



Eighty-ninth 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-ninth Regular Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held on 26 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. 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.

1. Matters discussed 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

On this occasion, the meeting discussed India's domestic support measures for several agricultural products, such as sugar. The countries that raised this concern were those of the European Union, supported by the United States, Colombia and Guatemala. The products about which countries in the Americas raised concerns were poultry, dairy products, wine, legumes, rice, wheat and tobacco.

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	Ghana	Poultry imports
United States	India	Dairy loans Whey milk powder duty
United States	Japan	Export subsidies
Australia, New Zealand, United States	Canada	New milk ingredient class
New Zealand, United States	Canada	Wine sale policy
Australia, Canada, United States	India	Pulses and legume policy
United States	Canada	Wine sale policy
Australia, Canada, and United States	India	Pulses policy
United States	India	Skim milk powder export subsidies
Australia and United States	Korea	Rice imports
United States	Pakistan	Wheat export subsidies
United States	Suriname	Poultry tariffs
United States	Thailand	Import permits for feed wheat
Canada	United States	Dairy policies
Australia, India	United States	Proposed domestic support measures
United States	Zimbabwe	Tobacco export incentive

Source: Eighty-ninth Regular Meeting of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, September 2018.

The meeting also discussed the notifications submitted by four IICA Member States (Canada, Ecuador, Panama and Suriname) involving tariff quotas, and

Table 2. M

Country with which the matter was raised
Canada, United States
Panama
Canada
Ecuador
United States

Source: E



Finally, there was a round of questions and answers. Ministerial decisions on India's export subsidies and loans, and Turkey's food aid.

1.2. Other matters

- IICA presented its contribution on food security to the Marrakesh Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (document G/AG/GEN/148). The members of the WTO also renewed the Institute's status as an observer organization to the Committee on Agriculture.
- The Secretariat presented a note on the importance of the monitoring and review of members' obligations established in the Bali Decision on Tariff Rate Quota Administration; and another on the proposed process for the review of the operation of this Decision.
- The submission from the European Union to the Committee on Agriculture on the abovementioned process was reviewed.
- The Cairns Group submitted the "Understanding on Tariff Rate Quota Administration Provisions of Agricultural Products" for the review of the operation of the Bali Ministerial Decision to the Eighty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, held in June 2018.
- The Secretariat prepared a background paper entitled "Tariff quota administration methods and fill rates 2007–2016."
- The meeting studied Norway's submission on the need for a review, after 23 years, of document G/AG/2 on agricultural notification requirements and formats, as well as Australia's submission on the review of the operation of the Bali Decision on Tariff Rate Quota Administration.
- The meeting reviewed the Understanding on Tariff Rate Quota Administration Provisions of Agricultural Products, as defined in Article 2 of the Agreement on Agriculture - Ministerial Decision of 7 December 2013 taken during the Ninth Session - Bali, 3-6 December 2013.
- The next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture will be held in February 2019. The notifications and their subject matter can be studied in the WTO Ag-IMS system.

Institutional contact points

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