

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/TPR/14

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Trade Policy Review Body

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM VENEZUELA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairperson of the Trade Policy Review Body

1. In pursuance of Article IV, paragraph 4 and Annex 3 of the WTO Agreement, meetings of the Trade Policy Review Body are scheduled for 12-13 and 14-15 February to conduct the reviews of the trade policies and practices of Venezuela and the Dominican Republic (WTO/AIR/255).

2. This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings. In this connection, attention is also drawn to the procedures for the conduct of reviews contained in the rules of procedure for meetings of the Trade Policy Review Body (WT/TPR/W/4).

(i) Questions in writing in advance of the meeting

3. Where possible, Members shall submit written questions to the Members under review at least one week before the review meeting, to allow time to prepare replies. For these forthcoming reviews, such questions should therefore be in the hands of the Secretariat by **Monday, 5 February** for Venezuela and **Wednesday, 7 February** for the Dominican Republic. All questions submitted will be made available to Members at the beginning of the meetings.

(ii) Discussants

4. In consultation with the Members under review, the Chairperson of the Trade Policy Review Body may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the Body. Messrs. Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos and Wilhelm Meier will act as discussants for the review of Venezuela; and Messrs. Sebastián Sáez and José Luis Perez Sanchez for the review of the Dominican Republic. Documents summarizing the main points to be raised by the discussants will be circulated one week in advance of the meetings.

(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews cover four broad headings:

- (a) appreciation of the full range of the Members' trade policies and practices;
- (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs, including the external environment;

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- (c) impact of the Members' trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
- (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

Meetings take place in two sessions. The first session is devoted to the opening statements by the Member under review, discussants and remarks from the floor. The discussion on the second session when replies are made by the Member under review, is based on main themes identified after the opening meeting by the Chairperson, discussants and Secretariat in consultation with the Member.

(iv) Documentation and press arrangements

6. Reports by the Members under review and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

WT/TPR/G/10	Report by the Government of Venezuela
WT/TPR/S/10	Venezuela: Report by the Secretariat
WT/TPR/G/11	Report by the Government of the Dominican Republic
WT/TPR/S/11	Dominican Republic: Report by the Secretariat.

7. The press embargoes for the reviews of Venezuela and the Dominican Republic will end at 13.00 GMT (14.00 local time) on 13 February and 15 February, respectively.

(v) Minutes

8. Minutes of the meetings will be circulated promptly and will be published together with the reports by the Governments and the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by the contracting parties under review after the special Council meetings

9. In the course of the discussions at the review meetings, the Members under review may indicate that they intend to provide supplementary information, in writing, on specific points raised. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate documents containing this information to all Members. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meetings.