



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES (2017)

Since its Annual Report of 2016 to the Council for Trade in Services¹, the Committee on Specific Commitments (CSC) held only one formal meeting on 15 March 2017.² At this meeting, the Committee addressed two standing items: classification issues and scheduling issues.

1 CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

1.1. At the meeting of 15 March 2017, the delegation of China raised two issues under this item. First, taking issue with the view that the discussion on "new services" had been exhausted, China requested in-depth examination on related issues in the Committee. China noted the complexity of the issue of "new services" and its direct relevance to the implementation of specific commitments by Members. Second, China drew Members' attention to the distinction between the two terms: "e-commerce" and "digital trade". According to China, the interchangeable use of those two terms might cause misunderstanding and confusion in the future work on e-commerce in the WTO. In the follow-up discussions, Members expressed divergent views on whether or not to continue the discussion on "new services", and on the need to draw distinction between "e-commerce" and "digital trade".

2 SCHEDULING ISSUES

2.1. At the meeting of 15 March 2017, the delegation of Turkey noted that the problems its proposal³ seeking to address in the Committee, i.e. lack of clarity, transparency and predictability in scheduled economic needs tests (ENTs), had been adequately covered in Article 5 of the Trade Facilitation in Services Agreement (TFS) proposed by India⁴. Turkey suggested that future work on ENTs focus on the acceptability and formulation of Article 5 of the proposed TFS. Turkey's suggestion was supported by India and Brazil.

¹ S/CSC/22, dated 23 November 2016.

² The report of this meeting is contained in documents S/CSC/M/78 and should be read in conjunction with this report.

³ JOB/SERV/224, dated 29 February 2016

⁴ S/C/W/372, TN/S/W/63, S/WPDR/W/58, dated 23 February 2017.