

TBT SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS: WHAT'S THE VALUE?

Symposium: Easing Regulatory Bottlenecks

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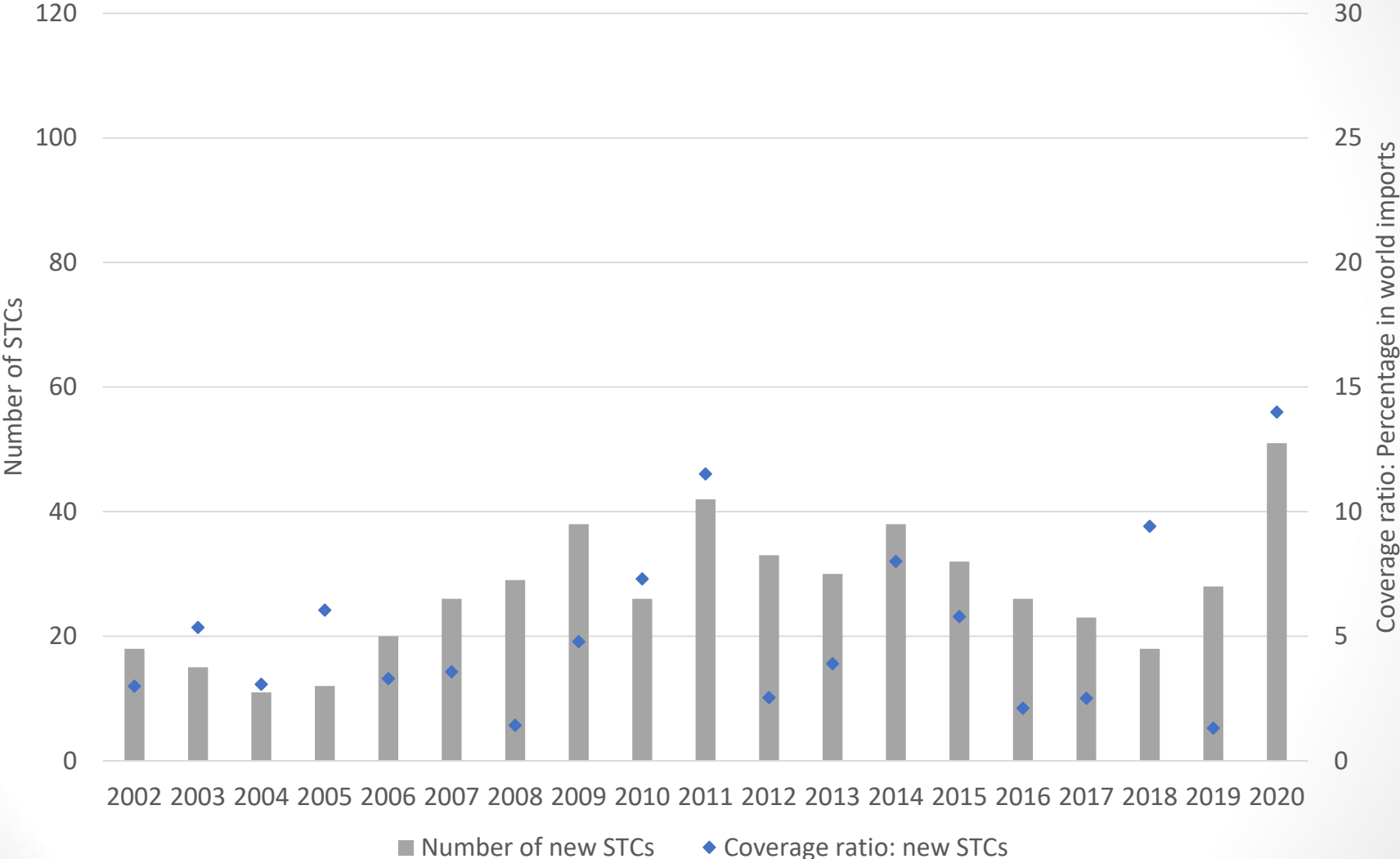


Background – on our work in progress

- **Objective:** improve understanding of the commercial and economic importance of TBT specific trade concerns (STCs)
- **Approach:** matching the products (HS codes, in WTO Trade Concerns database) subject to STCs with trade data (imports of responding Members)
- **Result:** value of trade that is covered by STCs, which could potentially be eased by cooperation in the TBT Committee
- **Caveats:** no judgment on whether STCs are trade barriers; no assumptions on resolution of STCs



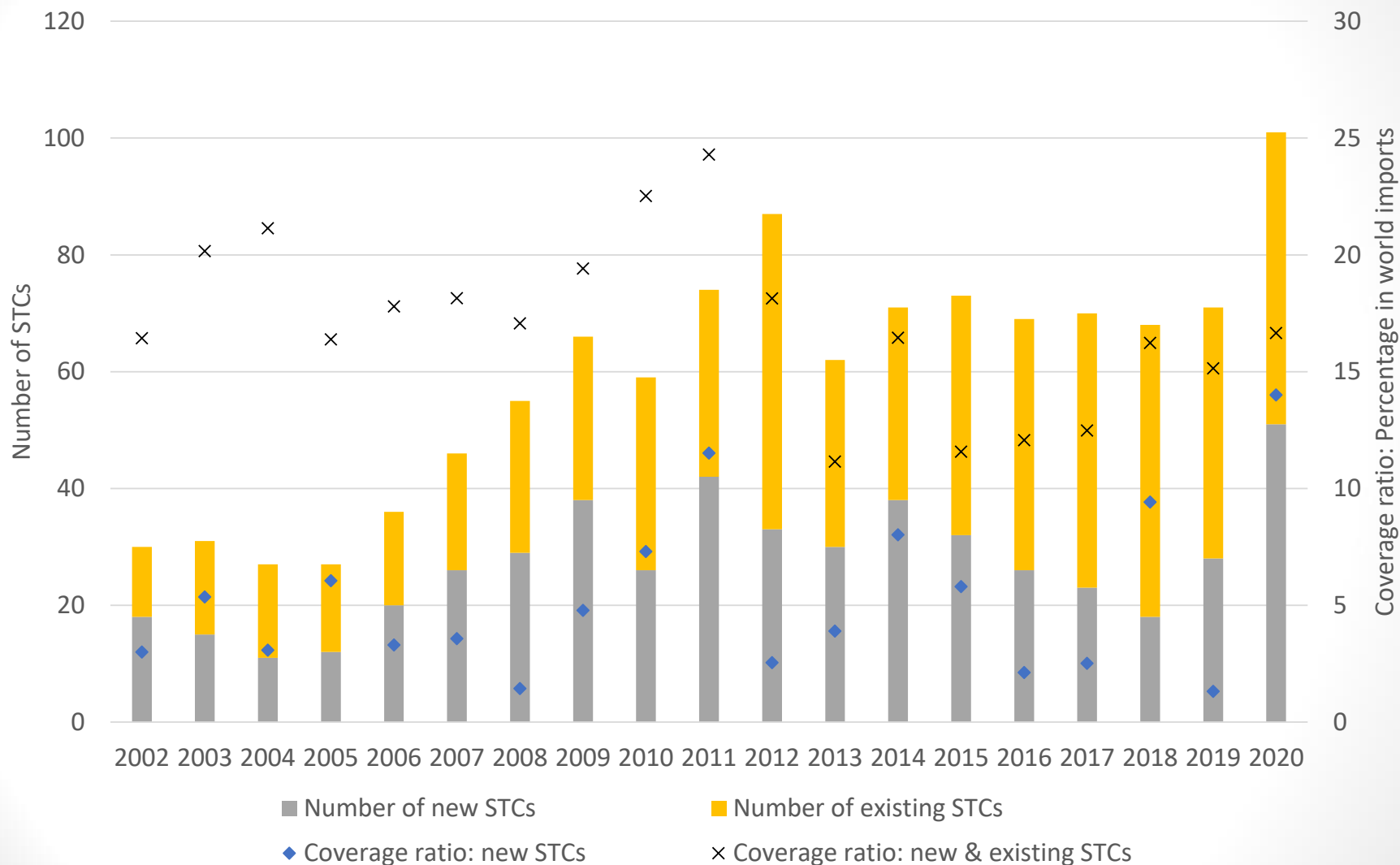
How much trade is covered by new STCs?



Source: WTO Secretariat analysis



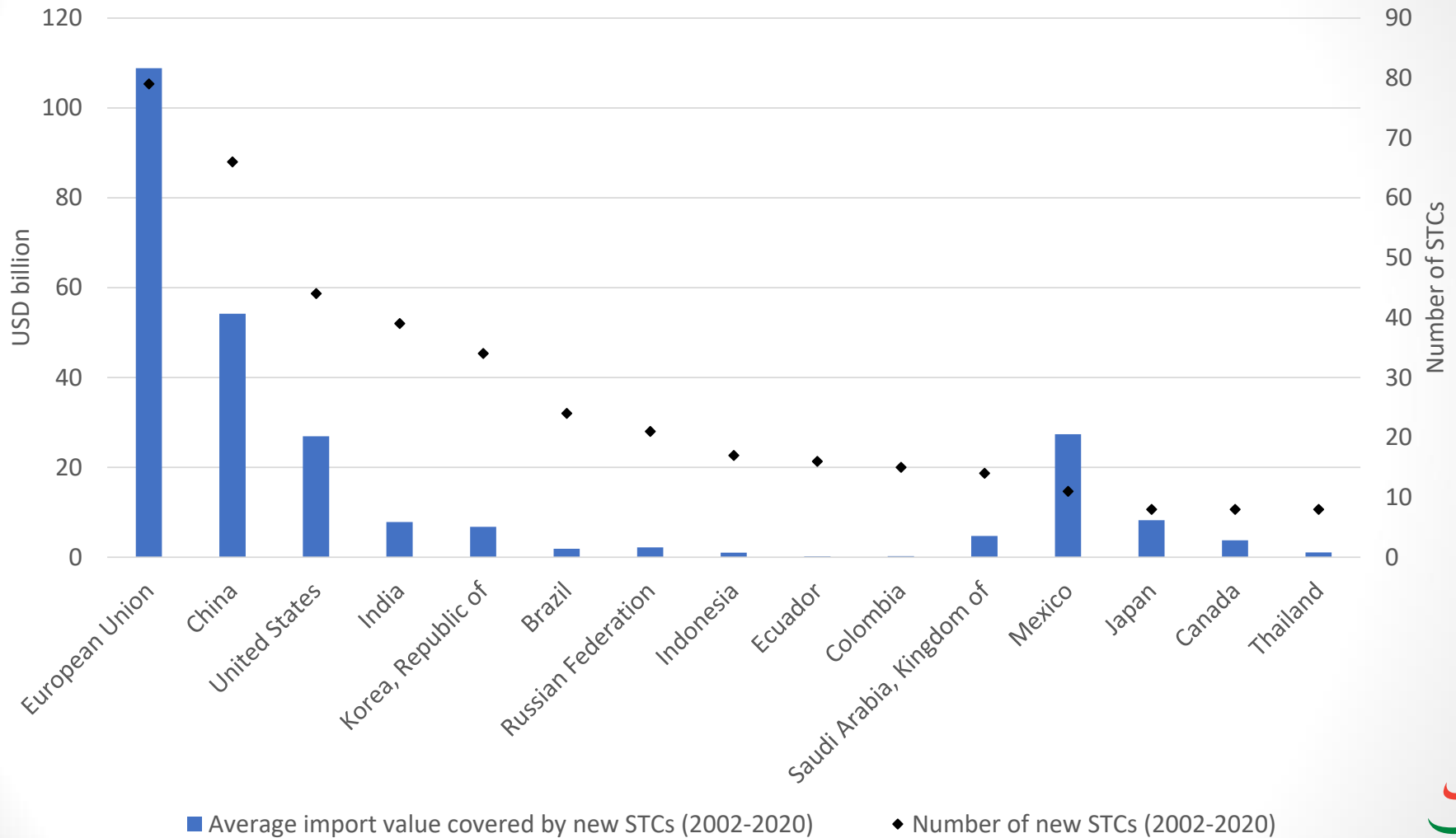
How much trade is covered by new and previously raised STCs?



Source: WTO Secretariat analysis



Which Members are most frequently responding to STCs?

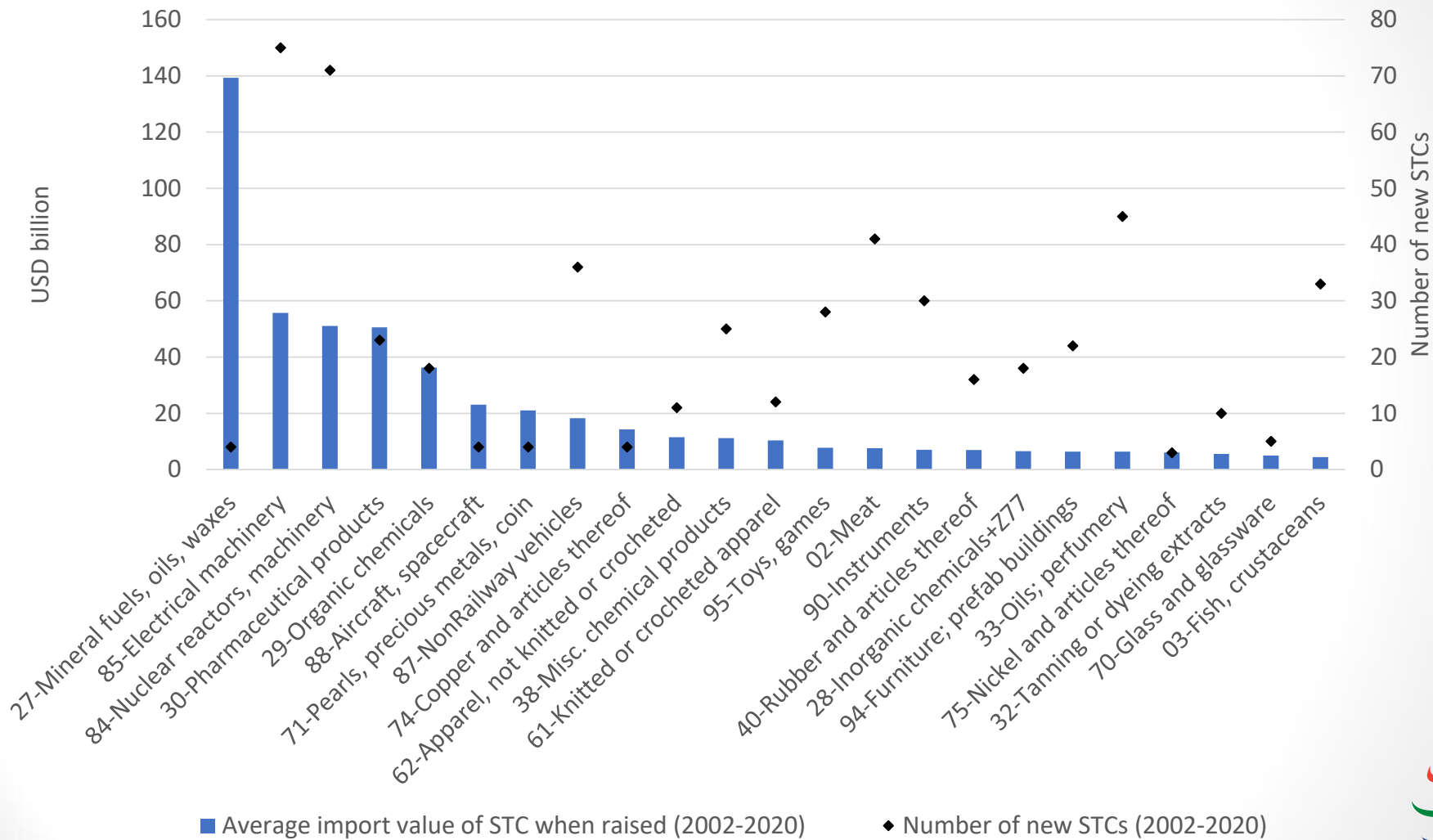


Source: WTO Secretariat analysis



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Which products covered by STCs are most significant in value terms?



Source: WTO Secretariat analysis



Key findings (preliminary)

- on average, an STC raised in the TBT Committee covers **USD 29 billion of imports** in the year it was first raised;
- between 2002-2020, new STCs covered on average **USD 786 billion of imports per year**, representing **5.4% of global imports**.
- between 2002-2020, new and previously-raised STCs together covered on average **USD 2,419 billion of imports per year**, representing **16.7% of global imports**.
- Indication of the important value of trade that may be hindered by regulatory bottlenecks, and for which **cooperation in the TBT Committee could facilitate solutions**



Thank you

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