



**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

EPING ALERT SYSTEM

UPDATE BY THE SECRETARIAT

This document, prepared by the WTO Secretariat, provides an update on ePing to the SPS and the TBT Committees.

1. [ePing](#), the SPS/TBT notification alert system was launched in November 2016 by the WTO, UNDESA and ITC. Once registered, users receive emails alerts containing notifications that match their filter criteria (such as products or markets of interest). For example, an SPS or TBT Enquiry Point may prefer to receive all SPS or TBT notifications while an exporter of toys may only wish to be alerted to notifications affecting toys. ePing also facilitates tracking the full cycle of a notification as any addenda or revisions to a notification of interest are included in subsequent alerts.

2. Currently, ePing has around 3,000 registered users from 155 countries and is continuously attracting new ones. It is interesting to note that about half of the subscribers are from the private sector, including from small and medium size enterprises. This points to the unique role that ePing can play in facilitating access to regulatory information.

3. A survey was conducted earlier this year to get feedback on the system.¹ Overall, users appreciate the customized and rapid alerts and the user-friendly platform. Requests for further capacity building and some suggestions for enhancements also featured among the responses. The Secretariat plans to run another user survey during the course of 2018.

4. The WTO Secretariat, in collaboration with UNDESA and ITC, has been working on a series of improvements to ePing in light of feedback and also experience gained during the past year. In particular, the Enquiry Point management tool has been enhanced to provide a comprehensive interface for Enquiry Point officials to manage notifications and reach out to public and private sector stakeholders. Further feedback from delegations is welcome as the Secretariat continues to make adjustments to the system.

5. The three partner organizations are promoting ePing through a range of technical assistance and outreach activities. During the Aid for Trade Global Review meetings held in July 2017, Australia and the WTO Secretariat organized [a side-event on ePing](#). The TBT Enquiry Points of Australia and Uganda shared information on how they have been benefitting from ePing to manage notifications and reach out to their stakeholders. They have also underlined the significant efficiency gains in their operations.

6. The Secretariat is planning to hold a series of regional workshops to promote ePing during the course of 2018, especially for interested Enquiry Points so that they can take full advantage of the system.

¹ G/SPS/GEN/1569-G/TBT/GEN/227/Rev.1.