

## Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

### SIXTH SPECIAL MEETING ON PROCEDURES FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**22 JUNE 2010**

#### Programme

The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (the TBT Committee) agreed in 1995 to hold, on a biennial basis, "regular meetings of persons responsible for information exchange, including persons responsible for enquiry points and notifications".<sup>1</sup> These meetings are organized in order to provide Members with an opportunity to discuss issues relating to information exchange and to review periodically the functioning of notification procedures and the operation of enquiry points.

The Sixth Special Meeting will be held on **22 June 2010** in Room CRI at the Centre William Rappard back to back with the TBT Committee's regular meeting on 23-24 June. The discussions will be held in panel sessions and will focus on the topics set forth in the attached programme. Members, including relevant interested parties of their delegations, as well as observers and relevant bodies involved in the development of standards, are invited to participate in this Special Meeting.<sup>2</sup>

It is stressed that all Members should communicate the names of their capital-based participants (other than funded participants from developing country Members whose names have already been communicated to the WTO), by fax or e-mail. These names should be sent to Mrs. Una Flanagan (e-mail: [una.flanagan@wto.org](mailto:una.flanagan@wto.org), Fax: +41 22 739 5620) with a copy to: [bci@wto.org](mailto:bci@wto.org).

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<sup>1</sup> G/TBT/1/Rev.9, page 28.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the WTO 2010 Technical Assistance and Training Plan, the participation of one capital-based official responsible for information exchange from developing country Members has been sponsored by the WTO, through the Global Trust Fund (WT/COMTD/W/170/Rev.1, p.52).

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*Registration (08:30 – 10:00)*

**1. Good Practices in Notification<sup>3</sup> (10:00 – 11:15)**

In the Fifth Triennial Review, Members stressed the importance of transparency in processes and procedures used in the development and application of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. With a view to assisting Members in their implementation of notification obligations and to identify best practices, this panel session will examine, *inter alia*, ways to facilitate internal coordination for the effective implementation of the TBT Agreement's notifications obligations. The following delegations have indicated their intention to share their experiences in this panel:

*Moderator: Xueyan Guo, China*

- (i) Canada (Andrea Spencer): Examples of "good practices" to facilitate internal coordination for the effective implementation of the TBT Agreement's notifications obligations
- (ii) European Union (Patricia McGinley): The EU's efforts to facilitate access for third countries to EU notifications
- (iii) United States (Anne Meininger): US Practices in WTO TBT Notification

**2. Electronic Databases<sup>4</sup> (11:15 – 13:00)**

The aim of this session will be to share experiences on how the use of electronic tools and web-based applications can enhance transparency and access to notifications. The following delegations, as well as the Secretariat, have indicated their intention to contribute to this panel session:

*Moderator: Juan Antonio Dorantes Sánchez, Mexico*

- (i) Chile (Carolina Ramirez): Chilean Technical Regulation Portal
- (ii) China (XU Zhanju): China's Experiences in Information Processing
- (iii) European Union (Cyril Hanquez): The EU electronic tools - a more efficient management and better circulation of TBT notifications"
- (iv) India (Rajan Sudesh Ratna): Development of online TBT portal by Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi
- (v) Indonesia (I Nyoman Supriyatna): Information System on Notification – Indonesia's Experience
- (vi) United States (Anne Meininger): "Notify US"
- (vii) WTO Secretariat: The TBT Information Management System

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<sup>3</sup> Section IV:B of G/TBT/1/Rev.9 is particularly relevant, as well as paras 8-11 and 33-43 of G/TBT/26.

<sup>4</sup> See paragraphs 31 and 41(d) of G/TBT/26 in particular.

### 3. Operation of Enquiry Points<sup>5</sup> (15:00 – 16:30)

In the Fifth Triennial Review, the Committee stressed the importance of the operational capacity of enquiry points and recommended, *inter alia*, that developing country Members identify challenges which they face with respect to the establishment and operation of their enquiry points and indicate the nature of the technical assistance needed to overcome these difficulties. Members also stressed the importance of reinforcing the operation of enquiry points. In view of this, during this panel session, Members will discuss ways to improve the effectiveness of how enquiry points operate. The purpose is to both identify challenges and options to overcome these. The following delegations have indicated their intention to share their experiences in this panel:

*Moderator: Meike Wolf*, European Union

- (i) Brazil (Eduardo Trajano Gadret): Promoting Awareness of TBT-related Issues among Brazilian SMEs
- (ii) Paraguay (Ricardo Herreros Usher): Operation and Challenges of the Paraguayan Enquiry Point of the TBT Agreement
- (iii) Turkey (Tarik Gencosmanoglu): Challenges Faced by the Turkish Enquiry Point

### 4. Transparency in standard-setting<sup>6</sup> (16:30 – 18:00)

In the Fifth Triennial Review, the Committee emphasized the importance of transparency in the standards development process at the national, regional and international level. In particular, the Committee noted that creating awareness among all interested parties, including SMEs, of the importance of being involved in standardizing activities was key. Both the TBT Agreement (Annex 3) and Members' work in the Committee have emphasized the importance of transparency in standards development. The following delegations, Observer organizations and/or relevant bodies involved in the development of standards, have indicated their intention to contribute to this panel session:

*Moderator: Michelle Cooper*, Canada

- (i) Egypt (Heba Hammad): Experience in Transparency in Standard Setting
- (ii) European Union: (Georges Malcorps): WTO criteria in European standard setting
- (iii) Fiji (Seema Sharma): Standards Development Procedures – Fiji Experience
- (iv) New Zealand (Craig Radford): Transparency in Standard-setting: The New Zealand Experience

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<sup>5</sup> Section IV:D of G/TBT/1/Rev.9 is particularly relevant, as well as paras. 53-54 and 59(d) of G/TBT/26.

<sup>6</sup> See paragraph 25 of G/TBT/26. In addition, paragraphs L – N of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 of the TBT Agreement), as well as Principle 1 of the 2000 Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations with Relation to Articles 2, 5 and Annex 3 (G/TBT/1/Rev.9, p.37) are also relevant to this Panel.

- (v) IEC and ISO (Jonathan Buck): How ISO and IEC involve public and private sectors to ensure transparency in setting international standards
  - (vi) ASTM International (James A. Thomas): Embracing Transparency and WTO Principles for International Standardization - ASTM International's Global Approach to Standards Development
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