



30 October 2015

**REPORTS ON G20
TRADE AND INVESTMENT MEASURES¹
(MID-MAY TO MID-OCTOBER 2015)**

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We are pleased to submit our reports on G-20 trade and investment measures ahead of the G-20 Leaders Summit on 15-16 November in Antalya, Turkey. At their meeting in Brisbane, Australia one year ago, G-20 Leaders reaffirmed their standstill pledge with respect to measures affecting global trade and investment and their commitment to roll back new protectionist measures. They mandated WTO, OECD and UNCTAD to monitor and to report publicly on their adherence to these commitments. Our reports delivered today under this mandate cover trade and investment measures implemented in the period from mid-May to mid-October 2015.

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Attachments: Joint Summary on G-20 trade and investment measures
 Trade report
 Investment report
 Summary of trade and trade-related measures taken since October 2008
 (made available separately)

Joint Summary on G-20 Trade and Investment Measures

We recall that G-20 Leaders, at their last Summit in Brisbane, Australia on 15-16 November 2014, provided a comprehensive and detailed message in support of the role of free trade and investment in the pursuit of strong, sustainable and balanced global growth. Their call for a strong and effective multilateral trading system which responds to current and future challenges also recognized trade and investment as powerful drivers of growth, increased living standards and job creation. G-20 Leaders placed trade and investment at the centre of their growth strategies and reaffirmed their standstill and rollback commitments to resist protectionism.

During the reporting period between mid-May and mid-October 2015, the rate of trade-restrictive measures newly imposed by G-20 economies has remained stable compared to the previous reporting period. At the same time, G-20 members introduced the lowest number of trade liberalizing measures since November 2013. More encouragingly, the number of trade remedy investigations by G-20 economies has fallen significantly during this reporting period. These mixed developments show that, although G-20 members are eliminating some of their trade-restrictive measures, the rate by which this is done remains insufficient to seriously dent the stockpile of restrictions. Once again, reinforced determination towards eliminating existing trade restrictions remains an important priority. Further, the slowdown in new trade-facilitating measures will require close monitoring as its cause is unclear at this stage.

Overall the longer term trend continues to remain one of concern. Of the 1,441 trade-restrictive measures recorded by this exercise since 2008, only 354 had been removed by mid-October 2015. This leaves the total number of restrictive measures still in place at 1,087 – up by more than 5% compared to the last report. Despite the G-20 pledge to roll back protectionist measures, therefore, more than 75% of those implemented since 2008 remain in place.

Almost all of the investment policy changes introduced by G-20 economies between May 2015 and October 2015 enhanced openness for foreign investment. This confirms the long term trend since the monitoring exercise began; expressed in numbers of G-20 policy measures taken since 2009, well over 80% of measures specific to FDI were liberalizing in nature. Beyond their commitment to standstill, G-20 Leaders should consider ways and means to effectively promote investment to boost global economic growth, trade, employment and sustainable development. There is a need for G-20 collective leadership in this regard.