

REPORT (2009) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Revision

1. The Committee held its forty-eighth to fiftieth regular meetings on 18-19 March, 25-26 June and 5-6 November 2009, under the Chairmanship of Ms Xueyan Guo (China) and Mr. Aldo (Ami) Levin (Israel).¹
2. At each of the meetings in 2009, the Committee heard statements from a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. In total, since 1995, 118 Members have submitted at least one Statement on implementation and administration under Article 15.2 of the TBT Agreement.
3. New specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement, and the Committee heard exchanges on several trade concerns that have previously been raised (G/TBT/GEN/74/Rev.3).
4. During the reporting period, the Committee continued the exchange of experiences on issues arising from the operation and implementation of the Agreement, including: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, transparency and technical assistance. In particular, the TBT Committee explored, in 2009, the subject of standards. With a view to deepening its understanding of how the use of international standards and conformity assessment systems facilitates the conduct of international trade, the Committee held, on 16-17 March 2009, a Workshop on the Role of International Standards in Economic Development.²
5. At its meeting on 18-19 March 2009, the Committee adopted its report of the Fourteenth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/25). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the Fourteenth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in the period under review (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.13), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1 January 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.15) and the Fourteenth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.
6. At its meeting on 5-6 November 2009, the Committee concluded the Fifth Triennial Review (G/TBT/26). The Review addressed: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, standards, transparency, technical assistance, and the operation of the committee. The TBT Committee also carried out the Eighth Annual Transitional Review mandated in the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China (G/TBT/27).

¹ G/TBT/M/47-49.

² A report by the Secretariat (G/TBT/W/310) provides a summary of key points and issues that arose from the presentations and discussions during the Workshop. The full presentations made by speakers are available on the WTO TBT Website (http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news09_e/tbt_16mar09_e.htm).