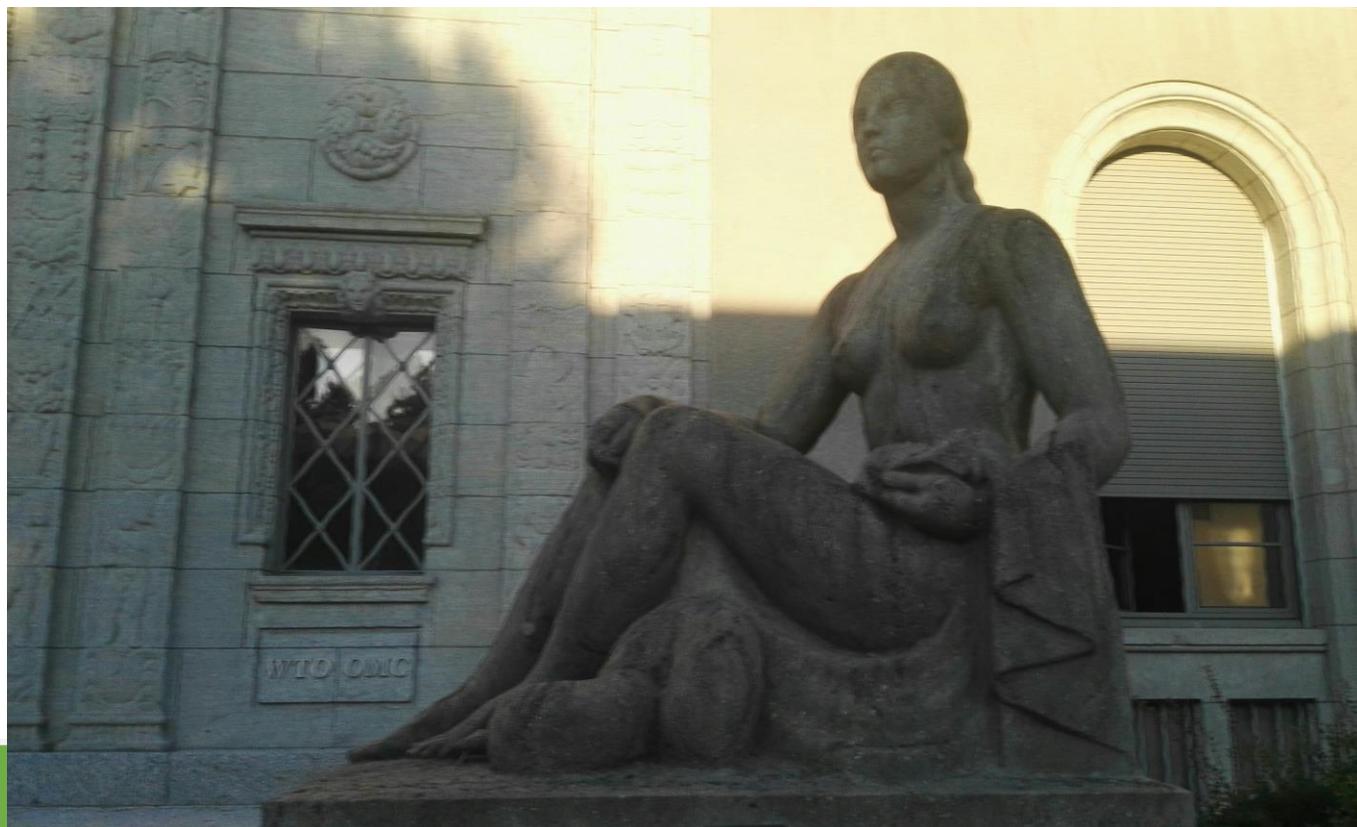




Eighty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization



2018

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This note outlines the main points discussed during the Eighty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) took part in the meeting in an observer capacity.

At its regular meetings, the Committee on Agriculture monitors WTO member country compliance with the commitments established in the Agreement on Agriculture. Delegates from the countries review and discuss the trade measures about which the WTO has been notified under the agreement, as well as other matters that fall within the Committee's purview, such as compliance with notifications related to agriculture. The meeting was held from 11-12 June 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

1. Matters addressed during the meeting

This document highlights some of the points discussed at the meeting that are of special significance to the IICA and WTO member countries. They include trade measure notifications related to market access, export competition and domestic supports, and others matters covered by the Agreement on Agriculture, such as the countries' compliance with notifications and follow-up to the ministerial decisions on agriculture adopted at the Bali (2013) and Nairobi (2015) ministerial conferences.



1.1. Notifications on agriculture

Three IICA Member States (Brazil, Canada and the United States) raised concerns about measures that had been the subject of notifications related to export subsidies, domestic supports¹ and market access. Furthermore, Brazil, Canada, the United States and Suriname responded to specific questions raised by other WTO members (Table 1).

The products most discussed by the countries of the Americas were dairy products, soybeans, cotton and wine. The issue on which the discussions focused the most was that of domestic supports.

Table 1. Matters raised by members relevant to the implementation of agricultural commitments

Countries the matter was raised by	Country with which the matter was raised	Matter involved
United States	Indonesia	Import restrictions on horticultural products
Canada	United States	Commodity Credit Corporation Funds
United States and New Zealand	Brazil	Domestic support programs
Australia, New Zealand and United States	Canada	New milk ingredient class
New Zealand and United States	Canada	Wine sale policy
Canada and United States	India	Pulses policies
United States	Indonesia	Dairy import system
United States	Indonesia	Soybean imports
United States	Pakistan	Wheat import subsidies
United States	Russian Federation	Railway subsidy for exports
United States	Suriname	Poultry tariffs
Canada	United States	Dairy product policies
Brazil	United States	Support for the cotton sector

Source: Eighty-seventh Regular Meeting of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, June 2018.

The meeting also discussed the notifications submitted by six IICA Member States (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States) in response to questions raised about notifications involving tariff quotas, domestic support and export subsidies (Table 2).

Table 2. Matters raised in connection with agricultural notifications

Country with which the matter was raised	Matter involved in the notification
Canada	Administration of tariffs and other quota commitments
Canada	Imports under tariff quota commitments
Chile	Imports under tariff quota commitments
United States	Imports under tariff quota commitments
Brazil	Domestic support commitment
Guatemala	Domestic support commitment
Mexico	Domestic support commitment
United States	Domestic support commitment
Canada	Export subsidies

Source: Eighty-seventh Regular Meeting of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, June 2018.

¹ Under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, all domestic support for agricultural producers is rules-based. There are basically two types of domestic support: measures that do not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion (known as green box measures); and trade-distorting supports (known as amber box measures). In WTO terminology, subsidies in general are identified by "boxes" given the colors of traffic lights: green (permitted), amber (slow down/need to be reduced), and red (forbidden).

1.2. Other matters

The important matters that the Committee on Agriculture addressed at the meeting included the following:

1. The Secretariat presented a report on export subsidies, export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programs, international food aid and agricultural exporting state trading enterprises, under the terms of the 2013 Bali Decision on export competition. The first and second specific annual dedicated discussions on the subject took place on 5 June 2014 and 4 June 2015, respectively, during the regular meetings of the Committee on Agriculture, based on a background paper prepared by the Secretariat that presented information compiled from the pertinent notifications from the members, which was accompanied by a questionnaire on export competition distributed by the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture.
2. The meeting studied the United States' counter-notification regarding India's market price support measures for wheat and rice.
3. The meeting considered the submission from the European Union to the Committee on Agriculture on the Process for the Review of the Operation of the Bali Decision on Tariff Rate Quota Administration.
4. Finally, the meeting discussed the document containing responses to the questions raised by members in the annual dedicated discussion on export competition, in which 71 questions were put to 31 members, including the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia and the United States.

Institutional contact points

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