

Dear all,

附件

Continuing to build on our previous efforts, we are once again planning to conduct an informal discussion group session in April during the week of the WTO Committee on Safeguards meeting.

As a result, we would like to invite you to an informal discussion group session to take place immediately following the April meeting of the WTO Committee on Safeguards. Specifically, this informal discussion group would take place at 15.00 (subject to changes in the schedule of the Committee meeting) in the same room as the Committee meeting. This session would be chaired by the European Union. We suggest that the topics of discussion be (1) if needed, continuation of the discussion as to what the investigating authorities examine/take into account when they evaluate whether to invoke **critical circumstances and the imposition of provisional measures** (Article 6), and (2) taking a step back from the individual phases of an investigation and **examining the investigatory and related processes as a whole**. On this latter topic, some discussion items to be presented may include:

- The structure of an investigation (i.e., each of the events that take place during the course of an investigation, starting with receipt of a petition) (both statutory/regulatory and discretionary elements);
- Establishment of timelines for the numerous phases of an investigation (e.g., notices to interested parties, release of and responses to questionnaires, opportunities for interested parties to comment, general internal deadlines during analysis phase, release of pertinent facts and conclusions, hearings, consultations, final determination phase (including additional review by higher/review bodies before a decision can become effective, if needed));
- Comparison of investigatory structure with other phases related to a measure (e.g., deadlines with regard to application of a measure, timelines in interim reviews or reviews to extend a measure).
- For the relevant elements above, execution of a process for making the required WTO notifications (e.g., initiation of an investigation, application of provisional measures, finding of serious injury or threat thereof, determination to apply or extend a measure).

As with prior sessions, the purpose of this discussion group should be to freely share information on the practices of each Member when conducting a safeguard investigation.

In order to ensure that the meeting is most fruitful and informative, we encourage all Members to actively participate, preferably with capital-based experts having day-to-day experience in the topic. Please note that the language of the meeting will be English as unfortunately no interpretation can be provided.

We would be grateful to receive a response concerning your participation not later than **16 April 2014**.

Best regards,
W.

Wolfgang MUELLER
Head of Unit



European Commission

DG TRADE

Unit H5

N105 05/083

B-1049 Brussels/Belgium

+32 2 29 63010

wolfgang.mueller@ec.europa.eu