SPS/TBT notification alert system ePing
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TBT Thematic Session on Transparency
18-19 June, Geneva, Switzerland
SPS/TBT transparency framework: notifications on the rise!

4,700 SPS/TBT notifications circulated in 2018; how to keep track, engage stakeholders, take action in a timely manner?
ePing: **tool to track and manage notifications**

**SPS/TBT notification alerts**

- Register online
- Enquiry Point Tool

**Communication platform**

- Launched in Nov. 2016
- Publicly available in EN, FR, ES
ePing: timely access to notifications for formulation of comments

Notifying Member

SPS/TBT Notification to WTO Secretariat

Comments in 60 days!

Enquiry Point

Producers/Exporters

Government agencies

Other interested parties

Sector Associations
ePing: steady increase in number of registrations

Cumulative number of registrations on ePing
October 2016 - June 2019

Total: 6,858
15 June 2019
ePing: for both public and private stakeholders, including SMEs

EPING USER CATEGORY

- Government: 44%
- Other (IGO, NGO, academia, other): 9%
- Private sector: 47%

95 TBT Enquiry Points with admin rights
ePing: capacity building and outreach

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<tr>
<th>Members with more than 100 registered users</th>
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<td>Australia (pilot)</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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- Capacity building and outreach key in raising awareness
- Important to secure resources, build partnerships
  - USAID East Africa
  - ISO MENA STAR
- Resources: user guide, film, flyer...
Ongoing efforts to enhance system

Recent changes
- Revised home page
- All notifications since 1995
- Faster loading of data
- More planned, resources permitting

Suggestions welcome!
Complementary factors for drawing maximum benefits from transparency framework and online tools

• Level of compliance with notification obligations
• Quality of information in notifications
• Active engagement/empowerment of Enquiry Points
• Awareness/engagement from the private sector
• Effective national coordination mechanism
• Language/Technical capacity to assess/meet requirements
• Awareness of rights and obligations under SPS/TBT Agreements
• Participation in WTO SPS/TBT Committees
To sum up:

- ePing can serve as a practical tool to manage notifications, facilitate dialogue among stakeholders
- Complementary efforts needed at national level to maximize benefits
- Ongoing resources needed to maintain/improve system and provide capacity building and outreach
- Notifications provide partial picture of global regulatory environment – complementary sources of information from UNCTAD, ITC...