WTO Trade Monitoring and Surveillance

Sources of information on quantitative restrictions

Geneva, April 2018
Trade Monitoring Background

- Global financial crisis - some countries took measures to restrict trade;

- Recognition of need for institutional mechanism to monitor trade policy developments and trends;

- Regular country-specific TPRs not the answer;

- Since 2008 G20 Leaders have articulated commitments to resist introducing new protectionist measures and roll back existing measures;

- 2008 G20 asked WTO, OECD and UNCTAD to monitor their actions.
Trade Monitoring Background
Origin: global economic crisis

Growth in volume of world merchandise trade and real GDP, 2007-16P (annual % change)
Trade Monitoring Process

Secretariat information-gathering
a year-long process

- Receipt of information from Members' delegations
- Classification of confirmed and un-confirmed information
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Receipt of information from Members' delegations
- Classification of confirmed and un-confirmed information
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Request to Members for relevant information
- Review of the information submitted and collected
- Verification of combined information with Members
- Circulation

JUNE
NOVEMBER
MARCH
SEPTEMBER
Trade Monitoring Process

- Broad coverage of trade and trade-related measures, as well as countries;
  - Trade Monitoring Database (http://tmdb.wto.org/)
  - Growing participation of Members and Observers

- Reports presented and discussed at the TPRB;

- Separate mandate and report for G20. The nature of cooperation with the OECD and UNCTAD respects institutional mandates;

- Key findings and Executive Summary utilized by Ministers and Leaders.
Measures Coverage

- **Trade in goods**
  - Import/Export tariffs, fees, charges, taxes, licensing requirements, quantitative restrictions (quotas, ban), customs rules and formalities, government procurement regulations

- **Trade Remedy** initiations/terminations of investigations/ duties

- **Trade in services**

- **General economic support**

- **Intellectual property measures**
The persistent challenges faced by the international economy in 2016 continue to weigh on international trade flows.

The stock of trade restrictions introduced by WTO Members since 2008 continues to rise and has increased by almost 17% compared to the previous annual Report. Of the 2,978 trade-restrictive measures recorded for WTO Members since 2008, only 740 (25%) had been removed by mid-October 2016.

The number of new trade-restrictive measures being introduced remains worryingly high given continuing global economic uncertainty and the WTO’s downward revision of its trade forecasts, predicting 1.7% world merchandise trade volume growth in 2016, from its earlier forecast of 3.2%, if this...
## Example on QR measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member/Obs Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Imposition of import quotas on steel rebars (HS 72)</td>
<td>Effective January 2016 Press reports (January 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Extension of the import prohibition of worn clothing and other worn articles (HS 63)</td>
<td>Effective 15 May 2017 for 5 years Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (30 May 2017) and Decreto No. 333/2017 Ministerio de Producción (12 May 2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivia, Plurinational State of</td>
<td>Temporary import ban on grapes (HS 08)</td>
<td>Effective 27 January to 27 April 2017 Comunicación Ministerio de Desarollo Rural y Tierras (28 January 2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Elimination of milk quota system (Federal Law of Agriculture, Art. No. 36a)</td>
<td>Effective 1 May 2009 WTO document WT/TPR/OV/12, 18 November 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** TMDB
Thank you!