The EU's experience in relation to involving stakeholders (private and public sector) in the processes of tracking and responding to TBT notifications of other Members

TBT Committee, Eighth special meeting on procedures for information exchange, 8 November 2016

Alessandro Polito
European Commission – Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Involvement of industry stakeholders

- Direct contacts with the EU or EU Member States TBT Enquiry Points or Commission departments in charge of trade or specific sectors

- Market Access Advisory Committee meetings (participation of EU Member States and stakeholders)

- Use of the database functions
Number of notifications in recent years

- 2001: 538
- 2002: 581
- 2003: 794
- 2004: 638
- 2005: 770
- 2006: 874
- 2007: 1,031
- 2008: 1,267
- 2009: 1,491
- 2010: 1,467
- 2011: 1,216
- 2012: 1,553
- 2013: 1,605
- 2014: 1,571
- 2015: 1,440
Typical reaction
How to manage this increase?

Hire more people? (continue to handle notifications manually)

OR

Create an IT application?
But also a public website...

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/
Timeframe

**Before 2004**

«paper management »

*only Excel files used for the follow-up*

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**January 2004**

launch of the *management application*

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**June 2004**

launch of the *EC-TBT website*
Why a management application?

- Improve coordination
- Improve document management
- Reduce the number of repetitive tasks.
- Have a clear overview of each notifications
- Ease the follow-up

Be more **efficient** and loose **less time**!
The EU-TBT Public website

- originally targeted to EU economic operators, especially SMEs
- no manual action required to update the website
- provide essential information:
  - general presentation of the TBT Agreement
  - *monthly summaries* and statistics
  - **full access to TBT notifications**, including draft texts (and their translations when available), *comments sent and received*
  - *mailing list subscription*
  - contact and useful links
How our system was made known

- use of existing mailing lists
- presentations in meeting with stakeholders
- in 2013, we even created of a video available on YouTube!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czCILU3pdqk
How our system works – management app.

2x a day, a list of new notifications.
How our system works – public website

Preventing International Trade Barriers

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

In your business, you would certainly anticipate problems in order to avoid them. The same goes for regulatory barriers: if you export a product, you probably prefer to be alerted early about of new technical requirements applying to that product. In the EU, the internal market ensures that products move freely, but what if you are exporting outside the EU, in third countries?

The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade is here to help you:

- It helps EU economic operators to get acquainted with the rules applying to products in third countries (see section 'Impacts on business').
- It allows unnecessary technical obstacles to international trade to be detected and removed at source, often with your contribution (see section 'Making your voice heard').

As from today, you can use our automatic alert system to subscribe to one or more notification categories. TBT will automatically notify you by e-mail as soon as a new notification is released in the categories you selected.

Mailing List

Already a contact? Simply manage your subscription or unsubscribe.

Last update: 10/18/2014
How our system works – mailing list
How our system works – mailing list

Title:
Draft Technical Regulation on the marketing of engineering products in Paraguay (38 pages, in Spanish)

Summary:
The notified draft Technical Regulation applies to all engineering products and establishes the relevant conformity assessment procedures.

Category(ies):
21 - MECHANICAL SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS FOR GENERAL USE
77.020 - Production of metals

We will inform you when the draft text is available on our web site.

More details at the following address:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/ntview.cfm?g=PRY78_EN

TBT Support Team
How our system works – mailing list

A comment, reaction or answer from "United States" has been received.

You may consult the draft text by going to the following address:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/view.cfm?pu=EU_239_EN

TBT Support Team
Website statistics – number of searches

- 2005: 4,854
- 2006: 8,179
- 2007: 10,907
- 2008: 12,302
- 2009: 14,180
- 2010: 15,151
- 2011: 14,898
- 2012: 14,587
- 2013: 14,683
- 2014: 17,982
- 2015: 18,409

Graph showing the number of searches from 2005 to 2015.
Mailing list statistics

- On the 24/10/2016, we have 1 595 subscribers

- Profile:

<table>
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<th>Company</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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Third country notifications
102 EU comments sent in 2015...
EU actors of the procedure

- EU TBT enquiry point
  - Receives third country notifications
  - Informs Commission services concerned and alerts stakeholders through the TBT database
  - Prepares EU comments, in cooperation with services concerned

- Commission services:
  - To screen the notifications (most important/strategic for your sector)
  - To provide technical input
  - To assess comments sent by stakeholders
Stakeholders' contributions
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<th>NBR STK contrib</th>
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http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tbt