

In a keynote speech to the 23rd Assembly of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations on 11 October, the Director-General said that “the public is holding their governments to account for the expectations that’s globalization has raised on a much wider scale – that an increasingly wealthy and prosperous world should be making faster progress towards broadly-based economic development, reducing poverty, and achieving international social and environmental goals” .

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[African Union urges trading powers to quickly restart negotiations](#)

The Chairman of the African Union, President Denis Sassou N’Guesso of Congo, in a statement issued on 27 October, urged “all WTO Members, and in particular the G-6, to break the current deadlock”. He added that “for millions of our citizens, the Doha Development Agenda represents the hope of improving their living standards and freeing themselves from absolute poverty” .

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[Working party completes Viet Nam’s membership talks](#)

WTO members negotiating the terms of Viet Nam’s membership

TRADE POLICY REVIEW [back to top](#)**East African Community: Economic progress, but continuation of reform is still needed**

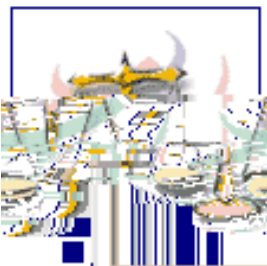
The Trade Policy Review Body examined the trade policies and practices of the East African Community (EAC), composed of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda on 25 and 27 October. The EAC members have continued their economic reform programmes over the last few years aimed at addressing key challenges, notably poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and development, and full integration into the world economy, according to a WTO Secretariat report on the trade policies and practices of the East African Community. The report notes that further liberalization of trade and investment, driven both by their commitments in the WTO, and by their participation in regional trade agreements, have been major features in this process. But the report also adds that EAC countries' membership in overlapping trade arrangements makes their trade regime complex, difficult to manage, and is likely to limit the proper functioning of the EAC as a customs union. According to the report, more attention needs to be paid to non-tariff measures in the full establishment of the EAC customs union (its free-trade-area and common trade-measure components). In addition, continued structural reforms and additional trade liberalization by EAC members would contribute to better resource allocation.

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Kyrgyz Republic: Impressive progress but continued reform remains important

The Trade Policy Review Body reviewed the Kyrgyz Republic's trade policies and practices on 9 and 11 October. The country has made impressive progress since its economic and political transition to a market-based economy, with farm reform, price deregulation, financial sector liberalization and significant state privatization that have helped the country face various setbacks such as the Asian and Russian economic crisis of the late 1990s, according to a WTO Secretariat report on the trade policies and practices of the Kyrgyz Republic. The report says that some structural reforms remain unfinished and that it would be important for the Kyrgyz Republic to diversify its economy into manufacturing and services and soften the country's vulnerable reliance on mining (gold) and agriculture.

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DISPUTE SETTLEMENT [back to top](#)**DSB sets up panels to examine disputes on auto parts, shrimp and steel**

At its meeting on 26 October, the Dispute Settlement Body established three panels to examine, respectively, China's measures on auto parts, US measures on shrimp from Thailand, and US anti-dumping measures on steel from Mexico. Also at the meeting, the US blocked the first-time request by India for a panel to examine the US customs bond directive, and, under Other Business, Brazil expressed concern at the "terrible precedent" set during the process to compose the compliance panel in the "cotton" case.

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number of delegations, the item will remain on the CTD's agenda.

Under the agenda item concerning the Hong Kong Decision to provide duty-free and quota free (DFQF) market access for LDCs, Bangladesh made a statement on behalf of the LDC Group outlining the Group's view that the appropriate forum to discuss the Decision at this point in time was the CTD in Special Session. Under the same agenda item, Korea informed the Committee that it was working on expanding its provision of DFQF market access to LDCs, and the US and Japan confirmed that their domestic processes to implement the Decision were ongoing and on schedule.

The Chairman proposed that the CTD's discussion of the developmental aspects of the negotiations under paragraph 51 of the Doha Declaration be temporarily put on hold, in view of the suspension of the negotiations. The Committee will consider how to proceed with this agenda item at its last meeting of the year.

The Committee appointed Ambassador Jean Feyder (Luxembourg) as Chairman of the Sub Committee on Least-Developed Countries.

[International bodies join forces to advise OIE animal health and welfare fund](#)

Lamy fields 150 questions from around the world in online chat

Nearly a hundred participants from around the world posed some 150 questions in an online chat hosted by Director-General Lamy on 18 October. Questions touched on the prospects for the resumption of the Doha Round, the possible impact of failure, and the future of the WTO.
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contact us : World Trade Organization, rue de Lausanne 154, CH-1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland