20 April 2017), and Secex Portarias Nos. 12/2017 (9 March 2017) and 15/2017 (24 April 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Establishment of the "International Logistic Operator" as a legal entity to facilitate activities related to customs clearance, cargo procedures, licensing requirements and storage of imported goods on behalf of SMEs	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017)	
Establishment of the "International Logistic Operator" as a legal entity to facilitate activities related to customs clearance, cargo procedures, licensing requirements and storage of exported goods on behalf of SMEs	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017)	
Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on sardines (NCM 0303.53.00), under an import quota of 60,000 tonnes; on plastics of poly(vinyl butyral) (NCM 3920.91.00), under an import quota of 11,130.25 tonnes; on acrylic or modacrylic (NCM 5501.30.00), under an import quota of 4,800 tonnes; and on other amino-resins (NCM 3909.31.00), under an import quota of 105,000 tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017), Camex Resolution No. 34/2017 (5 May 2017), and Secex Portaria No. 16/2017 (8 May 2017)	Effective 7 May 2017 to 8 May 2018
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on certain products, i.e. palm kernel (NCM 1513.29.10), under an import quota of 224,785 tonnes; diphenylmethane diisocyanate (NCM 2929.10.10), under an import quota of 23,000 tonnes; amethrin (NCM 2933.69.91), under an import quota of 7,500 tonnes; certain enzymes (NCM 3507.90.49), under an import quota of 4,000 tonnes; chemical preparations for photographic uses (NCM 3707.90.21), under an import quota of 1,700 tonnes; polymers of vinyl chloride (NCM 3904.90.00), under an import quota of 3,794 tonnes; polyamide-6 or polyamide-6,6 without load (NCM 3908.10.24), under an import quota of 7,000 tonnes; high tenacity yarn of polyesters (NCM 5402.20.00), under an import quota of 7,000 tonnes; synthetic filament yarn (NCM 5402.46.00), under an import quota of 33,000 tonnes; non-electrical articles of graphite or other carbon (NCM 6815.10.90), under an import quota of 200 tonnes; and certain electrical apparatus (NCM 8535.90.00), under an import quota of 500 units. Temporary elimination of import tariffs on antisera (NCM 3002.12.36), under an import quota of 556,080 doses of 10 g, and certain immunological products (NCM 3002.13.00), under an import quota of 500 g	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017), Camex Resolution No. 39 (10 May 2017) and Secex Portaria No. 19/2017 (12 May 2017)	Effective 11 May 2017 to 10 May 2018
<b>Canada</b>		
Elimination of import tariffs on 200 products used as agro-food processing ingredients (HS Chapters 07; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 15; 16; 18; 19; 21; 22; 33; 35; 99)	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (29 May 2017)	Effective 16 January 2017
<b>China</b>		
VAT rebate rates increased (to 17%) on exports of certain products, e.g. cameras, video cameras, internal combustion engines, gasoline, aviation kerosene and diesel	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017)	Effective 1 November 2016
Measures to facilitate trade through the implementation of the Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine Single Window for international trade (import)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017)	Effective 20 March 2017
Measures to facilitate trade through the implementation of the Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine Single Window for international trade (export)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017)	Effective 20 March 2017
<b>Colombia</b>		
Implementation of an import tariff of 15% on ground-nuts ( <i>maníes- cacahuetes</i> ) (HS 1202.42.00) (removed from the Andean Price Band System)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 April 2017)	Effective 24 October 2016

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Various measures to enhance customs procedures and facilitate the flow of goods (import)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 April 2017)	
Various measures to enhance customs procedures and facilitate the flow of goods (export)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 April 2017)	
<b>Congo, Democratic Republic of</b>		
Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of certain food products, e.g. meat and edible meat offal; fish, fresh or chilled; guts, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish); rice; soya-bean oil and its fractions; ground-nut oil and its fractions; palm oil and its fractions; palm kernel or babassu oil and fractions thereof	Permanent Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the WTO (21 April 2017)	Effective 30 November 2016 to end-February 2017
Measures to facilitate trade through: (i) mandatory use of the Single Electronic Window ( <i>Plateforme Electronique du Guichet Unique</i> ) for all foreign trade operations; and (ii) establishment of an electronic tracking system of cargo (import)	Permanent Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the WTO (21 April 2017)	Effective January 2017
Measures to facilitate trade through: (i) mandatory use of the Single Electronic Window ( <i>Plateforme Electronique du Guichet Unique</i> ) for all foreign trade operations; and (ii) establishment of an electronic tracking system of cargo (export)	Permanent Delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the WTO (21 April 2017)	Effective January 2017
<b>Ecuador</b>		
Reduction on 1 April 2017 of the import surcharge rates by one third, from 35% to 23.3% and from 15% to 10%, with a view to restoring balance-of-payments (implemented on 25 February 2015). On 1 May 2017, further reduction of the import surcharge rates from 23.3% to 11.7% and from 10% to 5%	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (1 June 2017) and WTO document WT/BOP/R/112, 18 November 2016	
<b>Guatemala</b>		
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (206 tariff lines at 8-digit level in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 49; 68; 84; 85; 88; 90; 95)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.8, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 January 2017, with all covered tariffs to be phased out by no later than 1 July 2024
<b>India</b>		
Elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) on wheat (HS 1001)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 60/2016 (8 December 2016)	Effective 8 December 2016
Reduction of import tariffs (from 7.5%-10% to 5%) on all items of machinery, including instruments, apparatus and appliances, transmission equipment and auxiliary equipment (including those required for testing and quality control) and components required for: (i) initial setting-up of fuel cell based system for generation of power or for demonstration purposes; or (ii) balance of systems operating using bio-gas or bio-methane or hydrogen by-product	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 5/2017 (2 February 2017)	Effective 2 February 2017
Reduction of import tariffs (from 5% to 2.5%) on liquified natural gas (LNG) (HS 2711.11.00); (from 7.5% to 2.5%) on wattle extract and myrobalan fruit extract (HS 3201.20.00; 3201.90.20); (from 15% to 5%) on catalysts and resins for use in the manufacture of cast components of wind operated electricity generators (HS 3815.90.00; 3909.40.90). Elimination of import tariffs on toughened glass with low iron content and transmissivity of minimum 91%, for use in solar thermal collectors or heaters (HS Chapter 70) (from 2.5%) on nickel and articles thereof (HS Chapter 75); and (from 10%) on o-xylene (HS 2902.41.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 6/2017 (2 February 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 30% to 10%) on sunflower seeds (HS 1206.00.90) for the purpose of extraction and refining of oil	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 9/2017-Customs (23 March 2017)	Effective 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on raw sugar (HS 1701) under an import quota of 5 lakh metric tonnes. The importer shall convert the raw sugar into white/refined sugar within a period not exceeding two months from the date of filing of bill of entry or the date of entry inwards, whichever is later	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017), Notifications Nos. 12/2017-Customs (5 April 2017) and 13/2017-Customs (13 April 2017)	Effective 5 April 2017 to 1 July 2017
Elimination of the minimum export price "MEP" on the export of potatoes (US\$450/metric tonne FOB) (HS 0701.90.00) (originally implemented on 26 June 2014)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective 27 December 2016
Further extension of the temporary minimum import price "MIP" (c.i.f. basis/metric tonne) for 66 iron and steel tariff lines (HS Chapter 72) (originally implemented on 1 February 2016, for 6 months)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective 5 February 2017
Elimination of import tariffs (from 7.5%) on palm stearin, whether crude, RBD or other, having free fatty acids (FFA) of 20% or more for the manufacture of oleochemicals (HS 1511)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 18/2017 (9 May 2017)	Effective 9 May 2017
Reduction of import tariffs on natural rubber (HS 4001)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017)	
<b>Japan</b>		
Elimination of import tariffs on <i>p</i> -nitrochlorobenzene, <i>m</i> -aramid, synthetic filament tow, certain toys and sanitary articles (HS 2904.99; 3908.90; 5501.10; 9503.00; 9619.00)	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective 1 April 2017
<b>Korea, Rep. of</b>		
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (522 tariff lines at 10-digit level in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 59; 63; 84; 85; 88; 90)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the WTO (30 May 2017) and WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.13, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 December 2016, with all covered tariffs to be phased out by no later than 1 July 2023
Temporary reduction or elimination of import tariffs on 132 items, e.g. whey, modified whey (for feeding) (HS 0404.10) (under an import quota of 25,000 metric tonnes); manioc (cassava) (pellets for feeding) (HS 0714.10) (all imported); oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soyabean oil (for feeding) (HS 2304.00) (under an import quota of 2,451,000 metric tonnes); cotton seeds (for feeding) (HS 1207.29); artificial graphite (for manufacturing secondary batteries) (HS 3801.10); machines and apparatus for the manufacture of flat panel displays (for manufacturing organic light emitting diodes (OLED)) (HS8486.30); microscopes other than optical microscopes; diffraction apparatus (focused ion beam system for OLED manufacturing) (HS9012.10)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the WTO (20 April 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 for 122 items. Effective 4 January 2017 to 30 June for 8 items (HS 0407.21; 0407.90; 0408.11; 0408.19; 0408.91; 0408.99; 3502.11; 3502.19). Effective 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 for 2 items
<b>Malaysia</b>		
Implementation of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) resulting in the reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. fish, vegetables, bananas, pineapples, guavas, mangoes, durians, raspberries, oil seeds, pig and poultry fat, animal fats and oils and their fractions, pasta, pastry, petroleum oils, alums, plastics and articles thereof, plywood, wallpaper and similar wall coverings, parts of footwear, remelted scrap ingots, tube or pipe fittings of copper alloys, fans, transformers, motor cars (HS Chapters 03; 07; 08; 12; 15; 19; 27; 28; 39; 44; 48; 64; 72; 74; 84; 85; 87)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (7 June 2017)	Effective 1 April 2017

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Mexico</b>		
Elimination of import tariffs on potatoes, tomatoes, onions and shallots, fresh and dried chili and apples, (HS 0701.90.99; 0702.00.99; 0703.10.01; 0709.60.99; 0808.10.01; 0904.21.01; 0904.21.99; 0904.22.01; 0904.22.99), under certain import quotas	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 20 January 2017	Effective 21 January 2017
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on beans ( <i>frijol</i> ) (HS 0713.33.02; 0713.33.03; 0713.33.99), under an import quota of 100,000 metric tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 14 April 2017	Effective 16 April 2017 to 30 November 2017
<b>Moldova, Rep. of</b>		
Reduction of import tariffs (to their bound levels) on meat and edible meat offal, and butter (HS 0201; 0202; 0203; 0207; 0405). Elimination of import tariffs (from 15%) on certain spark-ignition reciprocating or rotary internal combustion piston engines (HS 8407.31; 8407.32; 8407.33; 8407.34; 8408.20)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the WTO (18 May 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Implementation of the Budget 2016-17 resulting in the decrease of import tariffs (from 5% to 2%) on certain products, e.g. dairy, livestock, poultry, machinery, harvesting, threshing and storage equipment, and fish or shrimp farming and sea food processing machinery. Elimination of import tariffs on cotton and man-made staple fibres	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (1 June 2017)	
<b>Peru</b>		
Various measures to enhance customs procedures and facilitate the flow of goods (import)	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 June 2017)	
Various measures to enhance customs procedures and facilitate the flow of goods (export)	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 June 2017)	
<b>Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)</b>		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on oranges, seed of anise, badian, coriander, cumin or caraway, juniper berries, precious metal ores and concentrates, silver, gold and platinum (effective 2 January 2017 to 31 December 2017); on waste and scrap of precious metals or of metals clad with precious metals, artificial staple fibres of viscose rayon (effective 2 January 2017 to 31 December 2019); on organic surface-active agents (effective 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2019); on apple purée including compotes (effective 2 January 2017 to 31 December 2018); on halides and halide oxides of non-metals, hydrides, nitrides, and other organo-inorganic compounds (effective 22 January 2017 to 31 December 2019); and on polyethylene (effective 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017). Reduction of import tariffs (to 5%) on paper and paper board (effective 3 March 2017)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
<b>South Africa (for Southern African Customs Union)</b>		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from R 31.89 c/kg) on cane and beet sugar (originally implemented on 26 September 2014) (HS 1701.12; 1701.13; 1701.14; 1701.91; 1701.99)	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 April 2017) and Notice No. R. 116 - International Trade Administration Commission - Government Gazette No. 40611 (10 February 2017)	Effective 10 February 2017



Measure	Source/Date	Status
Creation of new tariff lines "liquids and pastes" (HS 3907.61.10; 3907.69.10), resulting in an elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) (effective 17 March 2017). Elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) on atrazine (HS 2933.69.30) (effective 31 March 2017)	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 April 2017) and International Trade Administration Commission Notices Nos. R. 236 - Government Gazette No. 40692 (17 March 2017) and R. 289 - Government Gazette No. 40734 (31 March 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary decrease of import tariffs (from R 159.14 c/kg to R 119.02 c/kg) on wheat (HS 1001.91; 1001.99), and (from R 238.71 c/kg to R 178.53 c/kg) on wheat flour (HS 1101.00.10; 1101.00.90)	Notice No. R. 295 International Trade Administration Commission - Government Gazette No. 40734 (31 March 2017)	Effective 31 March 2017
<b>Serbia</b>		
Elimination in December 2016 of the temporary specific import levies (imposed on 1 July 2016) on 429 agriculture and food products tariff lines (at 8-digit level), e.g. live bovine animals, live sheep and goats, live poultry, meat and edible meat offal, live fish, dairy produce, eggs, edible vegetables and fruits, margarine, certain preparations of meat, sugar, miscellaneous edible preparations, undenatured ethyl alcohol, and unmanufactured tobacco (HS 0102; 0103; 0104; 0105; 0201; 0202; 0203; 0204; 0207; 0209; 0210; 0301; 0401; 0402; 0403; 0405; 0406; 0407; 0701; 0702; 0703; 0704; 0707; 0708; 0709; 0710; 0711; 0806; 0807; 0808; 0809; 0904; 1517; 1601; 1602; 1701; 1702; 2103; 2104; 2207; 2208; 2401)	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the United Nations (18 May 2017) and WTO document WT/TPR/OV/19, 21 November 2016	
<b>Switzerland</b>		
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (178 tariff lines at 8-digit level in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 48; 49; 59; 84; 85; 88; 90; 95)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.21, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 January 2017, with all covered tariffs to be phased out by no later than 1 July 2019
<b>Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu</b>		
Measures to facilitate trade through the implementation of paperless import declarations and documents, and intelligent mobile cargo inspection services. Regarding paperless import C2 (document review) declarations, traders can transmit electronic files of the required documents, such as the invoice, the packing list, and other commercial documents, for selected C2 declarations to Customs via the Internet, in lieu of the traditional practice of submitting paper documents. As for the intelligent mobile cargo inspection services on import C3 (document review and cargo inspection) declarations, customs inspection officers use 4G Internet and mobile devices to update the cargo inspection information, so that classification and valuation officers can conduct the next customs procedures while the inspection officers stay at the inspection site. This measure will enable the trader to keep abreast of real-time inspection status	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (12 June 2017)	Effective December 2016

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Measures to facilitate trade through the implementation of paperless export declarations and documents, and intelligent mobile cargo inspection services. Regarding paperless export C2 (document review) declarations, traders can transmit electronic files of the required documents, such as the invoice, the packing list, and other commercial documents, for selected C2 declarations to Customs via the Internet, in lieu of the traditional practice of submitting paper documents. As for the intelligent mobile cargo inspection services on import C3 (document review and cargo inspection) declarations, customs inspection officers use 4G Internet and mobile devices to update the cargo inspection information, so that classification and valuation officers can conduct the next customs procedures while the inspection officers stay at the inspection site. This measure will enable the trader to keep abreast of real-time inspection status	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (12 June 2017)	Effective December 2016
<b>Turkey</b>		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 60% to 10%) on bovine breeding animals (effective 1 January 2017); and (from 75% to 15%) on red pepper (effective 11 May 2017 to 31 August 2017); and on furniture (effective 8 March 2017). Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 19.3%) on chickpeas (effective 8 March 2017 to 1 July 2017) (HS 0102.29; 0713.20; 0904.21; 9401; 9402; 9403; 9404)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Measures to facilitate trade through the establishment of the "Trade Facilitation Board", co-chaired by the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Customs and Trade. The Ministry of Customs and Trade (Directorate General for EU and External Relations) serves as the Board's Secretariat (import)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	Effective 3 December 2016
Measures to facilitate trade through the establishment of the "Trade Facilitation Board", co-chaired by the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Customs and Trade. The Ministry of Customs and Trade (Directorate General for EU and External Relations) serves as the Board's Secretariat (export)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	Effective 3 December 2016
<b>United States of America</b>		
Tariff reclassifications resulting in the elimination of import tariffs on certain hole saw kits for door lockset installations (HS 8202.99.00), and in the decrease of import tariffs (to 4.2%) on five types of plastic sheeting (coverfab, safety pool fabric, DAF escape, double sided tape, and backlit polyester film) (HS 3921.12.11; 3921.90.11)	US Customs and Border Protection 19 CFR PART 177 - Customs Bulletin and Decisions, Vol. 50 No. 48 (30 November 2016)	Effective 30 January 2017

**Recorded, but non-confirmed information<sup>3</sup>**

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Algeria</b>		
Special authorization ( <i>contingents quantitatifs pour l'importation des produits et des marchandises au titre des licences d'importation pour l'année 2017</i> ) to import certain products (e.g. motor vehicles, iron and steel, wood and articles of wood, ceramic products, meats, cheeses, fruits, barley and maize, garlic, residues and waste from the food industries, tomatoes prepared or preserved) under certain import quotas	Avis No. 1/2017 Ministère du Commerce. Viewed at: <a href="http://www.commerce.gov.dz/avis/avis-n-deg-01-2017-portant-ouverture-des-contingents-quantitatifs-pour-l-importation-des-produits-et-des-marchandises-au-titre-des-licences-d-importation-pour-l-annee-2017">http://www.commerce.gov.dz/avis/avis-n-deg-01-2017-portant-ouverture-des-contingents-quantitatifs-pour-l-importation-des-produits-et-des-marchandises-au-titre-des-licences-d-importation-pour-l-annee-2017</a>	Effective 1 April 2017

<sup>3</sup> This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.



Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Angola</b>		
Extension of the temporary elimination on import tariffs on horse mackerel fish (HS 0302), under an import quota of 90,000 tonnes (originally effective 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016)	Agência Angola Press and Noticiasaominuto (February 2017)	Effective 6 March 2017
<b>Iceland</b>		
Elimination of import tariffs on all industrial products. Measure implemented in two phases, with tariffs eliminated on clothing and footwear products (HS Chapters 61; 62; 64) on 1 January 2016, and on the remaining products on 1 January 2017	Iceland Monitor mbl.i (9 July 2015)	
All customs duties on specified foods cancelled in two stages in 2016 and 2017	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs - National Budget Proposal 2017. Viewed at: <a href="https://eng.fjarmalara.duneyti.is/news/national-budget-proposal-2017">https://eng.fjarmalara.duneyti.is/news/national-budget-proposal-2017</a> (12 June 2016)	
<b>Nigeria</b>		
Temporary decrease of import tariffs (below ECOWAS level) on 89 products, (e.g. machinery and equipment, solid minerals, cement, textiles, cold-rolled steel, certain vehicles), through the import adjustment tax list	Africa News (5 January 2017) and Deloitte Trade Newsletter	Effective 17 October 2016

**ANNEX 2****TRADE REMEDIES<sup>1</sup>**

(MID-OCTOBER 2016 to MID-MAY 2017)

**Confirmed information<sup>2</sup>**

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Argentina</b>		
Termination on 18 October 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of lead cells (NCM 9031.80.60) from China (initiated on 11 March 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 29 October 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of stainless steel knives with cutting blades, spoons and forks (NCM 8211.10.00; 8211.91.00; 8215.20.00; 8215.99.10) from Brazil and China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 8 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of household type dish washing machines (NCM 8422.11.00) from China and Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 8 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plates, sheets, film, foil and strip of poly(methyl methacrylate), non-cellular and not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials (NCM 3920.51.00; 3926.90.90) from Brazil and China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 8 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of metal protection grilles (NCM 8414.90.20) from China and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 8 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of food grinders and mixers; and fruit or vegetable juice extractors (NCM 8509.40.50; 8509.40.20; 8509.40.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 8 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel pipes of the type used in oil and gas pipelines (NCM 7304.19.00; 7306.19.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/ARG, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 4 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride (NCM 2917.35.00) from Korea, Rep. of and Mexico	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Resolución Secretaría de Comercio No. 258-E/2017 Ministerio de Producción (30 March 2017)	
Initiation on 4 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dioctyl orthophthalates (NCM 2917.32.00) from Chile and Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Resolución Secretaría de Comercio No. 258-E/2017 Ministerio de Producción (30 March 2017)	
Termination on 10 May 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel spring lock washers (NCM 7318.21.00) from China (investigation initiated on 2 April 2016 and provisional duty imposed on 7 December 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Resolución No. 193-E/2017 Ministerio de Producción (10 May 2017)	

<sup>1</sup> The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

<sup>2</sup> This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Australia</b>		
Termination on 17 October 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules or panels (HS 8501.61.00; 8501.62.00; 8501.63.00; 8501.64.00; 8541.40.00) from China (investigation initiated on 14 May 2014. Terminated on 6 October 2015, but investigation resumed on 8 January 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/AUS, 27 February 2017	
Termination on 19 October 2016 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of steel reinforcing bar (HS 7214.20.00; 7228.30.90; 7213.10.00; 7227.90.10; 7227.90.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.60.10) from China (initiated on 23 December 2015)	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/AUS, 1 March 2017	
Termination on 19 October 2016 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of rod in coils (HS 7213.91.00; 7227.90.90) from China (initiated on 17 February 2016)	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/AUS, 1 March 2017	
Termination on 24 November 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of quicklime (HS 2522.10.00) from Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam (initiated on 18 April 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/AUS, 27 February 2017	
Initiation on 10 January 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of alloy round steel bars (HS 7228.20.10; 7228.20.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.30.90; 7228.60.10; 7228.60.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2017/2 (10 January 2017)	
Initiation on 23 January 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of cooling tower water treatment controllers (HS 9032.89.80) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notices Nos. 2017/5 (23 January 2017) and 2017/54 (18 April 2017)	Provisional duty imposed on 19 April 2017
Termination on 17 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of resealable can end closures (RTFs) (HS 8309.90.00) from India (investigation initiated on 18 May 2016 and provisional duty imposed on 5 October 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2017/16 (17 February 2017)	
Termination on 23 February 2017 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel shelving units (HS 9403.10.00; 9403.20.00) from China (investigation initiated on 4 July 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2017/19 (23 February 2017)	
Termination on 23 February 2017 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of steel shelving units (HS 9403.10.00; 9403.20.00) from China (investigation initiated on 4 July 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2017/19 (23 February 2017)	
Anti-dumping investigation resumed on 15 March 2017 on imports of hollow structural sections "HSS" (HS 7306.30.00; 7306.50.00; 7306.61.00; 7306.69.00; 7306.90.00) from India and United Arab Emirates (investigation initiated on 22 December 2015 and provisional duty imposed on 22 February 2016. Terminated on 25 July 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017), Australia Customs Dumping Notices Nos. 2016/154, 2017/23 (22 February 2017) and 2017/25 (15 March 2017)	
Termination on 17 March 2017 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of A4 copy paper (HS 4802.56.10) from Indonesia (initiated on 12 April 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2017/34 (17 March 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 26 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain wire rope (HS 7312.10.00) from South Africa	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2017/58 (26 April 2017)	
<b>Brazil</b>		
Termination on 18 November 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyurethane (PU) synthetic leather (NCM 3921.13.90; 3921.90.19; 3921.90.90; 5603.14.10; 5603.14.20; 5603.14.30; 5603.14.40; 5603.14.90; 5603.94.10; 5603.94.20; 5603.94.30; 5603.94.90; 5903.20.00) from China (initiated on 21 July 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/BRA, 24 February 2017	
Initiation on 21 November 2016 of countervailing investigation on imports of hot-rolled steel (NCM 7208.10.00; 7208.25.00; 7208.26.10; 7208.26.90; 7208.27.10; 7208.27.90; 7208.36.10; 7208.36.90; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.10; 7208.38.90; 7208.39.10; 7208.39.90; 7208.40.00; 7208.53.00; 7208.54.00; 7208.90.00; 7225.30.00; 7225.40.90) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/BRA, 28 February 2017	
Termination on 9 February 2017 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of analogical or digital panoramic x-ray systems for dental use (NCM 9022.12.00; 9022.13.11) from Germany (initiated on 22 October 2015)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (21 April 2017) and Secex Circular No. 9/2017 (8 February 2017)	
Temporary suspension on 20 November 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of cold polymerized emulsion styrene-butadiene rubber (E-SBR) (NCM 4002.19.11; 4002.19.19) from the European Union (investigation initiated on 27 May 2014 and duty imposed on 20 November 2015)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Camex Resolution No. 96/2016 (10 October 2016)	
Initiation on 24 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steamed tubes of austenitic stainless steel (HS 7306.40.00; 7306.90.20) from Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017)	
<b>Canada</b>		
Termination on 25 January 2017 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain fabricated industrial steel components (HS 7216.99.00; 7301.20.00; 7308.40.00; 7308.90.00; 7326.90.90; 8421.99.90; 8428.31.00; 8428.32.00; 8428.33.00; 8428.39.00) from United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom (initiated on 12 September 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/CAN, 21 March 2017	
Initiation on 20 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain silicon metals (HS 2804.69.00) from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Norway, Russian Federation and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Canada Border Service Agency Notice SM2 2017 IN (20 February 2017)	
Initiation on 20 February 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain silicon metals (HS 2804.69.00) from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Norway and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Canada Border Service Agency Notice SM2 2017 IN (20 February 2017)	
<b>Chile</b>		
Initiation on 31 January 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain bars and rods of other alloy steel, not further worked than hot-rolled, hot-drawn or extruded ( <i>barras de acero para la fabricación de bolas convencionales para molienda de minerales</i> ) (HS 7228.30.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (May 2017) and Normas Generales CVE 1175889, Diario Oficial No. 41.672 (31 January 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>China</b>		
Initiation on 24 October 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyformaldehyde copolymer (HS 3907.10.10) from Korea, Rep. of; Malaysia and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/CHN, 15 March 2017	
Termination on 22 March 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of photographic paper and paper board (HS 3703.10.10; 3703.20.10; 3703.90.10) from the European Union and the United States (investigation initiated on 23 December 2010. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 10 August 2011 and 23 March 2012)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 61/2016 (7 November 2016)	
Initiation on 13 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aniline derivatives and their salts (HS 2921.42.00) from India	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 4/2017 (15 February 2017)	
Initiation on 13 February 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of aniline derivatives and their salts (HS 2921.42.00) from India	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 5/2017 (15 February 2017)	
Initiation on 6 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of bisphenol A (HS 2907.23.00) from Thailand	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 13/2017 (7 March 2017)	
Initiation on 27 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of 4-methylpentan-2-one (methyl isobutyl ketone) (HS 2914.13.00) from Japan; Korea, Rep. of and South Africa	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (29 May 2017) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 16/2017 (30 March 2017)	
<b>Egypt</b>		
Initiation on 16 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of tableware and kitchenware of plastic (melamine) (HS 3924.10) from China and Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EGY, 7 February 2017	
Initiation on 16 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of trays made of urea (HS 3924.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EGY, 7 February 2017	
Initiation on 16 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyvinyl chloride (HS 3904.10.00) from the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EGY, 7 February 2017	
Initiation on 22 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of bars and rods of iron alloy or non-alloy steel rebar, hot-rolled in wound coil or bars or rods (steel rebar for construction) (HS 7213; 7214; 7227; 7228) from China, Turkey and Ukraine	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EGY, 7 February 2017	
Initiation on 22 December 2016 of countervailing investigation on imports of bars and rods of iron alloy or non-alloy steel rebar, hot-rolled in wound coil or bars or rods (steel rebar for construction) (HS 7213; 7214; 7227; 7228) from China and Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/EGY, 28 February 2017	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>European Union</b>		
Termination on 12 November 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of saturated fatty alcohols with a carbon chain length of C8, C10, C12, C14, C16 or C18 (not including branched isomers) including single saturated fatty alcohols (also referred to as "single cuts") and blends predominantly containing a combination of carbon chain lengths C6-C8, C6-C10, C8-C10, C10-C12 (commonly categorized as C8-C10), blends predominantly containing a combination of carbon chain lengths C12-C14, C12-C16, C12-C18, C14-C16 (commonly categorized as C12-C14) and blends predominantly containing a combination of carbon chain lengths C16-C18 (HS 2905.16.85; 2905.17.00; 2905.19.00; 3823.70.00) from India, Indonesia and Malaysia (investigation initiated on 13 August 2010, provisional and definitive duties imposed on 11 May and 11 November 2011)	Commission Notice 2016/C 418/03 (12 November 2016)	
Termination on 5 December 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain manganese oxides (HS 2602.00.00; 2820.90.90) from Brazil, Georgia, India and Mexico (initiated on 17 December 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EU, 11 April 2017	
Initiation on 9 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain corrosion resistant steels "CRS" (HS 7210.41.00; 7210.49.00; 7210.61.00; 7210.69.00; 7212.30.00; 7212.50.61; 7212.50.69; 7225.92.00; 7225.99.00; 7226.99.30; 7226.99.70) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EU, 11 April 2017	
Initiation on 10 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain cast iron articles (HS 7325.10.00; 7325.99.10) from China and India	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/EU, 11 April 2017	
Termination on 8 January 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain stainless steel fasteners and parts thereof (HS 7318.12.10; 7318.14.10; 7318.15.30; 7318.15.51; 7318.15.61; 7318.15.70) from China and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 19 November 2005)	Commission Notice 2017/C 5/02 (7 January 2017)	
Termination on 8 January 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain stainless steel fasteners and parts thereof (HS 7318.12.10; 7318.14.10; 7318.15.30; 7318.15.51; 7318.15.61; 7318.15.70) from Philippines (investigation initiated on 14 June 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 12 March 2013)	Commission Notice 2017/C 5/02 (7 January 2017)	
Termination on 7 February 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (HS 3907.60.20) from China (imposed on 19 August 2004)	Commission Decision 2017/206 (6 February 2017)	
Termination on 10 February 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel ropes and cables (steel wire ropes) (HS 7312.10.81; 7312.10.83; 7312.10.85; 7312.10.89; 7312.10.98) from the Republic of Moldova (imposed on 24 April 2004) and Ukraine (imposed on 16 November 2005)	Commission Notice 2017/C 41/05 (8 February 2017)	
<b>India</b>		
Termination on 24 November 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of flat products of stainless steel, hot-rolled (HS 7219.11; 7219.12; 7219.13; 7219.14; 7219.21; 7219.22; 7219.23; 7219.24; 7220.11; 7220.12) from the European Union; Korea, Rep. of; South Africa; Chinese Taipei and the United States (investigation initiated on 12 April 2010 and definitive duty imposed on 25 November 2011)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/IND, 11 April 2017	
Termination on 16 December 2016 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of unwrought aluminium (aluminium, not alloyed, and aluminium alloys) (HS 7601) (investigation initiated on 19 April 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and WTO document G/SG/N/8/IND/29/Suppl.1, 20 December 2016	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 2 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of non-dyed polyester staple fibre "PSF" ranging from 0.6 to 6 deniers (excluding recycled PSF and speciality fibres, namely cationic dyeable, fire/flammé retardant, low melt and bi-component fibres) (HS 5503.20.00) from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/49/2016-DGAD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (2 February 2017)	
Initiation on 9 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of methyl ethyl ketone "MEK" (HS 2914.12.00) from China, Japan, South Africa and Chinese Taipei	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/26/2016-DGAD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (9 February 2017)	
Initiation on 17 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of veneered engineered wooden flooring (HS 44) from China, the European Union, Indonesia and Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/34/2016-DGAD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (17 February 2017)	
Initiation on 17 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dimethylacetamide (HS 2924.19.00; 2902.11.00; 2905.19.90; 2911.00.90; 2915.29.90; 2915.39.90; 2921.11.10; 2921.11.90; 2921.29.90; 2922.50.90; 2924.19.00; 2924.21.90; 2924.29.90; 2926.90.00; 2042.00.90) from China and Turkey	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/41/2016-DGAD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (17 March 2017)	
Initiation on 17 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phosphorus pentoxide (HS 2809.10.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/47/2016-DGAD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (17 March 2017)	
Initiation on 28 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of glassware (HS 7013.29; 7013.37; 7013.39; 7013.49; 7014.99) from China and Indonesia	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/45/2016-DGAD, Case No. OI-20/2017 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (28 March 2017)	



Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 30 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of playing cards (HS 9504.40.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/43/2016-DGAD, Case No. OI-21/2017 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (30 March 2017)	
Initiation on 31 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of fishing nets (HS 5608.11.10) from Bangladesh and China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/44/2016-DGAD, Case No. OI-23/2017 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (31 March 2017)	
Initiation on 19 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of acrylic fibre (HS 5501.30; 5503.30; 5506.30) from Belarus, China, the European Union, Peru and Ukraine	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/50/2016-DGAD, Case No. OI-22/2017 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (19 April 2017)	
Initiation on 19 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ceramic rollers (HS 69) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/47/2016-DGAD, Case No. OI-26/2017 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (19 April 2017)	
Initiation on 24 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of saturated fatty alcohols (HS 3823.70.10; 3823.70.20; 3823.70.40; 3823.70.90) from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 14/51/2016-DGAD, Case No. OI-24/2017 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (24 April 2017)	
<b>Indonesia</b>		
Termination on 31 October 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of cold-rolled stainless steel (HS 7219.32.00; 7219.33.00; 7219.34.00; 7219.35.00; 7219.90.00; 7220.20.10; 7220.20.90; 7220.90.10; 7220.90.90) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Malaysia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei and Thailand (initiated 22 December 2014)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/IDN, 21 March 2017	
Initiation on 23 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of coloured steel, coated (HS 7210.70.10; 7212.40.10; 7212.40.20) from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/IDN, 21 March 2017	
<b>Japan</b>		
Initiation on 31 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of carbon steel butt welding fittings (HS 7307.93) from China and Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (30 May 2017)	



Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Korea, Rep. of</b>		
Initiation on 7 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ferro-silico-manganese (HS 7202.30) from India, Ukraine and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/KOR, 15 February 2017	
Termination on 19 December 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of polyester filament draw textured yarn (HS 5402.33) from China, Malaysia and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 20 October 2006)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/KOR, 15 February 2017	
Initiation on 17 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of poly(ethylene terephthalate) (HS 3920.62.00; 3920.69.00) from Chinese Taipei, Thailand and United Arab Emirates	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the WTO (20 April 2017)	
<b>Malaysia</b>		
Termination on 19 October 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of poly(ethylene terephthalate) (HS 3907.60.00) from Thailand (imposed on 23 October 2005)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/MYS, 8 March 2017	
<b>Mexico</b>		
Initiation on 7 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of carbon and alloy steel tubing with longitudinal seams and a circular, square or rectangular cross-section (HS 7306.61.01; 7306.19.99; 7306.30.99; 7306.30.01) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/MEX, 28 February 2017	
Initiation on 15 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of seamless carbon steel tubing (HS 7304.19.01; 7304.19.02; 7304.19.99; 7304.39.05; 7304.39.06; 7304.39.99) from India; Korea, Rep. of; Spain and Ukraine	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/MEX, 28 February 2017	
Termination on 15 December 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of multilayer paper sacks for lime and cement (HS 4819.30.01) from Brazil (imposed on 26 January 2006)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/MEX, 28 February 2017	
Termination on 3 April 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of mushrooms of the genus Agaricus (HS 2003.10.01) from Chile (imposed on 18 May 2006)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 3 April 2017	
<b>New Zealand</b>		
Initiation on 19 December 2016 of countervailing investigation on imports of galvanized steel coil (HS 7210.49.31) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/NZL, 1 March 2017	
Termination on 23 February 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of peaches in preserving liquid, in containers up to and including 4 kg (HS 2008.70.09) from Spain (investigation initiated on 7 February 2011 and definitive duty imposed on 4 August 2011)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (26 April 2017)	
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Initiation on 26 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of deformed concrete reinforcing steel bars (HS 7214.20.10; 7214.20.90; 7214.30.10; 7214.30.90; 7214.99.10; 7214.99.90; 7215.10.10; 7215.10.90; 7215.50.10; 7215.50.90; 7215.90.10; 7215.90.90; 7228.20.90; 7228.30.90; 7228.10.00; 7228.40.00; 7228.50.00; 7228.60.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/PAK, 7 February 2017	
Initiation on 28 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of sulphonic acid (HS 3402.11.10) from China; India; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Rep. of; Korea, Rep. of and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/PAK, 7 February 2017	
Initiation on 29 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyvinyl chloride (suspension grade) (HS 3904.10.90) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Chinese Taipei and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/PAK, 7 February 2017	
Termination on 9 February 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of phthalic anhydride (PA) (HS 2917.35.00) from India (imposed on 13 February 2006)	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (25 April 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Termination on 28 March 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of phthalic anhydride (PA) (HS 2917.35.00) from Brazil; China; Indonesia; Korea, Rep. of and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 25 May 2009 and definitive duty imposed on 30 September 2010)	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (25 April 2017)	
<b>Peru</b>		
Initiation on 19 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of zip fasteners and parts thereof (HS 9607.11.00; 9607.19.00; 9607.20.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 June 2017)	
Initiation on 10 May 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain undenatured ethyl alcohol ( <i>etanol</i> ) (HS 2207.10.00; 2207.20.00; 3826.00) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 June 2017) and Resolución No. 107-2017/CDB-INDECOPI (25 April 2017)	
<b>Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)</b>		
Initiation on 16 January 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of herbicides (HS 3808.93) from the European Union	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2017)	
<b>Turkey</b>		
Termination on 28 October 2016 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron (other than cast iron) or steel (HS 7304) from China (initiated on 15 May 2015)	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/TUR, 8 March 2017	
Initiation on 30 October 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of unbleached kraftliner paper (HS 4804.11.11; 4804.11.15; 4804.11.90) from Brazil, Finland, Poland and the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/TUR, 2 March 2017	
Termination on 30 October 2016 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of cold-rolled stainless steel flats (HS 7219.31.00; 7219.32.10; 7219.32.90; 7219.33.10; 7219.33.90; 7219.34.10; 7219.34.90; 7219.35.10; 7219.35.90; 7220.20.21; 7220.20.29; 7220.20.41; 7220.20.49; 7220.20.81; 7220.20.89) from China and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 22 August 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/TUR, 2 March 2017	
Initiation on 23 November 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dioctyl terephthalate (HS 2917.39.95) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/TUR, 2 March 2017	
Termination on 29 November 2016 of anti-dumping duties on dioctyl phthalate "DOP" (HS 2917.32.00) from Romania (investigation initiated on 19 February 2011 and definitive duty imposed on 29 November 2011)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/TUR, 2 March 2017	
Initiation on 21 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of heavy plate (HS 7208.51.20; 7208.90.80; 7211.13.00; 7211.14.00; 7225.40.40; 7225.99.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/TUR, 2 March 2017	
Termination on 31 January 2017 of anti-dumping duties on imports of pre-finished engineered laminated flooring (HS 4411.13, 4411.14; 4411.92; 4411.93) from China and Indonesia (imposed on 8 July 2006)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	
Initiation on 23 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of terephthalic acid (HS 2917.36.00) from Belgium; Korea, Rep. of and Spain	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	
Initiation on 24 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of sodium percarbonates (HS 2836.99.90) from Germany and Sweden	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	
Initiation on 6 April 2017 of safeguard investigation on imports of pneumatic tyres (HS 4011.10; 4011.20; 4011.70; 4011.80; 4011.90; 8708)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/22, 12 April 2017	
Initiation on 22 April 2017 of safeguard investigation on imports of toothbrushes (HS 9603.21.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/23, 3 May 2017	
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Initiation on 13 February 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of rebar and wire rod (HS 7213; 7214; 7227; 7228) from the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (2 June 2017)	
Initiation on 13 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of urea-formaldehyde products (HS 3909.10.00) from the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (2 June 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Temporary suspension from 13 February to 20 May 2017 of the anti-dumping duties on imports of certain nitrogen fertilizers (urea, UAN) (HS 3102.10; 3102.80.00) from the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 27 June 2015 and definitive duty imposed on 30 December 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (2 June 2017)	
<b>United States of America</b>		
Termination on 18 November 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain iron mechanical transfer drive components (HS 8483.30.80; 8483.50.60; 8483.50.90; 8483.90.30; 8483.90.80; 7325.10.00; 7325.99.10; 7326.19.00; 8431.31.00; 8431.39.00; 8483.50.40) from Canada and China (investigation initiated on 25 November 2015 and provisional duty imposed on 8 June 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/USA, 9 March 2017	
Termination on 18 November 2016 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain iron mechanical transfer drive components (HS 8483.30.80; 8483.50.60; 8483.50.90; 8483.90.30; 8483.90.80; 7325.10.00; 7325.99.10; 7326.19.00; 8431.31.00; 8431.39.00; 8483.50.40) from China (investigation initiated on 25 November 2015 and provisional duty imposed on 11 April 2016)	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/USA, 14 March 2017	
Termination on 18 November 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of circular welded carbon-quality steel pipe (HS 7306.19.10; 7306.19.51; 7306.30.10; 7306.30.50; 7306.50.10; 7306.50.50) from Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 25 November 2015 and provisional duty imposed on 8 June 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/USA, 9 March 2017	
Termination on 18 November 2016 of countervailing duties on imports of circular welded carbon-quality steel pipe (HS 7306.19.10; 7306.19.51; 7306.30.10; 7306.30.50; 7306.50.10; 7306.50.50) from Pakistan (investigation initiated on 25 November 2015 and provisional duty imposed on 8 April 2016)	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/USA, 14 March 2017	
Initiation on 16 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain hardwood plywood products (HS 4412) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/USA, 9 March 2017	
Initiation on 16 December 2016 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain hardwood plywood products (HS 4412) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/USA, 14 March 2017	
Initiation on 22 December 2016 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain softwood lumber products (HS 4407.10.01; 4409.10.05; 4409.10.10; 4409.10.20; 4409.10.90; 4418.90.25; 4415.20.40; 4415.20.80; 4418.90.46; 4421.90.70; 4421.90.94; 4421.90.97) from Canada	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/USA, 9 March 2017; and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-122-857, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 18421 (19 April 2017)	Provisional duty imposed on 27 April 2017
Initiation on 22 December 2016 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain softwood lumber products (HS 4407.10.01; 4409.10.05; 4409.10.10; 4409.10.20; 4409.10.90; 4418.90.25; 4415.20.40; 4415.20.80; 4418.90.46; 4421.90.70; 4421.90.94; 4421.90.97) from Canada	WTO document G/SCM/N/313/USA, 14 March 2017; and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-122-858, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 19657 (28 April 2017)	Provisional duty imposed on 27 April 2017
Termination on 30 December 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of solid urea (HS 3102.10) from Russian Federation and Ukraine (imposed on 14 July 1987)	WTO document G/ADP/N/294/USA, 9 March 2017	
Initiation on 28 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of silicon metals (HS 2804.61.00; 2804.69.10; 2804.69.50) from Australia, Brazil and Norway	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-602-810, A-351-850 and A-403-805 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 16352 (4 April 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 28 March 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of silicon metals (HS 2804.61.00; 2804.69.10; 2804.69.50) from Australia, Brazil and Kazakhstan	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-351-851, C-602-811 and C-834-808 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 16356 (4 April 2017)	
Initiation on 28 March 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain aluminium foil (HS 7607.11.30; 7607.11.60; 7607.11.90; 7607.19.60; 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.30; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-053, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 15691 (30 March 2017)	
Initiation on 28 March 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain aluminium foil (HS 7607.11.30; 7607.11.60; 7607.11.90; 7607.19.60; 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.30; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-054, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 15688 (30 March 2017)	
Initiation on 12 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of carbon and alloy steel wire rod (HS 7213.91.30; 7213.91.45; 7213.91.60; 7213.99.00; 7227.20.00; 7227.90.60) from Belarus; Italy; Korea, Rep. of; Russian Federation; South Africa; Spain; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-822-806, A-475-836, A-580-891, A-821-824, A-791-823, A-469-816, A-489-831, A-823-816, A-520-808 and A-412-826, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 19207 (26 April 2017)	
Initiation on 12 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of biodiesel (HS 3826.00.30) from Argentina and Indonesia	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-357-820 and A-560-830 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 18428 (19 April 2017)	
Initiation on 12 April 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of biodiesel (HS 3826.00.30) from Argentina and Indonesia	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-357-821 and C-560-831 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 18423 (19 April 2017)	
Initiation on 17 April 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of carbon and alloy steel wire rod (HS 7213.91.30; 7213.91.45; 7213.91.60; 7213.99.00; 7227.20.00; 7227.90.60) from Italy and Turkey	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-475-837 and C-489-832, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 19213 (26 April 2017)	
Initiation on 20 April 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of carton-closing staples (HS 8305.20.00) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-055, Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 19351 (27 April 2017)	
Initiation on 1 May 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of tool chests and cabinets (HS 9403.10.00; 9403.20.00; 7326.90.86; 7326.90.35) from China and Viet Nam	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-056 and A-552-821 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 21523 (9 May 2017)	
Initiation on 1 May 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of tool chests and cabinets (HS 9403.10.00; 9403.20.00; 7326.90.86; 7326.90.35) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-057 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 21516 (9 May 2017)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 9 May 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain cold-drawn mechanical tubing of carbon and alloy steel (HS 7304.31.30; 7304.31.60; 7304.51.10; 7304.51.50; 7306.30.50; 7306.50.50; 7306.30.10; 7306.50.10) from China; Germany; India; Italy; Korea, Rep. of and Switzerland	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-428-845, A-533-873, A-475-838, A-580-892, A-570-058 and A-441-801 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 22491 (16 May 2017)	
Initiation on 9 May 2017 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain cold-drawn mechanical tubing of carbon and alloy steel (HS 7304.31.30; 7304.31.60; 7304.51.10; 7304.51.50; 7306.30.50; 7306.50.50; 7306.30.10; 7306.50.10) from China and India	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-533-874 and C-570-059 Federal Register/Vol. 82 FR No. 22486 (16 May 2017)	
<b>Viet Nam</b>		
Initiation on 12 May 2017 of safeguard investigation on imports of mineral or chemical fertilizers (HS 3105.10.90; 3105.30.00; 3105.40.00; 3105.51.00; 3105.59.00; 3105.90.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/VNM/6, 18 May 2017	

**Recorded, but non-confirmed information<sup>3</sup>**

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Morocco</b>		
Initiation in May 2017 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of exercise-books ( <i>cahiers</i> ) (HS 4820.20; 4901) from Tunisia	L'Economiste (9 May 2017)	

<sup>3</sup> This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.

## ANNEX 3

OTHER TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MEASURES<sup>1</sup>

(MID-OCTOBER 2016 to MID-MAY 2017)

Confirmed information<sup>2</sup>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Argentina</b>		
Inclusion of 74 new tariff lines in the list of products requiring non-automatic import licensing requirements (e.g. parts for motorcycles, percussion musical instruments, paper and paperboard, blades for saws, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof, optical fibres, sulphuric acid, organic chemicals, chemical products, plastics and articles thereof, conveyor or transmission belts of vulcanized rubber, glass and glassware, iron and steel, aluminium and articles thereof, bedding, mattresses, lamps and lighting fittings) (NCM Chapters 28; 29; 38; 39; 40; 48; 70; 72; 76; 79; 82; 84; 85; 87; 90; 91; 92; 94; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017), Resolución No. 301-E/2016 Ministerio de Producción - Secretaría de Comercio (19 October 2016) and Resolución No. 152-E/2017 - Secretaría de Comercio (2 March 2017)	Elimination of certain items (27 tariff lines) from the list of products requiring non-automatic import licensing requirements (NCM 7219.34.00; 7408.19.00; 7604.29.19; 8205.59.00; 8207.30.00; 8207.80.00; 8207.90.00; 8208.20.00; 8424.30.10; 8456.90.00; 8457.10.00; 8477.10.99; 8501.20.00; 8515.90.00; 8546.90.00; 9018.31.90; 8471.30.12; 8471.30.19; 8471.30.90; 8471.41.10; 8471.49.00; 8504.40.90; 8528.41.10; 8528.41.20; 8528.51.10; 8528.51.20; 8544.42.00)
Implementation of a Certificate of Import of Used Capital Goods ( <i>Certificado de Importación de Bienes Usados "CIBU"</i> ) (NCM Chapters 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Decreto No. 1205/2016 (29 November 16)	Effective 30 November 2016

<sup>1</sup> The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

<sup>2</sup> This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Updated list of "criterion values" ( <i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i> ) for imports of cotton toilet linen and kitchen linen, terry towelling or similar terry fabrics (NCM 6302.60.00), from specific origins	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 3992-E (7 February 2017)	Effective 9 February 2017
Updated list of "criterion values" ( <i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i> ) for imports of plastic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles (NCM 3924.10.00; 3924.90.00), from specific origins	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 3995-E (22 February 2017)	Effective 22 February 2017
Updated list of "reference values" for exports of cranberries (NCM 0810.40.00), for certain specified destinations	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4001-E (3 March 2017)	Effective 3 March 2017
Establishment of new requirements ( <i>Registro de Operaciones de Importación de Petróleo Crudo y sus Derivados</i> ) for the import of crude oil and its derivatives (NCM 2709; 2710): (i) registration of import operations; (ii) prior import authorization by the Ministry of Energy; and (iii) submission of an application by importers to the Ministry. Imports allowed only if insufficient: (i) supply of locally-produced crude oil; (ii) processing capacity in refineries; and (iii) supply of local derivatives	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Decreto No. 192/2017 - Ministerio de Energía y Minería (20 March 2017)	Effective 21 March 2017
Updated list of "criterion values" ( <i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i> ) for imports of meat of swine and frozen meat of swine (NCM 0203.29.00; 0210.19.00), from specific origins	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4039-E (2 May 2017)	Effective 4 May 2017
Extension of the import prohibition of worn clothing and other worn articles (NCM 6309.00.10; 6309.00.90)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Decreto No. 333/2017 Ministerio de Producción (12 May 2017)	Effective 15 May 2017 for 5 years
<b>Bolivia, (Plurinational State of)</b>		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (up to 15%) on certain machinery and mechanical appliances, television image and sound recorders and telephones (HS Chapters 84 and 85)	Decreto Supremo No. 3069	Effective February 2017
<b>Brazil</b>		
Increase of import tariffs (to 18%) on certain LED lamps (NCM 8539.50.00) and (to 14%) on semi-bleached or bleached coniferous chemical wood pulp (NCM 4703.21.00)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017) and Camex Resolution No. 137/2016 (28 December 2016)	Effective 29 December 2016



Measure	Source/Date	Status
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 35%) on coffee, not roasted and not decaffeinated ( <i>variedade Conilon</i> ) (NCM 0901.11.10)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (29 May 2017)	Effective 21 February 2017 to 31 May 2017
<b>Egypt</b>		
Non-automatic import licensing requirements on strategic agricultural commodities	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (8 June 2016)	Effective 13 November 2016
Temporary export taxes (LE 1,300/tonne) on iron scrap; (LE 15,000/tonne) on copper ore and copper scrap; (LE 5,000/tonne) on aluminium scrap and residue of aluminium; (LE 3,000/tonne) on zinc ore and zinc scrap; (LE 6,000/tonne) on lead scrap and lead ore; (LE 2,800/tonne) on draft paper; (LE 125/tonne) on azotic fertilizers; (LE 8,000/tonne) on used or new rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables; and worn out articles of twine, cordage, rope or cables, of textile materials (effective 25 December 2016 to 26 December 2017); (LE 100/tonne) on natural sands; (LE 400/tonne) on marble and raw granite; (LE 150/tonne) on quartz ore; (LE 900/tonne) on blocks of talc and crushed talc; (LE 500/tonne) on talc powder; (LE 400/tonne) on felspar ore (effective 7 February 2017 to 8 February 2018); (LE 3,000/tonne) on waste, parings and scraps of plastic except crushed plastic (pranged or granular) (effective 21 December 2016 to 13 September 2017); (LE 600/tonne) on fodder components (effective 21 December 2016 to 22 December 2017); and (LE 2,000/tonne) on sugar (effective 21 December 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (8 June 2016)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
<b>India</b>		
Restoration of the "additional duty rate" (CVD) on gold coins having a gold content not below 99.5 and gold findings	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 59/2016 (1 December 2016)	Effective 1 December 2016
Reimposition of import tariffs (7.5%) on technetium-99m (HS 2844) (originally eliminated on 3 October 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017); Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 61/2016 (27 December 2016); and WTO document WT/TPR/OV/19, 21 November 2016	Effective 27 December 2016
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 2%) on populated printed circuit boards (PCBs) for use in the manufacture of mobile phones (HS 8517.70)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 4/2017 (2 February 2017)	Effective 2 February 2017



Measure	Source/Date	Status
Increase of import tariffs (from 6% to 10%) on silver, in any form, other than medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9%, or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading HS 7106.92; and medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading HS 7106.92 (HS 71); (from zero to 10%) on hot-rolled coils for use in the manufacture of welded tubes and pipes falling under heading HS 7305 or 7306 (HS 7208); and co-polymer coated MS tapes/stainless steel tapes for use in the manufacture of telecommunication grade optical fibres or optical fibre cables (HS 7212.40.00); (from zero to 5%) on magnesium oxide (MgO) coated cold-rolled steel coils for use in the manufacture of cold-rolled grain oriented steel (CRGO) falling under HS 7225.11.00 (HS 7225.19.90); (from 5% to 7.5%) on all goods other than reverse osmosis (RO) membrane elements for household type filters (HS 8421.99.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 6/2017 (2 February 2017)	
Increase of export duties (from zero to 15%) on other aluminium ores including laterite (HS 2606.00.90)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue No. 3/2017 (2 February 2017)	Effective 2 February 2017
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 10%) on wheat and tur (HS 0713.40.00; 0713.60.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Notification No. 10/2017-Customs (23 March 2017)	Effective 28 March 2017
Further extension of the temporary minimum import price "MIP" (CIF basis/metric tonne) for 66 iron and steel tariff lines (HS Chapter 72) (originally implemented on 1 February 2016, for 6 months)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective December 2016 for 2 months
National Steel Policy 2017 providing preference to domestically manufactured iron and steel products in government procurement	Ministry of Steel (May 2017)	Effective May 2017
<b>Indonesia</b>		
New requirement for imports of iron, steel and alloy steel and their derivative products (HS Chapter 72)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Minister of Trade Regulation No. 82/M-DAG/PER/12/2016 (9 December 2016)	Effective 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019
New requirement for exports of processed and refined mining products (HS Chapter 48) (effective 1 February 2017), animals and animal products (effective 2 March 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Minister of Trade Regulations Nos. 01/M-DAG/PER/1/2017 (19 January 2017) and 13/M-DAG/PER/2/2017 (2 March 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Revised regulation on issuance of business trade licences and company registration certificates	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Minister of Trade Regulations Nos. 07/M-DAG/PER/2/2017 and 08/M-DAG/PER/2/2017 (17 February 2017)	Effective 22 February 2017
New requirements for imports of animals and animal products	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Minister of Trade Regulation No. 13/M-DAG/PER/2/2017 (2 March 2017)	Effective 2 March 2017
New requirement for imports of tyres (HS 4011), establishing import restrictions and pre-shipment inspections and restricting entry points	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Regulation No. 77/M-DAG/PER/11/2016 (11 November 2016)	Effective 1 January 2017
<b>Iraq, Rep. of</b>		
Increase of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. (from 25% to 75%) on cigarettes; (from 30% to 35%) on juices and televisions; (from 80% to 100%) on alcohols; (from 20% to 25%) on split air conditioning; (from 15% to 25%) on certain vehicles (HS 2402; 2009; 2203; 8415; 8703; 8528)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Iraq (5 June 2017)	
Temporary import ban on certain locally produced vegetables and fruits, e.g. potatoes, tomatoes, lettuces, carrots, and melons (HS 0701; 0702; 0705; 0706; 0807)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Iraq (5 June 2017)	
<b>Mauritius</b>		
Electronic payment mandatory for payment of customs duties, excise duties and VAT when amount per bill of entry is MUR 50,000 or more	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (5 May 2017)	Effective 15 December 2016
Import levy (25%) on household washing machines and certain lamps (HS 8450; 8539)	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (5 May 2017)	Effective 1 February 2017
<b>Mexico</b>		
Further extension of the temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 15%) on 97 iron and steel tariff lines (HS Chapter 72) (originally implemented on 7 October 2015 for 180 days and extended on 4 April 2016 for an additional period of 180 days)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 May 2017); Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 6 April 2017; and WTO document WT/TPR/OV/19, 21 November 2016	Effective 6 April 2017, for 180 days
<b>Moldova, Rep. of</b>		
Temporary export ban on wood and certain articles of wood (HS 4403; 4404.20; 4406; 4407.91; 4407.99)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the WTO (18 May 2017)	Effective 1 December 2016

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Mongolia</b>		
Increase of import tariffs (to 30%) on tobacco (HS Chapter 24)	Permanent Delegation of Mongolia to the WTO (6 June 2017)	Effective 1 May 2017
<b>Russian Federation</b>		
Further extension of the temporary export ban on tanned leather (HS 4104.11; 4104.19) (originally effective from 18 July 2016 to 18 January 2017)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2017)	Effective 1 February 2017 to 1 August 2017
Government Resolution of the Russian Federation No. 9 of 14 January 2017, established limitations on government procurement of foreign products and services for state security reasons	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2017)	
Addition of 62 new items manufactured in the Eurasian Economic Union to the list of medical devices receiving preferential treatment in government procurement	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2017)	
<b>Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)</b>		
Introduction of mandatory presentation of preliminary information for goods imported by air	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (14 October 2016)	Effective 1 April 2017
<b>South Africa for the Southern African Customs Union</b>		
Increase of import tariffs (from 20% to 30%) on plastic baths, shower-baths, sinks and wash-basins (HS 3922.10) (effective 2 December 2016); (from zero to 10%) on adhesive bandages (HS 3005.10.10; 3005.10.90) (effective 9 December 2016). Imports from the European Union, EFTA, MERCOSUR and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members exempted	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 April 2017) and Notices Nos. R. 1466 (2 December 2016), R 1537 (9 December 2016) - International Trade Administration Commission - Government Gazettes Nos. 40460 and 40481	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to R 63.63 c/kg) on cane and beet sugar (originally implemented on 26 September 2014) (HS 1701.12; 1701.13; 1701.14; 1701.91; 1701.99)	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 April 2017) and Notice No. R. 264 - International Trade Administration Commission - Government Gazette No. 40713 (24 March 2017)	Effective 24 March 2017
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 5%) on certain flat-rolled products of stainless steel (HS 7219; 7220) (effective 3 March 2017); and (to 10%/30%) on wire of iron or non-alloy steel (HS 7217); screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter-pins, washers (including spring washers) and similar articles, of iron or steel (HS 7318) (effective 31 March 2017). Imports from the European Union, EFTA and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members exempted	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 April 2017) and International Trade Administration Commission Notices Nos. R. 199 - Government Gazette No. 40661 (3 March 2017) and R. 291 Government Gazette No. 40734 (31 March 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Switzerland</b>		
Increase of the import quota (by 1,500 tonnes to 4,000 tonnes) on potatoes for consumption (HS 0701.10.10)	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (8 June 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017
Temporary increase of the import quotas (by 47,500 tonnes) on potatoes for consumption and potato seeds (effective 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017), and (by 30,000 tonnes) on wheat and meslin, rye, grain sorghum and buckwheat (effective 1 March 2017 to 31 December 2017) (HS 0701.10.10; 0701.90.10; 1001.99.21; 1002.90.21; 1007.90.21; 1008.29.21; 1008.10.21; 1008.60.31; 1008.40.21; 1008.50.21; 1008.90.23)	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (8 June 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Reduction of the out-of-quota tariff rates on cut flowers (HS 0603.11.10; 0603.12.10; 0603.13.10; 0603.14.10; 0603.15.10; 0603.19.11; 0603.19.18) to the current in-quota tariff rate (Sw F 12.5-25/100 kg)	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (8 June 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017
<b>Turkey</b>		
Increase of import tariffs on tableware, kitchenware and other household articles (effective 11 November 2016); on office materials (effective 11 November 2016); on carpets and other textile products (effective 8 December 2016); on leather apparel and other apparel (effective 31 December 2016); on kashmir (cashmere) apparel (effective 31 December 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Increase of import tariffs (from 25% to 40%) on bulk undenatured ethyl alcohol and (from 30% to 50%) on packaged undenatured ethyl alcohol (effective 1 January 2017); (from zero to 15%) on flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, plated or coated with aluminium-zinc alloys of a width of 600 mm or more (effective 1 January 2017); on cosmetic and cleaning preparations (effective 11 January 2017); (from 5.8% to 30%) on ductile pipes, internal combustion engines, electric motors and generators, generator sets, rotary electric converters, and tractors and gearboxes (effective 18 January 2017); (to 21%) on tractors, generators, accumulators and diesel motors (effective 18 January 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (May 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Non-automatic import licensing requirements on certain products: (i) ozone-depleting substances, the export and import of which are subject to licensing, (such as carbon tetrachloride, methyl bromide); and (ii) goods that can contain ozone-depleting substances, the export and import of which are subject to licensing (except goods transported in containers with private property), such as medical drugs, synthetic organic colorants, and paints and lacquers based on synthetic polymers	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (2 June 2017) and WTO documents G/LIC/N/1/UKR/6 and G/LIC/N/2/UKR/6 (28 February 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017
Volumes of export quotas for certain commodities (e.g. silver, gold and waste or scrap of precious metals) (HS 7106; 7108; 7112) subject to licensing procedures set at zero g	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (20 April 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>United States of America</b>		
"Buy America" requirements included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements For the Nation Act (WIIN Act). The WIIN Act maintained existing requirements, during fiscal year 2017, by mandating that funds made available from a state loan fund may not be used for projects for the construction, alteration, or repair of a public water system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States. This provision could be waived if: (i) enforcing this requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest; (ii) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of satisfactory quality; and (iii) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States would increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%. Provisions included in the WIIN Act shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (May 2017) and Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act S.612 (December 2016)	Effective 1 January 2017
Tariff reclassifications resulting in the increase of import tariffs on photomask pellicles (HS 3926.90.99), on cam fasteners and dowels made of zinc (HS 7907.00.60), and on reusable bags of woven polypropylene strips used for yard waste and recycling (HS 6305.32.00)	US Customs and Border Protection 19 CFR PART 177 - Customs Bulletin and Decisions, Vol. 50 No. 48 (30 November 2016)	Effective 30 January 2017

### Recorded, but non-confirmed information<sup>3</sup>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<b>Bolivia, (Plurinational State of)</b>		
Temporary import ban on grapes (HS 0806.10)	Comunicación Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras (28 January 2017)	Effective 27 January to 27 April 2017
<b>El Salvador</b>		
Increase of import tariffs on certain agricultural products	El Mundo (15 February 2016)	
<b>India</b>		
Imposition through the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax Regime (GST) of import duties (10%) on certain telecom products, e.g. mobile phones, digital still video cameras and other electronic integrated circuits, classified as ITA-1 products	The Hindu - BusinessLine (11 December 2016 and 8 May 2017) and India Times (26 April 2017)	
"Make in India" requirements for government procurement through the new e-market platform GEM (Government e-Market)	Asit Ranjan Mishra (28 February 2017)	
Imports of apples (HS 0808) now permitted through sea ports and airports in Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Cochin; through the land port and airport in Delhi; and through India's land borders	Minutes of the meeting of Council of Trade in Goods, forthcoming	
Temporary import ban on reptile leather, raw mink, fox and chinchilla fur skins and tanned mink skins (HS 4114; 4101; 4102; 4103; 4303)	Press reports referring to Notification No. 33/2015-2020 (January 2017)	
<b>Indonesia</b>		
Export ban on copper concentrates (HS 2603)	Press reports (January 2017)	Effective 1 January 2017
Import permit requirements for certain locally produced horticulture products	Business World (27 March 2017)	

<sup>3</sup> This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Revised import requirements for milk (HS 0401; 0402), authorizing its import only if domestic production is not able to fulfil national demand	Press reports	
<b>Nigeria</b>		
Import ban on 23 products	Africa News (5 January 2017) and Deloitte Trade Newsletter	Effective 17 October 2016
Introduction of local content requirements on certain products and sectors, e.g. information and telecommunication technology	Minutes of the meeting of Council of Trade in Goods, forthcoming	
Increase of import tariffs on certain products (e.g. tobacco, alcoholic products, raw materials, consumer goods) through the import adjustment tax list	Africa News (5 January 2017) and Deloitte Trade Newsletter	Effective 17 October 2016
Withdrawal of certain furniture and plastic sanitary wares from the import restricted list	Deloitte Trade Newsletter	
<b>Russian Federation</b>		
Amendments introduced to the list of goods essential to the internal market, resulting in a temporary export ban	Press reports referring to Government Decree No. 19 (18 January 2017)	
Establishment of a 15% price preference for Russian goods, works, or services purchased by state-owned entities or by legal persons using state funding for certain investment projects	Press reports referring to Decree No. 925 (16 September 2016)	Effective 1 January 2017
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Inclusion of pine wood in the export ban list on unprocessed timber (HS Chapter 44) (originally implemented on 1 November 2015 for three species)	Press reports and WTO document WT/TPR/OV/19, 21 November 2016	Effective 1 January 2017

## ANNEX 4

### MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES<sup>1</sup>

(MID-OCTOBER 2016 to MID-MAY 2017)

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>MEASURES AFFECTING VARIOUS SECTORS</b>					
<b>Brazil</b>					
<p>On 24 November 2016, the Central Bank of Brazil amended the rules concerning the registration of foreign direct investment with the Central Bank.</p> <p>The new rules bring back the requirement that companies recipient of foreign direct investment register their financial economic statements with the Central Bank on a yearly basis. This requirement is applied on a quarterly basis for companies with assets or net worth equal to or greater than R\$250 million.</p> <p>The rules also provide that the Brazilian company recipient of the foreign investment will be legally responsible for the registration of the foreign investment and that it may appoint representatives to carry out the registrations on its behalf.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Resolution No. 4,533 of the National Monetary Council, viewed at:  <a href="https://www.bcb.gov.br/pre/normativos/busca/downloadNormativo.asp?arquivo=/Lists/Normativos/Attachments/50287/Res_4533_v1_O.pdf">https://www.bcb.gov.br/pre/normativos/busca/downloadNormativo.asp?arquivo=/Lists/Normativos/Attachments/50287/Res_4533_v1_O.pdf</a></p>	Effective 30 January 2017	YES

<sup>1</sup> The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Canada</b>					
The government, under the Investment Canada Act, issued guidelines concerning the national security review of foreign investments. The guidelines provide further information on the review process and set out factors that the government may take into account when making a determination on grounds of national security.	Mode 3	All sectors	"Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments", Innovation, Science and Economic Department Canada, 19 December 2016, viewed at: <a href="https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81190.html">https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81190.html</a>	Effective 19 December 2016	YES
<b>China</b>					
The State Council approved the creation of seven additional free trade zones in the provinces of Shanxi, Sichuan, Hubei, Henan, Zhejiang and Liaoning, as well as in the city of Chongqing. The policy provides, among other things, for easier approval procedures. Foreign investment is treated on a national treatment basis, except in specific areas set out in a negative list. Such negative list provides for better treatment of foreign investment in China than what is provided in the Catalogue for the Guidance of Foreign Investment Industries, which applies to other parts of China.	Modes 3 and 4	Various Sectors	Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Shanxi) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.21); Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Sichuan) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.20); Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Chongqing) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.19); Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Hubei) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.18); Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Henan) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.17); Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Zhejiang) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.16); Circular of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the overall plan on China (Liaoning) pilot free trade zone (Guo Fa (2017) No.15).	Effective 15 March 2017	YES



Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>On 12 October 2016, China designated 10 additional cities as "outsourcing demonstration cities". Such designation involves preferential tax treatment for advanced technology service enterprises.</p> <p>These 10 cities are: Shenyang, Changchun, Nantong, Zhenjiang, Fuzhou (inclusive of Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Area), Nanning, Urumqi, Qingdao, Ningbo and Zhengzhou.</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	Circular of the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the National Development and Reform Commission on Application of Income Tax Policies for Technology-Advanced Service Enterprises to Newly Added China Outsourcing Demonstration Cities (Cai Shui [2016] No. 108)	Effective 12 October 2016	YES
The new rules provide preferential tax treatment for the recognized technology-advanced service enterprises in the 15 Service Trade Innovation Development Pilot Areas. The rate of income tax is reduced to 15%. Regarding training expenses in these enterprises, expenses that do not exceed 8% of total salaries are allowed to be deducted before taxation, and the excess portion is allowed to be carried over and deducted in the following taxable year.	Mode 3	Computer and information services, R&D and technology services, cultural technology services and medical services of traditional Chinese medicine	Circular on Promoting Preferential Income Tax Policies for Technology Advanced Service Enterprises in Service Trade Innovation Development Trial Areas (Cai Shui [2016] No. 122)	Effective 10 November 2016	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>On 17 February 2017, the government issued a revision to the Catalogue of Priority Industries for Foreign Investment in Central and Western Regions.</p> <p>The measure expands the list of priority industries for foreign investment. The 2017 Catalogue lists 639 priority industrial items, among which 173 were added in this most recent revision. 34 items were deleted and 84 were modified. Modifications relate, for example, to tourism and leisure, engineering, and logistics services. For projects falling within the scope of the revised Catalogue, foreign invested enterprises are eligible for favourable tax reductions and preferential access to land.</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	Order 33 of 2017 – Revision of Catalogue of Priority Industries for Foreign Investment in Central and Western Regions, viewed at: <a href="http://hkmb.hktdc.com/en/1X0A94PZ/hktdc-research/China-Revises-Catalogue-of-Priority-Industries-for-Foreign-Investment-in-Central-and-Western-Regions">http://hkmb.hktdc.com/en/1X0A94PZ/hktdc-research/China-Revises-Catalogue-of-Priority-Industries-for-Foreign-Investment-in-Central-and-Western-Regions</a>	Effective 20 March 2017	YES
<p>On 7 November 2016, China adopted a Cybersecurity Law that introduced various new requirements in relation to the collection, use and protection of personal information, the protection of "critical information infrastructure", the responsibilities of network service providers, and the preservation of sensitive information.</p> <p>Among other things, the Law requires "personal information and important data" collected and generated in China to be stored domestically. Security assessments by authorities will be conducted in relation to information and data transferred abroad pursuant to business requirements. More detailed regulations will be issued to support implementation of these provisions of the Law.</p>	Multiple modes	All sectors	Cybersecurity Law	Effective 1 June 17	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Colombia</b>					
The Government of Colombia issued Decree 119, which updates the country's foreign investment regime. One of the changes brought about by the decree is the elimination of registration deadlines and related sanctions in case of non-compliance.	Mode 3	All sectors	Decree 119 of 26 January 2017, viewed at: <a href="http://es.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20119%20DEL%2026%20ENERO%20DE%202017.pdf">http://es.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20119%20DEL%2026%20ENERO%20DE%202017.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.minhacienda.gov.co/HomeMinhacienda/ShowProperty.jsessionid=QXc5MPoduSqQcvDB3yCAs6Nv9YFQqDhpS5aiTsJJrwyg9HuJ8hx7I-89808455?nodeId=%2FOCS%2FP_MHCP_WCC-063032%2F%2FidcPrimaryFile&amp;revision=latestreleased">http://www.minhacienda.gov.co/HomeMinhacienda/ShowProperty.jsessionid=QXc5MPoduSqQcvDB3yCAs6Nv9YFQqDhpS5aiTsJJrwyg9HuJ8hx7I-89808455?nodeId=%2FOCS%2FP_MHCP_WCC-063032%2F%2FidcPrimaryFile&amp;revision=latestreleased</a>	Issued on 26 January 2017. Effective, at latest, six months after issuance of the decree.	
The government of Colombia, through Decree no. 1759, required Colombian companies to register their databases with the <i>Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio</i> by 30 June 2017. The purpose is to regulate the treatment of personal data.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Decree No. 1759, viewed at: <a href="http://www.sic.gov.co/registro-nacional-de-bases-de-datos">http://www.sic.gov.co/registro-nacional-de-bases-de-datos</a>	8 November 2016	
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>					
This measure reserves sub-contracting by multinational enterprises to companies that are domestically owned.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Loi No. 17/001, viewed at: <a href="http://juriafrrique.com/blog/2017/03/29/congo-k-le-legislateur-regit-la-sous-traitance-dans-le-secteur-prive/">http://juriafrrique.com/blog/2017/03/29/congo-k-le-legislateur-regit-la-sous-traitance-dans-le-secteur-prive/</a>	8 February 2017	
This measure aims to give equal legal treatment to women in the field of commerce. In particular, the spouse's authorization is no longer required for women to engage in commercial activities.	Modes 3 and 4	All sectors	Loi No. 16/008, viewed at: <a href="http://juriafrrique.com/blog/2017/03/29/congo-k-le-legislateur-regit-la-sous-traitance-dans-le-secteur-prive/">http://juriafrrique.com/blog/2017/03/29/congo-k-le-legislateur-regit-la-sous-traitance-dans-le-secteur-prive/</a>	15 July 2016 <sup>2</sup>	

<sup>2</sup> This measure entered into force before the period of review.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Egypt</b>					
<p>The President of Egypt signed on 31 May 2017 a new Investment Law. It aims to streamline requirements and processes relating to investment authorizations. For example, under the law, the General Authority for Investment (GAI) will introduce a new system allowing companies to register and incorporate electronically. The law also sets deadlines for completion of tasks by the GAI, and reduces documentary requirements imposed on investors.</p> <p>Further, investment projects are allowed to employ up to 10% of foreign employees if local employees with necessary qualifications are unavailable. For some strategic projects, a higher percentage of foreign workers can be allowed, subject to a commitment to train local workers. The law sets out, in addition, various tax incentives.</p>	Modes 3 and 4	All sectors	Law No. 72 of 2017	Effective 1 June 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Kenya</b>					
The Finance Act, adopted on 20 September 2016, repealed the provision of the Companies Act of 2015 that required enterprises established in Kenya to have at least 30% of their shareholding held by Kenyan citizens by birth.	Mode 3	All sectors	Finance Act (Act No. 38 of 2016), viewed at: <a href="http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/AmendmentActs/2016/FinanceAct_No38of2016.pdf">http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/AmendmentActs/2016/FinanceAct_No38of2016.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.oraro.co.ke/alert/karibu-kenya-welcome-to-kenya-repeal-of-the-30-local-shareholding-requirement-for-foreign-companies-in-the-companies-act-2015/">http://www.oraro.co.ke/alert/karibu-kenya-welcome-to-kenya-repeal-of-the-30-local-shareholding-requirement-for-foreign-companies-in-the-companies-act-2015/</a>	Effective 1 January 2017	
<b>Moldova</b>					
Moldova has adopted a series of measures in relation to various services sectors. In many cases, these new measures aim to transpose the requirements of European Union Directives into domestic law. For example, the National Commission of Financial Markets (NCFM) adopted new measures to regulate capital markets and the supply of insurance services. With respect to energy services, new regulations have been adopted in relation to cross-border electricity distribution and natural gas transmission services, which aim, among other things, to promote greater integration into the European energy market. Moldova also adopted a number of measures in view of requirements of European Union Directives relating to the development of the internal market and quality standards for postal services, as well as the access to and use of electronic communications networks.	Multiple modes	Financial services; energy services; postal services; telecommunication services; audiovisual services	Regulation on market abuse (NCFM Decision No. 14/15); Instruction regarding direct and indirect holdings (NCFM Decision no. 59/6); Regulation on training requirements and professional competence in insurance (NCFM Decisions no. 49/5 and 59/14); The Law amending the Law 407/2006 on insurance; Regulation on access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and congestion management; Regulation on access to the natural gas transmission networks and congestion management; Rules regarding providing postal services (Decision no.1457); The quality standards regarding the universal postal services (Decision no. 1226); Mode and conditions of using of postal networks for necessity of national security and protection in case of force major and exceptional situations (Decision no. 1453); Calculation methodology of maximum tariffs for the right of access on public properties and/or for shared use of physic infrastructure (Decision no.1343); Decision no.52 modifying Decision no.240 "For approving Program regarding the transition from analog television to digital terrestrial". <sup>3</sup>	November 2016-March 2017	

<sup>3</sup> Information provided by the government.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Myanmar</b>					
<p>In October 2016, the government enacted Myanmar's new Investment Law. While earlier legislation required all investment proposals to obtain permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the new law subjects only selected investment proposals to government screening and authorization.</p> <p>The law also includes a list of prohibited activities, as well as a list of activities where foreigners will be requested to set up joint-ventures with Myanmar citizens.</p> <p>In certain areas, such as market access, land lease and technical support, local businesses and SMEs would benefit from more favourable treatment compared to foreign investors. Investment incentives in the form of corporate tax holidays will be granted to "promoted" sectors.</p> <p>Full details of the sectors that are "promoted", subject to screening, and subject to joint venture requirements will be set out in forthcoming implementation rules.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Myanmar Investment Law, viewed at: <a href="http://www.dica.gov.mm/sites/dica.gov.mm/files/document-files/myanmar_investment_law_official_translation_3-1-2017.pdf">http://www.dica.gov.mm/sites/dica.gov.mm/files/document-files/myanmar_investment_law_official_translation_3-1-2017.pdf</a></p>	Effective 1 April 2017	
<p>The Ministry of Commerce has revoked the ceiling on the amount of funds that foreign-domestic joint venture enterprises can use in their operations. Foreign investors engaged in joint venture businesses with Myanmar companies will no longer have their expenditure limited to the initial sum they declared to the Central Bank. This removes the obligation to register any additional amounts of foreign currency required for investment purposes.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Viewed at: <a href="http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/24068-limits-lifted-on-joint-venture-trading-firms.html">http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/24068-limits-lifted-on-joint-venture-trading-firms.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://investmentpolicyhub.unctad.org/IPM/MeasureDetails?id=3013&amp;rgn=&amp;grp=&amp;t=&amp;s=&amp;pg=3&amp;c=&amp;dt=&amp;df=07%2F08%2F2008&amp;isSearch=true">http://investmentpolicyhub.unctad.org/IPM/MeasureDetails?id=3013&amp;rgn=&amp;grp=&amp;t=&amp;s=&amp;pg=3&amp;c=&amp;dt=&amp;df=07%2F08%2F2008&amp;isSearch=true</a></p>	22 November 2016	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Qatar</b>					
<p>Qatar has adopted new legislation governing investment of non-Qatari capital in the economy. The new law, replacing Law No. 13 from 2000, allows non-Qataris to invest up to 100% of project capital in all sectors of the economy, provided they have a Qatari agent.</p> <p>Subject to government approval, foreign investors may own 49% of the capital of companies listed on the Qatar Exchange. Foreign investors may own more than 49% of these companies if supported by Ministers.</p> <p>Citizens of countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council are treated as Qatari citizens with respect to ownership of Qatar stock exchange-listed companies.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Viewed at:  <a href="http://www.arabianbusiness.com/qatar-passes-law-approving-100-foreign-investment-649747.html">http://www.arabianbusiness.com/qatar-passes-law-approving-100-foreign-investment-649747.html</a></p>	19 October 2016	
<b>Thailand</b>					
<p>Thailand adopted new measures, including amendments to the Law for Facilitation of Business Operations, that aim to further improve the ease of doing business in the country. For example, Thailand no longer requires from employers of more than 10 employees that they submit a copy of Work Rules to the Director-General of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare within seven days from the date of the entry into force of the Rules.</p>	Mode 3	All Sectors	<p>Order of the Head of the National Council for Peace and Order No. 21/2560 (2017) Amendment to the Laws for Facilitation of Business Operations (Royal Gazette Book No. 134 Special Section 97D, page 49), viewed at:  <a href="https://www.dlapiper.com/en/us/insights/publications/2017/04/summary-of-the-order-of-ncpo-no-21_2560/">https://www.dlapiper.com/en/us/insights/publications/2017/04/summary-of-the-order-of-ncpo-no-21_2560/</a></p>	Effective 4 April 2017	
<b>Tunisia</b>					
<p>Tunisia's new Investment Law aims to facilitate foreign investment by reducing the need for government approvals, simplifying processes, allowing higher percentages of foreign employees, and increasing the number of sectors that are open to foreign investment.</p>	Modes 3 and 4	All sectors	<p>Investment Law (No. 71) of 20 November 2016, viewed at:  <a href="https://www.utica.org.tn/Fr/telecharger.php?code=250">https://www.utica.org.tn/Fr/telecharger.php?code=250</a></p>	Effective 1 April 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The law allows investors to recruit foreign managing staff up to 30% of the entire managing staff during the first three years of activity, and up to 10% of the entire managing staff from the fourth year onward.</p> <p>The law also grants foreign investors the right to purchase non-agricultural properties as part of investment projects, and simplifies procedures in relation to the transfer of funds.</p> <p>A list of economic activities where investment will be subject to authorization shall be issued by the government within a year of the law's entry into force.</p>					



Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Viet Nam</b>					
<p>On 22 November 2016, Viet Nam amended the list of 'conditional business lines' in Annex 4 of the Law on Investment. Companies operating in 'conditional business lines' must satisfy additional conditions, such as sub-licences or other requirements, as per the Investment Law. Business lines removed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- company valuation services in relation to initial public offerings;</li> <li>- consultancy services in relation to assessment of investment projects;</li> <li>- management training services for investment and construction projects;</li> <li>- establishment and assessment services for investment and construction projects;</li> <li>- management and operation services for common infrastructure facilities;</li> <li>- insurance agency training services;</li> <li>- import of radio transmitters and transceivers;</li> <li>- organisation of festivals and conferences;</li> <li>- water drainage services;</li> <li>- printing carton and other packages;</li> <li>- art and photographic work dealings;</li> <li>- tender agency services;</li> <li>- consultancy services for land survey, assessment and planning;</li> <li>- services for preparation of environmental impact assessment and detailed environmental protection plan.</li> </ul>	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Law No. 03/2016/QH14 amending the list of conditional business lines in Annex 4 of the Law on Investment, viewed at: <a href="http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/Law.aspx?ZID1=10&amp;ID1=2&amp;MaVB_id=2535">http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/Law.aspx?ZID1=10&amp;ID1=2&amp;MaVB_id=2535</a></p>	Effective 1 January 2017, except for specific business lines identified in the law (see first column).	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
On the other hand, new business lines were added to the list: - manufacturing, repairing bottles of liquid petroleum gas (LPG bottles); - energy auditing; - educational quality test services; - manufacturing, assembling and importing automobiles (effective only on 1 July 2017); - training, coaching marine crew and organizing to recruit, and to supply marine crew; - trading experiment services specializing in construction; - trading services of management, and operation of cremation establishment; - trading services of registration and remaining domain name “.vn”; - trading products and services of civil cryptography; - overseas study consultancy services, trading aquatic breeding; - trading services of meteorological forecasting and warning;	Mode 3	Various sectors	Law No. 03/2016/QH14 amending the list of conditional business lines in Annex 4 of the Law on Investment, viewed at: <a href="http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/Law.aspx?ZI D1=10&amp;ID1=2&amp;MaVB_id=2535">http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/Law.aspx?ZI D1=10&amp;ID1=2&amp;MaVB_id=2535</a>	Effective 1 January 2017, except for specific business lines identified in the law (see first column).	
- trading services of basic survey, consultancy of establishing emplacements; - projects and water resource reports; - trading camouflage equipment, software used for recording, video recording and positioning (effective only on 1 July 2017).	Mode 3	Various sectors	Law No. 03/2016/QH14 amending the list of conditional business lines in Annex 4 of the Law on Investment, viewed at: <a href="http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/Law.aspx?ZI D1=10&amp;ID1=2&amp;MaVB_id=2535">http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/Law.aspx?ZI D1=10&amp;ID1=2&amp;MaVB_id=2535</a>	Effective 1 January 2017, except for specific business lines identified in the law (see first column).	
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>Argentina</b>					
The Resolution established that reinsurance and retrocession services may be supplied through local reinsurers and/or admitted reinsurers (cross-border reinsurers).  Insurance companies will be allowed to place their risks directly with admitted reinsurers according to the following scheme: up to 50% of their ceded premiums for contracts beginning 1 July 2017; up to 60% of their ceded premiums for contracts beginning on 1 July 2018; up to 75% of ceded premiums for contracts beginning on 1 July 2019. Before this	Mode 1	Reinsurance and retrocession services	<i>Resolución SSN</i> No. 40.422-E/2017. Published in the Official Gazette on 4 May 17, viewed at: <a href="https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNorma/163138/20170504">https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNorma/163138/20170504</a>	Effective 13 May 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>Resolution, insurance companies could only reinsure individual risk with Admitted Reinsurers above US\$50 million in their entirety.</p> <p>The Resolution also amended the intra-group limitation whereby retrocession between a local reinsurer and a related company, which used to be 40% of the aggregate premiums in a given fiscal year, is increased to 75%. Finally, the new measure eliminated the requirement that admitted reinsurers register as a representative office or branch, and introduced a more straightforward registration procedure.</p>					
<b>Australia</b>					
The Australian Securities and Investments Commission exempts financial services providers regulated by the Luxembourg CSSF from compliance with parts of the Corporations Act in relation to the provision of particular financial services in respect of specific financial products. It enables certain foreign financial suppliers to operate in Australia with reduced regulatory requirements.	Mode 3	Financial services	ASIC Corporations (CSSF-Regulated Financial Services Providers) Instrument 2016/1109; viewed at: <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01757">https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01757</a>	Effective 9 November 2016. Ceases to apply 28 September 2018.	YES
<b>Brazil</b>					
Brazil introduced new liberalization measures for the reinsurance market. Regulations increased to 70% the percentage of risks that can be ceded to foreign reinsurers. This figure will continue to increase each year until it reaches 85% in 2020. Previously, reinsurance allocation required preferential offers to the local market.	Mode 1	Reinsurance services	<i>Lei Complementar</i> No. 126	Effective 1 January 2017	YES
<b>China</b>					
The Circular eases approval requirements for foreign-owned banks to supply certain investment banking services in the country and to invest in domestic banking institutions in China.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circular of the General Office of CBRC on Matters Concerning the Operation of Certain Businesses by Foreign-invested Banks	Effective from 10 March 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>Approval from the China Banking Regulation Commission (CBRC) is no longer required for foreign-invested banks (which include foreign-invested legal entity banks and onshore branches of foreign banks) to provide the following services: underwriting of treasury bonds, custodian services, and financial advisory and consultancy services (beyond that which is only related to traditional banking).</p> <p>Instead, foreign-invested banks are now only required to report to CBRC within five days upon commencement of the relevant business, subject to the administrative approval of other regulatory authorities where applicable. In addition, the Circular expressly allows foreign-invested banks to make onshore investments in domestic banks, although it is unclear whether such investment is subject to shareholding restrictions and whether there are particular requirements on capital adequacy or otherwise in order to be approved for investment.</p>					
<b>India</b>					
<p>Every Indian insurer must comply with the order of preference for cessions by Indian insurers prescribed by Regulation 28(9) of the Branch Office Regulations. The order of preference contained in Regulation 28(9) sets out the hierarchy between the various entities with which an Indian insurer can place its reinsurance business. The regulations specify that an Indian insurer first has to approach India's official reinsurer GIC Re before reaching out to the branch operations of foreign reinsurers to place any reinsurance deals. After exhausting these two channels, the insurers are allowed to approach reinsurers located in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Indian primary insurers, and, lastly, the cross-border reinsurers located outside the country.</p>	Mode 1	Reinsurance	<p>IRDAI circular (IRDAI/NL/CIR/RIN/021/01/2017), viewed at: <a href="https://www.irda.gov.in/admincms/cms/whatsNew/Layout.aspx?page=PageNo3053&amp;flag=1">https://www.irda.gov.in/admincms/cms/whatsNew/Layout.aspx?page=PageNo3053&amp;flag=1</a>.</p>	Effective 16 January 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Indonesia</b>					
Indonesia announced that it will amend existing regulations in order to limit foreign ownership of insurance companies to 80%.  The amendment will be applied to companies with foreign ownership below 80% and to new insurance companies. For existing insurance companies where foreign ownership exceeds 80%, adjustments would not be required, except in the context of new capital injections.  The initial regulation from 1992 capped foreign ownership at 80%. In 1999, in the wake of the financial crisis, authorities allowed foreign investors to exceed the ceiling.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Viewed at: <a href="http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/Berita/minister-finance-and-house-representatives-discussed-limits-foreign-ownership-insurance">http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/Berita/minister-finance-and-house-representatives-discussed-limits-foreign-ownership-insurance</a>	Announced on 18 April 2017	YES
The Regulation imposes a 20% limit on foreign ownership of enterprises that offer electronic payment processing services. The new limit applies to (i) new enterprises in the electronic payments services sector, (ii) existing enterprises that expand into this sector, and (iii) enterprises already active in the sector that experience a change of ownership.	Mode 3	Electronic payment processing services	Bank of Indonesia Regulation No. 18/40/PBI/2016 on Payment Transaction Processing, issued on 14 November 2016, viewed at: <a href="http://www.bi.go.id/id/peraturan/sistem-pembayaran/Pages/pbi_184016.aspx">http://www.bi.go.id/id/peraturan/sistem-pembayaran/Pages/pbi_184016.aspx</a>	Effective 15 November 2016	YES
<b>Kenya</b>					
Since 1 January 2017, marine cargo insurance (MCI) is reserved to local insurance companies. This requirement is implemented pursuant to the 2016/2017 budget policy statement and the Insurance Act Cap 487 section 20 (1).	Mode 1	Non-life insurance services	Insurance Act Cap 487 section 20, viewed at: <a href="http://www.treasury.go.ke/component/jdownloads/send/7-budget-statement/2-2016-budget-statement.html">http://www.treasury.go.ke/component/jdownloads/send/7-budget-statement/2-2016-budget-statement.html</a>  <a href="http://kentrade.go.ke/FAQsonMCI.pdf">http://kentrade.go.ke/FAQsonMCI.pdf</a>  <a href="http://allafrica.com/stories/201704140581.html">http://allafrica.com/stories/201704140581.html</a>	Effective 1 January 2017	
<b>Mongolia</b>					
The new law establishes a legal framework for the Development Bank to operate independently from the government. According to the law, the Bank of Mongolia would conduct an audit of the bank each year, and the government would conduct an audit every three years.	Mode 3	Financial services	Law on Development Bank of Mongolia, viewed at: <a href="http://www.dbm.mn/the-law-on-development-bank-of-mongolia-adopted-on-10-february-2017/">http://www.dbm.mn/the-law-on-development-bank-of-mongolia-adopted-on-10-february-2017/</a>	Effective 1 April 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Myanmar</b>					
Foreign insurance companies setting up business in special economic zones must show at least US\$1 billion in capital funding (prior, US\$3 billion), and must have been in the business for at least 10 years.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Criteria for foreign insurance companies to do business in special economic zones, viewed at: <a href="http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/business/8463">http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/business/8463</a>	Effective mid-March 2017	
<b>Philippines</b>					
The Philippines adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services, which relate to such aspects as: - transparency of remittance charges; - safeguards against the financing of terrorism; - risk-focused supervision in the licensing process; - the regulation of virtual currency exchanges; - oversight of the operations of MSBs (i.e. remittance and transfer companies, money changers/foreign exchange dealers); - guidelines for new bank service channels, such as convenience stores, pharmacies and other highly accessible retail outlets; - regulation of activities of pawnshops; - allocation of liability in relation to fraudulent transactions arising from counterfeit cards; - the conversion of micro finance-oriented banking offices into regular banking offices; - fees on retail bank products and dormant deposit accounts.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circular No. 952: Disclosure of Domestic Remittance Charges by All BSP-Supervised Entities with Domestic Remittance Transactions; Circular No. 950: Amendments to Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Regulations; Circular No. 947: Supervisory Policy on Granting of a Licence/Authority; Circular No. 944- Guidelines for Virtual Currency Exchanges; Circular No. 942: Enhanced Oversight Framework for Money Service Businesses; Circular No. 940: Guidelines on Deposit and Cash Servicing Outside of Bank Premises; Circular No 938: New Supervisory Framework for Pawnshops to Enhance Financial Inclusion and Consumer Protection, and Strengthen Licensing Process; Circular No. 937: Amendments to Foreign Exchange Regulations; Circular No. 936: Guidelines on the Implementation of Europay Mastercard and Visa Card Fraud Liability Shift Framework; Circular No. 929: Conversion of Microfinance-Oriented Thrift Banks/Rural Banks Into Regular TBs/RBs; Circular No. 928: Amendments to the Regulations Governing Fees on Retail Bank Products/Services and Dormant Deposit Accounts. <sup>4</sup>	Implemented between October 2016 and March 2017	

<sup>4</sup> Information provided by the government.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The amendments aim to provide banks with more flexibility to expand their branching network to strategic locations, including in cities previously considered as restricted areas.</p> <p>The Circular removed the use of theoretical capital as well as the combined capital requirement tied to geographic location in evaluating branch applications.</p>	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circular No. 932: Amendments to Regulations for Banks on the Establishment /Relocation/Voluntary Closure/Sale of Branches	Effective 16 December 2016	YES
New measures were adopted to establish the minimum standards to regulate the use of telemarketing platforms by insurance companies and insurance brokers.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Circular Letter 2016-61: Amendments to Guidelines on Electronic Commerce of Insurance Products	Effective 16 November 2016	YES
<p>The Philippines adopted a series of new measures in relation to insurance services, which regulate, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Micro-insurance products;</li> <li>- Reporting requirements;</li> <li>- Reserve requirements;</li> <li>- Solvency requirements;</li> <li>- Demutualization of domestic mutual life insurance companies;</li> <li>- Safeguards against the financing of terrorism;</li> <li>- Combating money laundering;</li> <li>- The acquisition and ownership of stocks and shares of brokerage companies;</li> <li>- Health maintenance organizations.</li> </ul>	Modes 1 and 3	Insurance services	<p>Circular Letter 2016-63: Enhanced Performance Indicators and Standards For Microinsurance;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2016-64: Adoption and Implementation of Microinsurance Distribution Channels Regulatory Framework;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2016-65: Financial Reporting Framework;</p> <p>Circular Letter Nos. 2016-66 and 2016-67: Valuation Standards For Life and Non-Life Insurance Policy Reserves;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2016-68: Amended Risk-Based Capital (RBC2) Framework;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2016-69</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2017-06: Rules And Regulations on Demutualization of Domestic Mutual Life Insurance Companies Doing Business In The Philippines;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2017-07;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2017-09: Guidelines Fixing the Documentary Requirements For Acquiring Ownership Of A Domestic Insurance Broker And Reinsurance Broker;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2017-10;</p> <p>CL No. 2017-11: Life Underwriting of Applicant with Actual, Perceived or Suspected to be with HIV;</p> <p>Circular Letter No. 2017-14: Minimum Members' Equity Requirements for Mutual Companies;</p>	Implemented between December 2016 and May 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			Circular Letter No. 2017-15: Regulatory Requirements and Actions for the New Regulatory Framework; Circular Letter No. 2017-19: Guidelines on the Approval of HMO Products and Forms Circular Letter No. 2017-20-Accreditation of HMO Actuaries;		
			Circular Letter No. 2017-23: Joint Certification And Undertaking For Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs); Circular Letter No. 2017-26: Guidelines on the Voluntary Cessation of Non-Life Insurance Business; Circular Letter No. 2017-28; Circular Letter No. 2017-29: Guidelines on Related Party Transactions for Insurance Commission's Covered Institutions; Circular Letter No. 2017-30: Regulatory Requirements And Actions For The New Regulatory Framework.		
<b>Thailand</b>					
The measure liberalizes foreign shareholding limits for life and non-life insurance companies. According to the new measure, foreign insurance companies in Thailand may be permitted by the Finance Minister, pursuant to a recommendation from the Thai Insurance Commission (IC), to hold more than 49% of the voting shares in a Thai insurance company and to have foreigners comprise more than half of its directors, if the insurance company can show that it will strengthen and stabilize the insurance company and the insurance industry.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Ministry of Finance (MOF)'s notification published in the government gazette on 18 January 2017, viewed at: <a href="https://www.dlapiper.com/en/thailand/insights/publications/2017/01/mof-foreign-insurance-companies-thailand/">https://www.dlapiper.com/en/thailand/insights/publications/2017/01/mof-foreign-insurance-companies-thailand/</a>	Effective 18 January 2017	
<b>Ukraine</b>					
On 23 February 2017, the National Bank of Ukraine clarified its approach to the use of foreign bank accounts by Ukrainian individuals. The new approach permits the placement of funds and holding assets by Ukrainian individuals in foreign banks and financial institutions, provided that such funds and assets have originated from overseas.	Mode 2	Banking services	Viewed at: <a href="http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=62ad28d3-5bf7-471e-849e-3341ebb64617">http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=62ad28d3-5bf7-471e-849e-3341ebb64617</a>	Effective 23 February 2017	YES



Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Viet Nam</b>					
Viet Nam adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services, which relate to such as aspects as: - Lending transactions of credit institutions and/or foreign bank branches with customers; - Consumer lending by finance companies; - Overdraft and overnight lending in interbank electronic payment; - Scope of foreign exchange transactions; - Foreign currency loans by credit institutions and foreign bank branches to residents.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circular 19/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 43/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 29/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 30/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 32/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 28/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 31/2016/TT-NHNN Circular 40/2016/TT-NHNN <sup>5</sup>	Implemented between October and December 2016	
<b>TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT/AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>Argentina</b>					
On 2 January 2017, the government issued Decree 1340, which established rules and standards regarding the convergence between television, telecommunication, and information technology services.  The decree allows licensees of such services to supply certain convergent services as of 1 January 2018 within specified territories. This includes, for example, the operation of telephone companies in the cable TV market, or the supply of telecommunication services by satellite TV companies. The decree allows satellite TV suppliers that already hold licenses for information technology services to continue providing such services, including broadband Internet access.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication and audiovisual services	Presidential Decree 1340, pursuant to Presidential Decree 267/2015 and Laws 27.078 and 26.522, viewed at: <a href="http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/270000-274999/270115/norma.htm">http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/270000-274999/270115/norma.htm</a>	Effective 2 January 2017	YES

<sup>5</sup> Information provided by the government.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Australia</b>					
The government committed A\$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage in regional and remote Australia. Rounds 1 and 2 of the program will deliver 765 new or upgraded mobile base stations across Australia. The rollout of these base stations is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. Further, the Government has allocated A\$60 million to target 125 specific priority locations.	Mode 3	Mobile telecommunication services	Department of Communications and the Arts <a href="https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program">https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program</a>	Ongoing. Round 2 was launched on 1 December 2016. The rollout of rounds 1 and 2 base stations is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2018.	YES
<b>China</b>					
The new Film Industry Promotion Law, adopted on 7 November 2016, sets out new requirements and procedures in relation to production, distribution, review, and exhibition of feature films in China. The law requires local theatre operators to ensure that the screening time for Chinese films is no less than 2/3 of the annual screening time of all films.  The law reiterates that coproductions are entitled to the treatment granted to films produced by domestic entities. The law also aims to simplify the procedures for state approval of scripts. Moreover, it prohibits work with foreign organizations or individuals that have damaged the country's honour and interests, or threatened social stability. The law also transfers to the provincial level a number of administrative responsibilities, such as examination and approval of movie production, release, and projection.	Multiple modes	Production, distribution and exhibition of motion pictures	Film Industry Promotion Law	Effective 1 March 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Dominica; Grenada; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</b>					
The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (EcTel) approved new legislation aimed at boosting competition in the region. The new regulations, approved by the Council of Ministers, address (i) consumer protection, which among other provisions, guard against unfair restrictions on consumer choices in services; (ii) submarine cable regulations, which set out conditions for fair access to submarine cable capacity; (iii) access to network infrastructure and wholesale services regulations, which impose conditions on licensees holding significant market power to share their networks; and (iv) regulations and guidelines on the conduct of market analyses.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	Electronic Communications Bill, viewed at: <a href="https://www.ectel.int/">https://www.ectel.int/</a>	Approved on 21 October 2016. The legislation will be published in the Official Gazette of each ECTEL Contracting State.	
<b>European Union</b>					
The Directive on security of network and information systems (the NIS Directive) was adopted by the European Parliament on 6 July 2016. The Directive concerns measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the European Union.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 16	The Directive entered into force on 8 August 2016. Member States are given 21 months to transpose the Directive into national laws and six months more to identify operators of essential services.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Indonesia</b>					
<p>The Ministry of Communications and Informatics issued a new regulation on data protection, pursuant to the Electronic Information and Transactions Law of 2008 and Government Regulation 82 of 2012. The regulation requires electronic system providers (ESPs) to have data centres and disaster recovery centres located in Indonesia.</p> <p>The regulation also requires ESPs to get express written consent for the collection and utilisation of personal data, and to store personal data in encrypted form. Further, the regulation sets out procedures for cross-border data transfers, which are subject to coordination with the Ministry.</p>	Modes 1 through 3	Electronic system services	Ministry of Communication and Informatics (MOCI) Regulation 20 of 2016 on Personal Data Protection in Electronic Systems	1 December 2016	YES
<b>Russian Federation</b>					
<p>On 1 May 2017, the President of the Russian Federation signed a Federal Law that limits foreign participation in certain audiovisual services.</p> <p>The new law applies to owners of Internet websites, website pages, information systems, and computer software that are used for online distribution of collections of audiovisual works, access to which is provided for a fee or on the condition of viewing advertising targeted at users in the Russian Federation, and which are accessed by more than 100,000 users per day in the Russian Federation.</p>	Modes 1 & 3	Online distribution of collections of audiovisual works	Federal Law No. 87-FZ of 1 May 17 "On Amendments to the Federal Law on Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection" and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation.	Effective 1 July 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The measure provides that only a Russian legal entity or Russian Federation citizen that does not hold the citizenship of another state can own such websites and systems. Unless stated otherwise in an international agreement of the Russian Federation, foreign persons<sup>6</sup> that own an information resource used for online distribution of collections of audiovisual works that has less than 50% of its users in the Russian Federation are not allowed to own more than 20% of the charter capital of such Russian legal entities, unless they receive permission from a government commission.</p> <p>The law will not apply to Internet search systems or information resources that primarily distribute content posted by individual Internet users.</p>					
<b>United States of America</b>					
<p>The President of the United States signed a resolution that was recently passed by the Senate and House and which brings an end to the Federal Communications Commission's earlier broadband privacy rules from the previous administration. Internet Service Providers are now legally allowed to commercialise user data without their explicit permission.</p>	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	SJ Res. 34	4 April 2017	
<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b>					
<b>Congo, Democratic Rep of</b>					
<p>The new measure liberalizes the profession of notary. It sets out obligations, requirements and conditions in relation to the performance of such functions. Only nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or nationals of a country granting reciprocity, may accede to the profession.</p>	Mode 4	Legal Services	Loi No. 16/012, viewed at: <a href="http://juriafrique.com/blog/2016/08/17/congo-k-la-profession-de-notaire-est-liberalisee/">http://juriafrique.com/blog/2016/08/17/congo-k-la-profession-de-notaire-est-liberalisee/</a>	15 July 2016 <sup>7</sup>	

<sup>6</sup> A foreign state, an international organization, as well as an organization controlled by them, a foreign legal entity, a Russian legal entity with foreign participation in the charter capital of more than 20%, a foreign citizen, a person without citizenship, a citizen of the Russian Federation holding citizenship of another state, and their affiliates.

<sup>7</sup> This measure was adopted before the period under review.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>					
<b>China</b>					
<p>China has implemented additional measures concerning foreign investment in services relating to air transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Service suppliers from Hong Kong, China and Macao, China are allowed to invest in aircraft maintenance, airline catering, air cargo transportation and warehousing, parking lot and ground service items (excluding security-related services) on a wholly-owned basis.</li> <li>- The requirements that service suppliers from Hong Kong, China and Macao, China go through economic needs tests before obtaining a business licence for setting up joint venture computer reservation system (CRS) enterprises are abolished.</li> <li>- The new measure provides for the following within the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone and other pilot free trade zones: foreign investors are allowed to establish and invest in wholly-owned air transportation sales agency enterprises; foreign investors are allowed to set up and invest in wholly-owned enterprises to undertake the business of air cargo transportation and warehousing, ground services, airline catering and parking lots; the requirement that the Chinese side shall hold controlling shares in the general aircraft maintenance joint venture enterprise is relaxed, and foreign investors are allowed to invest in general aircraft maintenance projects in the form of equity or cooperative joint ventures; and, the requirement that foreign investors that invest in aircraft maintenance business shall be under the obligations to contract business on the international maintenance market is abolished.</li> </ul>	Mode 3	Air transport	Supplementary Requirements on Foreign Investment in China's Civil Aviation Industry	Effective 1 May 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>MARITIME TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>					
<b>Vanuatu</b>					
The government adopted a law that establishes an independent regulator for the maritime transport sector. The Office of the Maritime Regulator (OMR) will oversee the safety and security of Vanuatu's shipping and ports. It will also regulate to ensure fair and equitable access to Vanuatu's port services.	All modes	Maritime transport services	Maritime Sector Regulatory Act 2016, viewed at: <a href="https://parliament.gov.vu/images/Bills/2nd_ordinary_2016/English/Bill_for_the_Maritime_Sector_Regulatory_Act_No._of_2016.pdf">https://parliament.gov.vu/images/Bills/2nd_ordinary_2016/English/Bill_for_the_Maritime_Sector_Regulatory_Act_No._of_2016.pdf</a>	Gazetted 19 April 2017	
<b>ROAD TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>					
<b>Bahrain, Kingdom of</b>					
The Cabinet agreed to permit foreign ownership of certain transport activities.  Foreign investors can have up to 100% ownership in internal tourism transportation activities, and up to 49% in other transport companies if there is a Bahraini partner who owns 51%.  Car rental activities are limited to Bahrainis.	Mode 3	Operation of land tours (domestic and international transport of tourists); Rental and leasing of motor vehicles; Motorcycle rental; Taxi and call taxi; Domestic and international road transport of goods; domestic and international land transport of passengers.	Government Announcement, viewed at: <a href="http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/759565">http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/759565</a>	Effective 13 December 2016	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>SERVICES SUPPLIED THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS</b>					
<b>Australia</b>					
<p>On 18 April 2017, the government of Australia announced that the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457 visa) will be abolished and replaced with a new Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa in March 2018. Implementation of this reform is taking place in different stages. As of 19 April 2017, the lists of occupations that underpin the 457 visa have been condensed from 651 to 435 occupations, with 216 occupations removed and access to 59 other occupations restricted.</p> <p>The occupation lists under the 457 visa have been renamed. First, the Consolidated Sponsored Occupation List (CSOL) is renamed the Short Term Skilled Occupations List (STSOL). The list will be updated every six months. For occupations under this list, the maximum duration of stay is of two years.</p> <p>Second, the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) is renamed the Medium and Long Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL), which concerns occupations that are deemed to be of high value to the Australian economy. The maximum duration of stay for these occupations remains of four years.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<a href="https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement">https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement</a>	Commenced on 18 April 2017 and to be completed by March 2018	YES



Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Bahrain, Kingdom of</b>					
<p>Bahrain has launched a two-year pilot programme allowing foreign workers to live and work in the country without requiring local sponsorship. Holders of Flexible Permits will be considered as self-employed, and can have a renewable residency permit for two years, allowing them to work with any employer (company or individual). Holders are allowed to work with multiple employers.</p> <p>During the pilot phase, the Flexible Work Program is only available to foreigners that are already in Bahrain with an illegal status due to work permit cancellation or expiry. It is envisaged that the eligibility will be expanded after assessment of the performance of the programme. 48,000 Flexible Permits will be issued at the rate of 2,000 per month during the pilot phase. Holders may not work in occupations requiring a specific licence (e.g. doctors, engineers) and in restaurants, hotels, and beauty salons.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: <a href="http://blog.lmra.bh/en/2016/09/20/flexi-work-permit-plan/">http://blog.lmra.bh/en/2016/09/20/flexi-work-permit-plan/</a>	Effective April 2017	YES
<b>Canada</b>					
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) eliminated the four-year cumulative duration rule for temporary foreign workers in Canada. This rule meant that certain foreign workers became ineligible to work in Canada for four years upon completion of four years of work in Canada.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: <a href="http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/temp/work/cumulative.asp">http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/temp/work/cumulative.asp</a>	Effective 13 December 2016	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>France</b>					
<p>The new law creates a category of "ICT Mobile Permits", which allows foreign nationals holding an intra-corporate transferee permit in one EU Member State to work temporarily in France without the need to obtain a new work permit. It also includes an "ICT Trainee" permit that entitles foreign nationals to enter France for training purposes in a company of the same corporate group for up to one year, as well as a corresponding "ICT Trainee Mobile" permit.</p> <p>Moreover, the law simplifies the application process for intra-company transferees holding specialist or senior management positions, and introduces a short term work permit exemption for assignment up to 90 days in selected sectors and for specific types of assignments.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<p>Loi n° 2016-274 du 7 mars 2016 relative au droit des étrangers en France, viewed at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Info-ressources/Actualites/L-actu-immigration/La-loi-du-7-mars-2016-relative-au-droit-des-etrangers">http://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Info-ressources/Actualites/L-actu-immigration/La-loi-du-7-mars-2016-relative-au-droit-des-etrangers</a></p>	Effective 1 November 2016	YES
<b>India</b>					
<p>India has further expanded its e-Visa programme. As of 24 May 2017, nationals from a total of 162 countries are eligible under the programme, which enables international travellers whose sole objective in visiting India concerns recreation, sight-seeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment or casual business visit to enter the territory for a period of up to 60 days. The nomenclature of the existing e-Tourist Visa has been changed to e-Visa, with three subcategories: e-Tourist Visa, e-Business Visa, and e-Medical Visa.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<p>Viewed at:</p> <p><a href="https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html">https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html</a></p>	Effective 30 March 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
A new Intern Visa category was introduced for foreign nationals seeking to intern in Indian companies, educational institutions and NGOs. It permits a stay of up to one year, provided that studies were completed recently and that a minimum salary threshold is met. A quota of 50 Intern Visas per year has been set for each Indian Mission, except for countries where the population of foreign nationals of Indian origin exceeds one million, where it has been set at 100 visas per year.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: <a href="https://www.fragomen.com/knowledge-center/immigration-alerts/intern-visa-category-introduced">https://www.fragomen.com/knowledge-center/immigration-alerts/intern-visa-category-introduced</a>	Effective 1 April 2017	YES
<b>Kazakhstan</b>					
<p>Kazakhstan has made a number of changes to its Laws "On Migration" (from 22 July 2011) and "On Population Employment" (from 6 April 2016). As a result, the quota annually established by the government is no longer applicable to intra-corporate transferees (ICTs).</p> <p>The new measures have also increased the maximum share of foreign managers and specialists in a services company to 50%. Executives are not subject to this limitation. Executives are also exempted from an economic needs test, which is instead applied to managers and specialists.</p> <p>ICTs will have the possibility of extending their 3-year duration of stay by one additional year upon expiration of the initial 3-year term, subject to an economic needs test.</p> <p>Further, work permits are now issued free of charge, and a new set of work permit rules stipulate that foreigners-to-nationals ratio requirements no longer apply to branches and representative offices that have no more than 30 employees.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<p>-The Order of the Acting Minister of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 559 "On Approval of the Rules and Conditions for Issuance and Extending Permits on Attracting Foreign Labor Force to Employers as well as for Intra-corporate transfer" dated 27 June 2016;</p> <p>- Order No. 1069 issued on 15 December 2016, substantially amending Order No. 559; and Resolution No. 802 adopted on 15 December 2016, supplementing Order No. 559.</p>	Effective 1 January 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<b>Korea, Rep. of</b>					
New guidelines limit activities under the Short Term Travellers visa to non-profit activities (attending meetings, negotiations, finalizing contracts, etc.). All for-profit activities, including the supply of services pursuant to a contract (e.g., installation and repair or imported machinery), now require an employment visa before entry.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: <a href="http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Korea_limits_permmissible_business_visitor_activities/\$FILE/Korea%20-%20Immigration%20-%20Business%20visitor%20activities.pdf">http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Korea_limits_permmissible_business_visitor_activities/\$FILE/Korea%20-%20Immigration%20-%20Business%20visitor%20activities.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.visa.go.kr/">https://www.visa.go.kr/</a>	Effective 8 March 2017	YES
<b>Peru</b>					
Peru exempts natural persons of India from the requirement of a temporary visa for the Tourist and Business Visitor categories.	Mode 4	All sectors	Decreto Supremo No. 006-2017-RE, viewed at: <a href="http://busquedas.elperuano.com.pe/normaslegales/exoneran-del-requisito-de-visa-temporal-en-las-calidades-mig-decreto-supremo-n-006-2017-re-1493143-11/">http://busquedas.elperuano.com.pe/normaslegales/exoneran-del-requisito-de-visa-temporal-en-las-calidades-mig-decreto-supremo-n-006-2017-re-1493143-11/</a>	Effective 27 March 2017	YES
<b>Switzerland</b>					
The Decree on Admittance, Residence and Employment (RS 142.201) was partially amended.  The yearly fixed ceilings of work permits for highly qualified workers from non-EU/EFTA States have been increased by 1,000 compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 7,500. Allocations are as follows: - Work permits for short stay (L permit) of persons from non-EU/EFTA States: an additional 500 permits to be allotted in 2017, for a total of 4,500 permits. - Work permits for long stay (B permit) for persons from non-EU/EFTA States: an additional 500 work permits to be allotted in 2017, for a total of 3,000 permits.	Mode 4	All sectors	Decree on Admittance, Residence and Employment (RS 142.201).  WTO document: S/C/N/873, 3 February 2017	Effective 1 January 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The Swiss Confederation will hold the additional 1,000 work permits (500 B, 500 L) as a federal reserve in order to meet, on request, further needs from the cantons.</p> <p>The situation for service suppliers from EU/EFTA States with a short stay will remain as in 2016:  - Work permits for service suppliers from EU/EFTA States holding a short term permit (L permit): 2000 permits to be allotted in 2017;  - Work permits for service suppliers from EU/EFTA States holding a long term permit (B permit): 250 permits to be allotted in 2017.<sup>8</sup></p>					
<b>United Kingdom</b>					
<p>The Tier 2 Intra-Company Transferee visa category has been reduced to two sub-categories, namely Long Term Staff and Graduate Trainees. The Short Term Staff sub-category has been eliminated. Another change that was introduced is to exempt intra-company transferees earning over GBP 73,900 from the requirement to have at least 12 months of employment experience. Changes have also been made to the Tier 2 (General) visa category, including an increase in the salary threshold above which no labour market test is applied.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-intracompany-transfer-worker-visa/overview">https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-intracompany-transfer-worker-visa/overview</a>	Effective 6 April 2017	YES

<sup>8</sup> The situation for service suppliers from EU/EFTA States with a short stay will remain as in 2016: -work permits for service suppliers from EU/EFTA States holding a short term permit (L permit): 2,000 permits to be allotted in 2017; - work permits for service suppliers from EU/EFTA States holding a long term permit (B permit): 250 permits to be allotted in 2017.