Session 1: Introduction

Report to SPS Committee on TBT Committee thematic session held on 18-19 June 2019

Serra Ayral, Trade and Environment Division
Where to find TBT transparency information

Provisions and procedures

- **TBT Agreement**
  - Articles 2.9-2.11 – notification/publication of technical regulations
  - Articles 5.6 – 5.8 – notification/publication of conformity assessment procedures
  - Article 10 – Enquiry Points, Notification Authorities, translations, etc.
  - Annex 3, J-P – standards-related transparency obligations
- **Decisions/recommendations adopted since 1995**
  - G/TBT/1/Rev.13, Section 5 on Transparency +
  - Eighth Triennial Review report adopted in November 2018 – G/TBT/41, Section 6 on Transparency

Info/statistics on implementation

- **Annual Review Report** (G/TBT/42, February 2019)
- **TBT IMS / ePing**
Practical guides by the WTO Secretariat
TBT notifications on the rise

Total number of TBT notifications


0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500

TBT notifications on the rise
TBT Eighth Triennial Review recommendations related to transparency *(non-exhaustive)*

- **Functioning of Enquiry Points**
  - validate contact information
  - discuss use of ePing by Enquiry Points and private sector

- **Domestic coordination**
  - discuss good practices, including on engagement with regulators

- **Submission of notifications**
  - practices with SPS/TBT notifications
  - improve product information, HS/ICS codes
  - discuss challenges in identifying deviations from relevant intl standards
TBT Eighth Triennial Review recommendations related to transparency (non-exhaustive)

- **Adopted final texts**
  - recommend to notify adopted final texts; modify addendum format
  - provide website information on where final texts can be accessed

- **Handling of comments**
  - disseminate comments/replies on a voluntary basis, possibly via ePing

- **Technical assistance**
  - develop a good practice guide on how to prepare a comment

- **Thematic sessions**
  - March 2019 – good regulatory practice / coordination (G/TBT/GEN/256)
  - June 2019 – transparency
  - May 2020 - transparency
June thematic session on transparency

- back-to-back with TBT Committee; Webcast; 38 EPs funded by WTO/donors

- Programme in G/TBT/GEN/264/Rev.1; background document in JOB/TBT/320

- 26 presentations under five headings - available on WTO TBT webpage
  General functioning of Enquiry Points (6)
  Tracking and reacting to Members’ measures and notifications, ePing (12)
  Handling of comments (2)
  Establishing whether a measure should be notified under SPS and/or TBT Agreement (4)
  Technical Cooperation (2)

- Break out session
  How to improve the quality and completeness of notifications
  How to engage stakeholders in assessing/responding to notifications
  How to enhance communication between Enquiry Points among Members to reduce trade tensions
June thematic session on transparency-moderator’s summary in G/TBT/GEN/265

- Quality and completeness of notifications
  - Suggestions on closer coordination between SPS/TBT EP; notifying draft measures with SPS/TBT elements to both Committees, ideally at same time, with a cross-reference, for easier tracking
  - Improving Addendum format to know when measures enter into force/where to access

- Stakeholder engagement
  - Using ePing’s alert/national discussion forum functions to reach out to stakeholders
  - Compiling examples on how notifications have led to concrete benefits for stakeholders?

- Communication between Enquiry Points
  - Keeping contact info up to date, providing comprehensive replies to queries
  - Using ePing’s international Enquiry Point discussion forum for ongoing information exchange among EPs – with a view to reducing trade concerns raised in the TBT Committee
Looking ahead

• Follow up to Eighth Triennial Review: Aide-Memoire to keep track of proposals/ideas, including on transparency; revised version forthcoming in JOB/TBT/273/Rev.4

• 26 September informal, 12-14 November formal meetings to continue to discuss specific proposals

• Transparency thematic session, May 2020