



CHINA – CATALOGUE OF SOLID WASTES FORBIDDEN TO IMPORT INTO CHINA

STATEMENT BY CHINA TO THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE 20 AND 21 JUNE 2018

The following communication, dated 4 July 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of China.

1. Ever since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee, with Xi Jinping at its core, has been pushing for ecological progress and pro-actively practicing the values of "sustainable development" and "green development" in order to meet the Chinese people's ever-growing need for a beautiful eco-environment, aiming to solve significant outstanding environmental problems. Advancing the reform of the solid waste import administration regime is one of the most important steps that the Chinese government has taken to implement the New Development Ideas, safeguard the eco-environment safety and population health.

2. Solid waste treatment and disposal is a shared environmental issue faced by all members around the world. In accordance with the internationally recognized principles of "waste generator responsibility" and "disposal to the nearest", each member has the obligation to dispose of domestically generated solid wastes. China, as a developing member with the largest population, must make the inevitable choice of restricting and prohibiting imports of solid waste, whilst improving domestic solid waste treatment and disposal. While China still welcomes the normal trade flow of raw materials processed from solid waste, the import of solid waste will be strictly controlled and regulated in order to safeguard eco-environment safety and population health.

3. At present, China is seeking a path towards modernization that ensures the harmonious co-existence of men and nature. To that aim and with the objective to build a beautiful China, China will continue to pro-actively practice the values of "sustainable development" and "green development", to unswervingly advance the reform of the solid waste import administration regime, and push forward the ecological reform. In the process of adjusting relevant policies, the Chinese government will take into full consideration the calls from the domestic and international communities, coordinate economic growth and environmental protection, balance trade and non-trade interests, safeguard a smooth policy transition, and fulfill the transparency obligation under the WTO.

4. Over past decades, companies from many other WTO members have exported huge volumes of solid waste to China and obtained enormous economic benefits. We sincerely hope that these members could actively shoulder their international social responsibility while taking these advantages, and make due contribution to the improvement of environmental and health issues worldwide.

5. We believe the most important thing for now is that all members – not only China, but also the rest of the world, should reduce, process, and recycle hazardous wastes and other wastes produced within their own borders. With this consensus and based on this condition, many problems could be better solved and mutual understanding could be developed. It will also contribute to the global promotion of a green, low-carbon and recycling development mode, and the creation of a clean, beautiful world.
