



EU approach to Special and Differential Treatment and TBT-related Technical Assistance

WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
Geneva, 29 October 2013

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Outline

- Integrating the development dimension in the rule-making process
- Approach to TBT-related technical assistance (EU and its Member States)



Special and Differential Treatment

Integrating the development dimension in the rule-making process

Impact Assessment Guidelines

SEC(2009) 92 of 15 January 2009

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index_en.htm

Impacts on third countries and international relations (pp. 35-42 of the Guidelines and its Annex 8.8 – "Impacts on developing countries")

International impacts

- **Trade relations with third countries**– Analyse how different groups (foreign and domestic businesses and consumers) are affected, and help to identify options which do not create unnecessary barriers
- **Impact on EU's WTO obligations**
- **Impacts on developing countries** – Coherence of proposed initiatives with the objectives of the EU development policy. Analysis of economic, social and environmental impacts.

Economic impact on developing countries

- Does the option affect **developing countries at different stages of development** (least developed and other low-income and middle income countries) in a different manner?
- Does the option impose **adjustment costs** on developing countries?
- Does the option affect **goods or services** that are **produced or consumed by developing countries**?

Social impact in developing countries

- Does the option have a **social impact** on third countries that would be **relevant for** overarching EU policies, such as **development policy**?
- Does it **affect international obligations** and commitments of the EU arising from e.g. the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement or the Millennium Development Goals?
- Does it **increase poverty** in developing countries or have an **impact on income** of the poorest populations?

Environmental impact in developing countries

- Does the option have an impact on the environment in third countries that would be relevant for overarching EU policies, such as development policy?

Impact indicators

- GDP growth
- GDP per capita
- Current account balances
- Business climate
- Macroeconomic stability
- Terms of trade
- Export revenue,
- Tax revenue
- Inflation rates
- Social and environmental: Millennium Development Goal indicators (health, education, food security, environment...)



CASE STUDY

Review of the EU legislation on organic production and labelling of organic products (Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007)

- The revision involves an impact assessment study (economic, social and environmental impacts)
- The European Commission organised three hearings of experts in order to analyse the situation of the sector
- Dedicated hearing on **“International trade in organic products and global issues”** (20 and 21 November 2012 – participation of third country governments and industry associations in third countries)
- Public stakeholder consultation 15 Jan – 10 April 2013
- More at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/legislation_en#issg



Review of EU legislation on organic production

Issues being addressed

- EU imports and exports: volumes and value
- Origins and destinations: countries + regions
- Price considerations
- Type of products
- Employment
- Controls, certification, accreditation, equivalence vs compliance
- Results/impacts for operators, stakeholders, consumers, Member States' and third countries' administrations, Commission
- Positive/negative points of current framework

EU TBT-related Technical Assistance

- **Specific regional / bilateral TA frameworks** anchored in relevant trade and partnership agreements. Support for priorities identified in regulatory cooperation dialogues.
- **Coherence and coordination EU-Member States and with international initiatives** – Integration **with other donors'** activities
- **Demand-driven:** identification of needs and ownership by the beneficiary countries


EU TBT-related Technical Assistance

- **Build lasting infrastructures** enabling better participation in the international trading system and more effective implementation of TBT Agreement
 - **E.g. quality infrastructure and related institutions, ability to participate in international standard-setting, TBT notification and enquiry points, training on compliance with specific technical regulations (e.g. REACH, toys, etc.)**
- **Regional dimension - Support for regional cooperation / integration** initiatives
 - Regional internal markets based on harmonised requirements



Identification of needs – Planning – Programme / Project preparation and implementation

**The partner country is closely involved throughout
the process**

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- Strategy (regional / country-specific)
 - Action plan

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- Financing Agreement
 - Programming Document

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- Implementation of Programme / Projects
 - Evaluation



CASE STUDY

ACP-EU TBT Programme

- Estimated cost and European Development Fund financial contribution: Approx. 15,000,000 EUR
- Beneficiaries: no contribution
- Period of execution: Feb 2012 – Feb 2019 (84 months - 60 months implementation phase and 24 months closure phase)
- Dedicated website: <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/home/>



ACP-EU TBT Programme Priorities

- Establishing or strengthening the capacity of existing **standardization** bodies
- Establishing or strengthening existing **conformity assessment** bodies
- Promoting **export business productivity**
- Sharing knowledge and best practices among ACP states

Beneficiaries

- All ACP states
- Quality and regulatory infrastructure institutions
- Regional organisations
- Relevant government ministries and departments
- Civil society and private sector organisations
- Other relevant stakeholders

Areas of interventions

- Support to **quality infrastructure** institutions
- Support to **economic operators** and **export sectors**
- Support to **dissemination of results/experiences within the ACP Region**



Coordination with other European Development Fund- supported programmes such as:

- **The Centre for the Development of Enterprise** – implementation of private-sector development strategies by providing non-financial services to ACP companies and business
- **The European Investment Bank – Investment facility** – biggest source of investment finance in Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Programme initiative Pesticides** – maintaining EU market access for producers and exporter of ACP countries in the face of changing regulator and market requirements
- Etc.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!