

SPS Workshop on Transparency and Coordination 15-16 July 2019

Session 1: Introduction

Report to SPS Committee on TBT Committee thematic
session held on 18-19 June 2019

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Where to find TBT transparency information

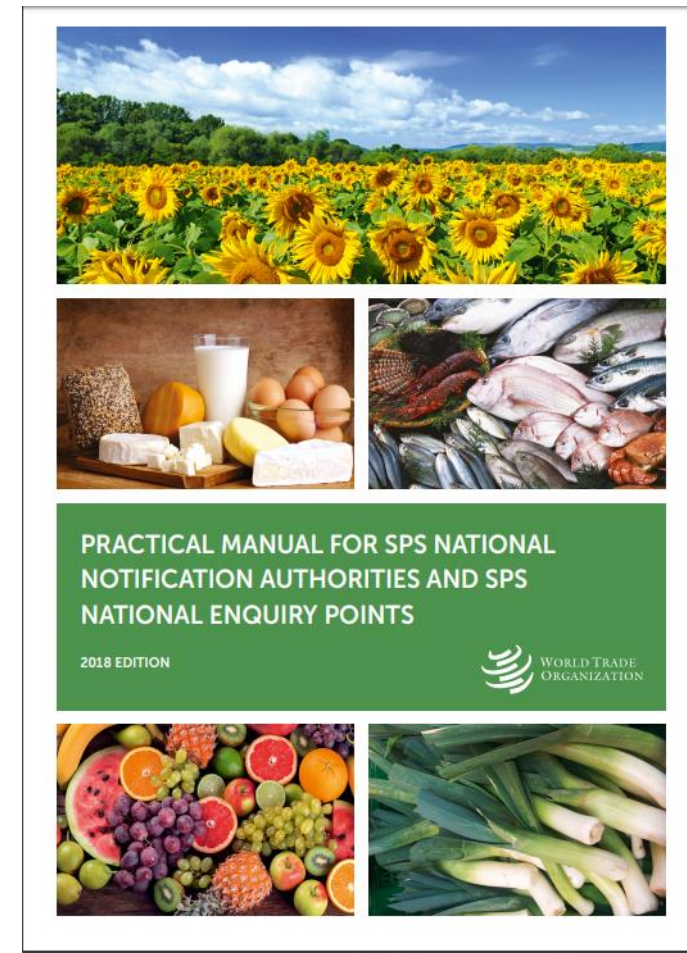
Provisions and procedures

- ***TBT Agreement***
 - *Articles 2.9-2.11 – notification/publication of technical regulations*
 - *Articles 5.6 – 5.8 – notification/publication of conformity assessment procedures*
 - *Article 10 – Enquiry Points, Notification Authorities, translations, etc.*
 - *Annex 3, J-P – standards-related transparency obligations*
- ***Decisions/recommendations adopted since 1995***
 - *G/TBT/1/Rev.13, Section 5 on Transparency +*
 - *Eighth Triennial Review report adopted in November 2018 – G/TBT/41, Section 6 on Transparency*

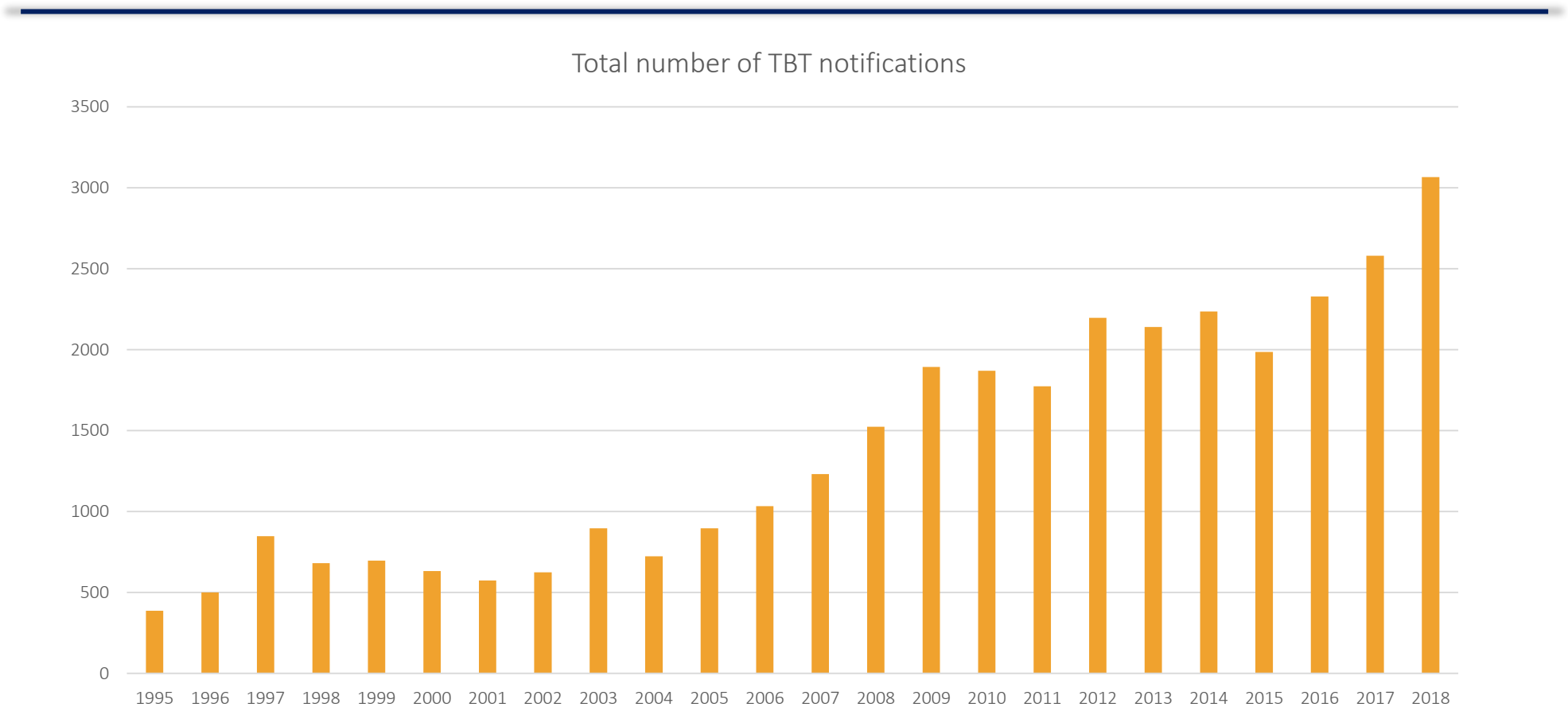
Info/statistics on implementation

- ***Annual Review Report (G/TBT/42, February 2019)***
- ***TBT IMS / ePing***

Practical guides by the WTO Secretariat



TBT notifications on the rise



TBT Eighth Triennial Review recommendations related to transparency (*non-exhaustive*)

- **Functioning of Enquiry Points**
 - validate contact information
 - discuss use of ePing by Enquiry Points and private sector
- **Domestic coordination**
 - discuss good practices, including on engagement with regulators
- **Submission of notifications**
 - practices with SPS/TBT notifications
 - improve product information, HS/ICS codes
 - discuss challenges in identifying deviations from relevant intl standards

TBT Eighth Triennial Review recommendations related to transparency (*non-exhaustive*)

- **Adopted final texts**
 - recommend to notify adopted final texts; modify addendum format
 - provide website information on where final texts can be accessed
- **Handling of comments**
 - disseminate comments/replies on a voluntary basis, possibly via ePing
- **Technical assistance**
 - develop a good practice guide on how to prepare a comment
- **Thematic sessions**
 - March 2019 – good regulatory practice / coordination (G/TBT/GEN/256)
 - June 2019 – transparency
 - May 2020 - transparency

June thematic session on transparency

- back-to-back with TBT Committee; [Webcast](#) ; 38 EPs funded by WTO/donors
- Programme in G/TBT/GEN/264/Rev.1; background document in JOB/TBT/320
- 26 presentations under five headings - available on [WTO TBT webpage](#)
 - General functioning of Enquiry Points (6)
 - Tracking and reacting to Members' measures and notifications, ePing (12)
 - Handling of comments (2)
 - Establishing whether a measure should be notified under SPS and/or TBT Agreement (4)
 - Technical Cooperation (2)
- Break out session
 - How to improve the quality and completeness of notifications
 - How to engage stakeholders in assessing/responding to notifications
 - How to enhance communication between Enquiry Points among Members to reduce trade tensions

June thematic session on transparency- moderator's summary in G/TBT/GEN/265

- Quality and completeness of notifications
 - Suggestions on closer coordination between SPS/TBT EP; notifying draft measures with SPS/TBT elements to both Committees, ideally at same time, with a cross-reference, for easier tracking
 - Improving Addendum format to know when measures enter into force/where to access
- Stakeholder engagement
 - Using ePing's alert/national discussion forum functions to reach out to stakeholders
 - Compiling examples on how notifications have led to concrete benefits for stakeholders?
- Communication between Enquiry Points
 - Keeping contact info up to date, providing comprehensive replies to queries
 - Using ePing's international Enquiry Point discussion forum for ongoing information exchange among EPs – with a view to reducing trade concerns raised in the TBT Committee

Looking ahead

- Follow up to Eighth Triennial Review: Aide-Memoire to keep track of proposals/ideas, including on transparency; revised version forthcoming in JOB/TBT/273/Rev.4
- 26 September informal, 12-14 November formal meetings to continue to discuss specific proposals
- Transparency thematic session, May 2020