



European
Union

MISSION TO THE
WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

The Role of Transparency in Trade-Related Regulations

*UNCTAD, Non-Tariff Measures Week
25 September 2017*





NTMs, a key challenge in world trade

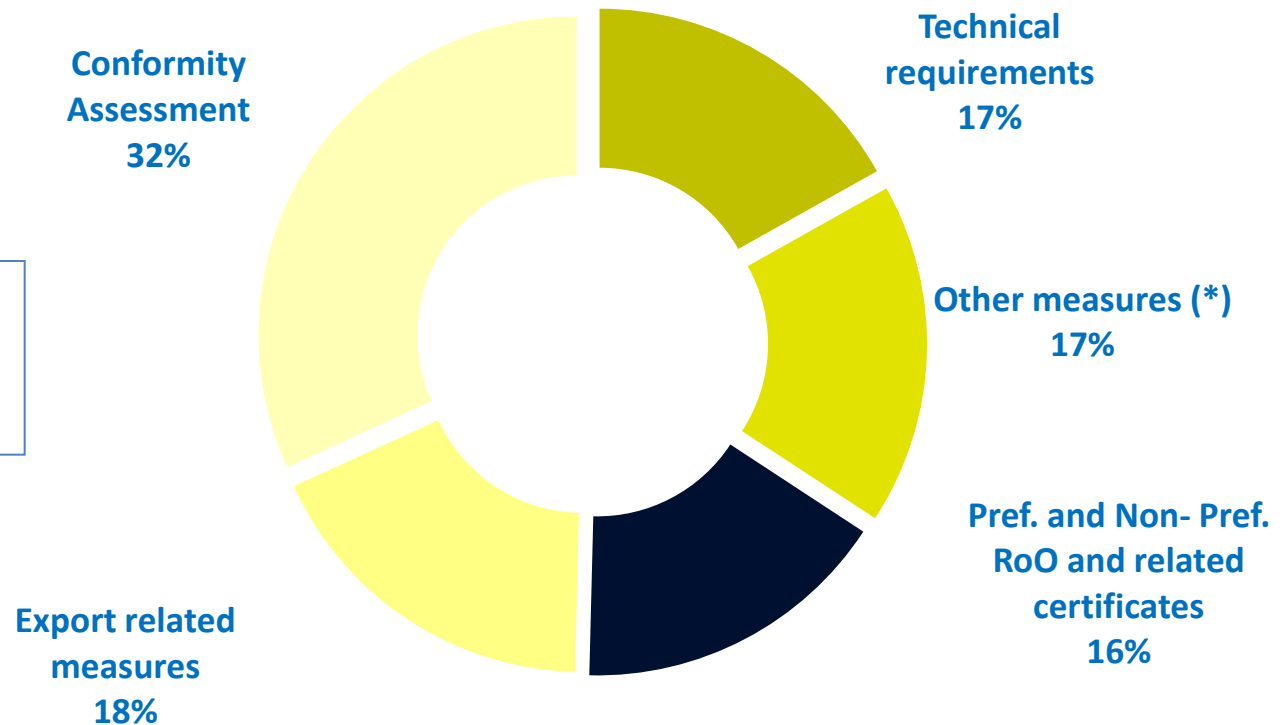
- **NTMs tend to matter more than tariffs:**
 - LDCs only face an ad valorem tariff of 0.15 %,
 - developing countries on average just 0.63 %.
- **NTM impact is greater for companies exporting from landlocked least developed countries (LLDCs) (*ITC Business surveys*)**
- **Main obstacles to trade perceived by SMEs in developing countries (*WTO World Trade report 2016*):**
 - (i) poor access to information (working of foreign markets, accessing export distribution channels, contacting overseas customers, etc.);
 - (ii) costly requirements (product standards, certification procedures) and lack of information about these requirements;
 - (iii) burdensome procedures; and
 - (iv) poor access to finance.





ITC-European Commission Business Survey in the EU (2016) on EU companies' experiences with NTMs

**NTMs raised by
EU exporters
by type**



(*) Other Measures correspond to Pre-shipment inspections (8%), Quality control measures (3%), Trade Remedies (0.6%), Charges, taxes and price controls (2.7%), Finance measures (1.4%), Anti-competitive measures (0.5%), Trade related investment measures (0.1%), Distribution restrictions (0.3%), Restrictions on post-sales services (0.2%), Subsidies (0.1%), Government procurement restrictions (0.4%), Intellectual property (0.2%)



ITC-European Commission Business Survey in the EU (2016) on EU companies' experiences with NTMs

- SMEs trade less products, with less countries but they have a higher incidence of issues
- ✓ Micro and small companies have a higher average number of NTMs per transaction compared to Medium and large ones
- Exports to developed economies appear to be less hampered by NTMs than exports to transition and developing economies





What is the EU Trade Helpdesk? tradehelpdesk.europa.eu

- A website on **how to export to the EU**
- A source of **information** on EU import duties, product requirements, rules of origin, internal taxes and trade statistics
- A **database** on trade in goods
- Usable **free of charge**, without registration formalities
- Available in **English, French, Spanish and Portuguese**

... A revamped Trade Helpdesk on Tuesday 26 September!





What can you find on the Trade Helpdesk website?

- **EU product requirements** for goods imported to or circulating on the EU single market (health, safety, technical standards, marketing standards)
- **EU custom duties, duty discounts**, quota database
- **How to benefit from reduced duties** – the rules and proofs of origin according to trade agreements or preferential schemes
- **Who to contact for advice**
- Competent authorities, customs offices, chambers of commerce in EU countries
- **Trade statistics**
- All recent trade flows – product by product, country by country





Ministerial Decision on Facilitating SME Trade: Transparency of Regulatory Measures on Trade in Goods

*Proposal by Australia, the European Union, Hong Kong China,
Singapore and Chinese Taipei (TN/MA/W/144/Rev.2)*

Following intensive consultations, a streamlined two-step proposal :

- Step 1: Transparency disciplines for MC11
- Step 2: Work programme on Good Regulatory Practices for Post-MC11





Transparency disciplines

- **Modernise domestic publication:** Availability of information via the internet (*Article 3*)
- **Close the gap on notifications:** Notification of final TBT and SPS measures (*Article 4*)
- **Build a repository / web portal:** One-stop shop information for exporters (*Article 5*)
- **Improve consultation:** Enable SMEs and other operators to input to the development of major regulatory measures (*Article 6*)





Transparency / Good regulatory Practices Work Programme (*Article 10*)

(...) developing further provisions relating to transparency of regulatory measures (...):

- publication of **regulatory agendas**;
- **early information** on regulatory measures;
- regulatory **impact assessments** for major regulatory measures;
- the **evaluation and review** of existing regulatory measures.





Thank you

Paolo.garzotti@eeas.europa.eu

