

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

(2003)

1. The Committee held its thirtieth to thirty-second meetings on 20 March, 2 July and 7 November, respectively (G/TBT/M/29-31) under the Chairmanship of Ms. Emily Earl (New Zealand) and Mr. Juan Antonio Dorantes Sanchez (Mexico). At those meetings, the Committee heard statements by a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. Several measures were brought to the attention of the Committee by Members who raised concerns about the potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement of those measures.
2. At its thirtieth meeting, the Committee carried out the Eighth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/12), and the Eighth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 of the Agreement) based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in 2002 (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.7), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1 January 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.9) and the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory (eighth edition).
3. The Committee continued the work arising from the Second Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement held in November 2000 (G/TBT/9), including the development of a demand-driven TBT-related technical cooperation programme. With the objectives of further developing that programme and providing an opportunity for information exchange, a special workshop on technical assistance was held on 18 March 2003 (Annex A of G/TBT/M/29).
4. The Committee initiated the preparation for the Third Triennial Review at the beginning of this year, and concluded the Review at its thirty-second meeting (see attached the report of the Review).
5. Other activities of the Committee include: the annual transitional review mandated in the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China carried out at its thirty-second meeting, and a Learning Event on Labelling held on 21-22 October.
6. The ALADI, ISO and the World Bank updated the Committee on their activities and provided information on the ways they sought to ensure effective participation of Members, and in particular of developing country Members, in their activities.
7. Representatives of the ACP, ALADI, EFTA, FAO, IEC, IMF, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIE, OIML, UNCTAD, UN/ECE, UNIDO, WHO, WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.