WTO - Internal

Trade facilitation beyond the border: The evolving role of mutual recognition instruments

WTO TBT Committee Thematic Session “MRAs across different sectors”

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The evolving role of mutual recognition instruments in facilitating trade

- An updated mapping of MRIs in trade shows that there is an evolving mix of instruments and an increasingly diverse geographical clustering.
- As regards sectoral coverage, there is a strategic shift over the last decade towards more integrative instruments.
- Mechanisms such as joint committees, alert systems, and structured information exchanges could strengthen communication and ensure that parties remain informed about evolving regulatory objectives and implementation progress.
- Limited and weak data availability can hinder effective design and evaluation of MRIs, underscoring the need for greater transparency and evidence-based approaches.
- MRIs and trade facilitation policies often evolve in parallel but appear to be rarely designed in conjunction: few MRIs explicitly reference border procedures, reflecting institutional fragmentation between the agencies responsible for regulatory co-operation and those managing trade facilitation.

Thank you for your attention!



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