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The
G20 Research Group
at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs
in the University of Toronto
presents the

2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit Interim Compliance Report

6 September 2016 to 17 February 2017

Prepared by
Sarah Scott, Alissa Xinhe Wang and the G20 Research Group, Toronto,
and Mark Rakhmangulov, Irina Popova, Andrey Shelepov, Andrei Sakharov and the
Center for International Institutions Research
of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,
Moscow

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www.g20.utoronto.ca
g20@utoronto.ca

“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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17. Trade: Trade Costs

“We endorse the G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth, under which the G20 will lead by example to lower trade costs”

G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.70	

Background

The G20 never mentioned the trade costs in the summit documents before the 2016 Hangzhou Summit. The G20 supported ratification and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) after its adoption in December 2013. At the 2014 Brisbane Summit the G20 Leaders committed to increase the “efforts to implement all the elements of the Bali Package, including those on agriculture, development, public stock holding as well as the prompt ratification and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.”²³⁸⁴ At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit the G20 committed to ratify the TFA by the end of 2016 and called on other WTO members to do the same.²³⁸⁵

Commitment Features

At the G20 Hangzhou summit the G20 Leaders adopted the G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth (SGTG).²³⁸⁶ It consists of seven trade-related areas, including lowering trade costs. It mentions the

²³⁸⁴ G20 Leaders' Communiqué Brisbane, November 16, 2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access date: 17 January 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2014brisbane.html>.

²³⁸⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, , G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access date: 17 January 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>.

²³⁸⁶ Annex II: G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth (SGTG), European omission. Access date: 17 January 2017. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/july/tradoc_154789.pdf.

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which aims to significantly lower global trade costs and positively impact on trade for development and the integration of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into global value chains (GVCs). G20 members thus committed to further actions on reducing trade costs and encourage all WTO members to fully implement the TFA. G20 members also agreed that capacity building and technical assistance will be critically important to ensure developing countries most in need are able to meet this objective, and will continue to support efforts in this regard.

The activities aimed at reducing trade costs could include the following:

- efficiency of customs and border clearance;
- quality of trade and transport infrastructure;
- ease of arranging competitively priced shipments;
- competence and quality of logistics services;
- ability to track and trace consignments;
- frequency with which shipments reach consignees within scheduled or expected delivery times.²³⁸⁷

The activity in the area of reducing trade costs in partner countries include:

- Access to trade finance;
- Tariffs, fees;
- Network infrastructure;
- Non-Tariff Measures;
- Transport infrastructure;
- Border procedures.²³⁸⁸

To achieve full compliance with this commitment the G20 member must take actions to lower trade costs nationally and assist developing countries in lowering trade costs.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not take actions to lower trade costs nationally AND assist developing countries in lowering trade costs
0	Member takes actions to lower trade costs nationally OR assist developing countries in lowering trade costs
+1	Member takes actions to lower trade costs nationally AND assist developing countries in lowering trade costs

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

As of 25 December 2016, Argentina has not ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).²³⁸⁹

On 3 October 2016, negotiations between the President of the Argentina Mauricio Macri and President of Brazil Michel Temer were held in Buenos Aires.²³⁹⁰ The Joint Declaration on Dialogue

²³⁸⁷ How Are Trade Costs Evolving And Why?, WTO. Access date: 17 January 2017.

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/aid4trade15_chap2_e.pdf.

²³⁸⁸ How Are Trade Costs Evolving And Why?, WTO. Access date: 17 January 2017.

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/aid4trade15_chap2_e.pdf.

²³⁸⁹ TFA Mapping progress. <http://www.tfacility.org/>.

²³⁹⁰ Comunicado conjunto Argentina – Brasil. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/comunicado-conjunto-argentina-brasil-0>.

for Trade Facilitation and Productive Development between the Ministry of Production of Argentina and the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services of Brazil was signed as well as the Joint Declaration on Simplification of Foreign Trade Procedures for Micro and Small Enterprises.²³⁹¹ According to the second Declaration, a permanent dialogue on simplification of foreign trade procedures for micro and small enterprises at the bilateral and MERCOSUR level will be launched. The parties also expressed their intention to implement measures to increase efficiency and reduce trade costs, particularly by promoting use of the Digital Certificate of Origin (DOC) by micro and small enterprises.

On 10-14 October 2016, Argentina as MERCOSUR member country, participated in the XXVIth negotiation round of the trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement in Brussels. The participants of the round discussed a wide range of trade and economic issues, including customs and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade defence instruments etc.²³⁹² The participants consolidated a draft negotiation text on customs and trade facilitation building on the commitments of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.²³⁹³

On 14-15 November 2016, the first round of negotiation on extending the Economic Complementation Agreement (ACE 6) between Mexico and Argentina was held in Mexico City. The expansion of ACE 6 aims to modernizes the existing legal framework in the economic sphere between the countries as well as provide new opportunities for entrepreneurs of both countries in order to facilitate and increase bilateral trade. The amended Agreement also aims to extend tariff preferences including new goods. The next round of negotiation will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the first quarter of 2017.²³⁹⁴

On 27 November 2016, Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe visited Argentina and met with Argentinian President Mauricio Macri. The leaders in particular discussed the process of negotiations on an agreement on mutual assistance in customs matters as well as the bilateral investment agreement aimed at avoiding double taxation and promote business relationships.²³⁹⁵

Argentina has taken actions to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs but failed to lower trade costs nationally. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

10 October 2016, changes were introduced into the fee schedule for trademarks filed after providing thus a reduction in the fees for obtaining trademark registration. While the registration fee will no longer apply to applications filed after 10 October 2016, the trademark application fees will increase from USD200 to USD330. The combined effect of these changes is to reduce the basic fees for

²³⁹¹ Visita del Presidente de la República a la Argentina — Buenos Aires, 3 de octubre del 2016 — Actos firmados. <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/es/notas-a-la-prensa/14863-visita-do-presidente-da-republica-a-argentina-buenos-aires-3-de-outubro-de-2016-atos-assinados-2#deconjunta2>.

²³⁹² MERCOSUR-Unión Europea: 10a Ronda de Negociaciones. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/mercosur-union-europea-10a-ronda-de-negociaciones>.

²³⁹³ Report of the XXVI negotiation round on the trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/november/tradoc_155069.pdf.

²³⁹⁴ México y Argentina realizaron la Primera Ronda de Negociaciones para Ampliar y Profundizar el Acuerdo de Complementación Económica. Access date: 24 November 2016. <http://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/mexico-y-argentina-realizaron-la-primera-ronda-de-negociaciones-para-ampliar-y-profundizar-el-acuerdo-de-complementacion-economica?idiom=es>.

²³⁹⁵ Declaración Conjunta Argentina – Japón. <https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/declaracion-conjunta-argentina-japon>.

registering a trademark from USD500 per class to USD330 per class.²³⁹⁶ This fact is reflected in the Intellectual Property Legislation Amendment (Fee Review) Regulation 2016.²³⁹⁷

On 24 November 2016, the Australian government announced it would develop a freight and supply chain strategy for Australia's future. "Australia's freight demands are expected to grow by nearly 50 per cent between 2015 and 2030, and this strategy will assess the increasing demand for improved infrastructure networks as demand for products increase domestically and internationally," Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said.²³⁹⁸

On 13 –14 December 2016, "Trade Facilitation Reform: A Business and Government Partnership" Conference was held in Sydney. It brought governments and businesses from the Indo-Pacific together to find ways to make trade more efficient.²³⁹⁹

According to Australian Aid Budget Summary published in May 2016,²⁴⁰⁰ in 2016–17, Australia's trade facilitation investments will:

- support APEC developing economies with technical assistance and capacity building to
- encourage unilateral reform, promote open and transparent markets and deepen regional economic integration.
- support the International Labour Organization's Better Work Programme, in partnership with the private sector, to help improve labour standards and reduce gender discrimination in apparel and footwear factories in developing countries;
- contribute to the Enhanced Integrated Framework of the World Trade Organization, to help least developed countries implement major trade-enabling reforms; support the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, in partnership with the private sector, to help developing countries move goods across borders more efficiently under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

Total sum of investments is estimated in USD555.1 million.

Since 2012 Australia is supporting the Government of Laos' trade facilitation and integration agenda to improve private enterprise opportunities and contribute to incomes and employment generation. It is also helping the Lao Government to simplify and improve the transparency of regulation for business and assisting Lao businesses develop growth plans, including those owned and managed by female entrepreneurs. The Australian government will provide an estimated USD40.7 million in total Official Development Assistance to Laos in 2016-17. This will include an estimated USD20.6 million in bilateral funding to Laos managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. A

²³⁹⁶ IP Australia Fee Changes Aim to Foster Innovation, Davies Singapore. Access date: 28 December 2016.

<http://www.davies.com.sg/ip-news/ip-australia-fee-changes-aim-to-foster-innovation>.

²³⁹⁷ Intellectual Property Legislation Amendment (Fee Review) Regulation 2016, Federal Register of Legislation. Access date: 28 December 2016. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01306>.

²³⁹⁸ Coalition government's Freight and Supply chain strategy for Australia, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Access date: 28 December 2016.

http://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/chester/releases/2016/November/dc199_2016.aspx.

²³⁹⁹ Trade Facilitation and the Trade Facilitation Agreement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Access date: 28 December 2016. <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/topics/pages/trade-facilitation.aspx>.

²⁴⁰⁰ Australian Aid Budget Summary 2016-17, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Access date: 28 December 2016. <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/Documents/2016-17-australian-aid-budget-summary.pdf>.

benchmark for 2016-2017 is an additional 50 business activities approved by the Business Assistance Facility (including at least 30 percent from women owned businesses).²⁴⁰¹

Australia has taken actions to both lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ildar Khalilyulin

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 16 November 2016, it was reported that the operational costs of importing and exporting companies could be reduced by between 40 per cent and 60 per cent by voluntarily joining the Agro Authorized Economic Operator Program (OEA Integrated). The data were verified by Sweden, pioneer in the implantation of the system. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply will officially join the program on 13 December, coordinated by the Federal Revenue Service. The OEA Integrated is aligned with Agro+, a plan to reduce bureaucracy, simplify and modernize agribusiness. This program is an initiative of the International Customs Forum, launched in Brazil in 2014.²⁴⁰²

On 10 November 2016, according to Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (14 October 2016), Brazil temporarily reduced (to 2 per cent) of import tariffs on 983 capital goods tariff lines and 47 informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines, through the "ex-out" regime, as well as terminated on 6 October 2016 of anti-dumping duties on imports of glassine and other glazed transparent or translucent papers from France, Hungary, and Italy (investigation initiated on 19 April 2010. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 2 June and 6 October 2011).²⁴⁰³

On 13 October 2016, Brazilian government signed trade agreements with BRICS countries. During the 6th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in New Delhi, India, Minister Marcos Pereira signed a series of documents aimed at integrating trade and development of countries of the group. The agreement includes topics such as debureaucratization and trade facilitation, promotion of trade in services, cooperation between small enterprises, promotion of exports and greater coordination of the trade policies of the five countries.²⁴⁰⁴

Brazil has taken actions to both lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sofia Streltsova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 30 October 2016, Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed between Canada and the European Union. Most of the agreement's provisions are expected to enter into force

²⁴⁰¹ Trade and private sector reform in Laos, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Access date: 28 December 2016. <http://dfat.gov.au/geo/laos/development-assistance/Pages/trade-private-sector-reform-laos.aspx>.

²⁴⁰² Com programa, custos operacionais do comércio exterior podem cair em até 60 per cent, Portal Brasil 16 November 2016. Access date: 28 December 2016. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2016/11/com-programa-custos-operacionais-do-comercio-exterior-podem-cair-em-ate-60>.

²⁴⁰³ Report on G20 trade measures, World Trade Organization 10 November 2016. Access date: 28 December 2016. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/g20_wto_report_november16_e.pdf.

²⁴⁰⁴ Governo brasileiro assina acordos comerciais com países do Brics, Portal Brasil 13 October 2016. Access date: 28 December 2016. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2016/10/governo-brasileiro-assina-acordos-comerciais-com-paises-do-brics>.

in early 2017. It is expected that liberalization of trade in goods and services could boost Canada-EU trade by 20 per cent.²⁴⁰⁵

On 3 November 2016, Canada's International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland introduced legislation in Parliament to implement Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement. The agreement implies elimination of duties on 99.9 percent of imports from Ukraine.²⁴⁰⁶

On 20 November 2016, Chrystia Freeland announced funding for a USD19.5-million development-assistance project, the Expert Deployment Mechanism for Trade and Development. This initiative is aimed at helping developing countries to "better negotiate, implement, adapt to, and benefit from trade and investment agreements with Canada."²⁴⁰⁷

Canada has taken actions to both lower trade costs nationally and to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 29 September 2016, the State Council distributed Opinions on Promoting Steady and Sound Development of Foreign Trade. According to the Opinions, the Ministry of Commerce will work with General Administration of Customs, State Administration of Taxation, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and State Administration of Foreign Exchange to incorporate China National Building Materials Group Corporation (CNBM), Ningbo Shimao Tong International Trade Corporation, Xiamen Justsun Supply Chain Corporation and Guangdong Well Full Corporation into the pilot enterprises of comprehensive service of foreign trade, so as to exploit the management modes that benefit the development of comprehensive service enterprises of foreign trade (hereinafter referred to as the comprehensive service enterprises).²⁴⁰⁸

On 28 September 2016, the State Administration of Taxation ("SAT") issued the Announcement on Further Improving the Administration for the Export Tax Rebate (Exemption) of Comprehensive Service Enterprises in Foreign Trade Industry ("Announcement") to improve the measures for the administration for the export rebate (exemption) of comprehensive service enterprises in foreign trade industry and boost the stability and development of foreign trade industry. "The tax department summarizes the classification standard and regulatory measures for the comprehensive service enterprises in foreign trade industry, and details the review and verification work and timeframe when different types of enterprises declare the export tax rebate." The related leader of the SAT's Goods and Services Taxation Department said. The Announcement has "reduced tax burden" and

²⁴⁰⁵ Economic Profile – France, the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service. Access date: 8 December 2016 <http://tradecommissioner.gc.ca/france/market-facts-faits-sur-le-marche/61739.aspx?lang=eng>

²⁴⁰⁶ International Trade Minister introduces legislation in Parliament to implement Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement, Government of Canada 3 November 2016. Access date: 16 January 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.page=5&crtr.dpt1D=6673&nid=1147019>.

²⁴⁰⁷ International Trade Minister promotes Canadian trade and investment at APEC, Government of Canada 20 November 2016. Access date: 16 January 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1157789&tp=1>.

²⁴⁰⁸ Five Departments Including Ministry of Commerce Officially Launch the Pilot Work of Comprehensive Service Enterprises of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China 29.09.2016. Access date: 08 January 2017/ <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201611/20161101550215.shtml>.

“removed some restrictions” for foreign trade enterprises and created a more favorable business development.²⁴⁰⁹

On 4 November 2016, the Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming jointly presided over the 10th China-Mauritius Joint Committee of Economics and Trade with the Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth. After the meeting, both sides signed a MOU to start feasibility research on China-Mauritius free trade agreement and announced to officially launch the joint feasibility research on the bilateral free trade agreement. Both sides agreed to carry out comprehensive studies on the fields about which they both are concerned as soon as possible. The joint feasibility research on the free trade agreement between China and Mauritius is the joint feasibility research on the free trade agreement carried out between China and African regions.²⁴¹⁰

China has taken both actions to lower trade costs nationally and to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kirill Krivosheyev

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 29 November 2016, the first economic conference between France and the Nordic countries was held. The representatives of the French government announced that gradual reduction of the corporate tax rate down to 28 per cent in 2020 is planned starting in 2017. The following taxes for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be brought closer to the European average: crédit d'impôt compétitivité emploi (CICE – tax credit for encouraging competitiveness and job creation); crédit d'Impôt Recherche (CIR – research tax credit) and crédit d'impôt innovation (CII – innovation tax credit).²⁴¹¹

On 30 October 2016, Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed between Canada and the European Union. Most of the agreement's provisions are expected to enter into force in early 2017. It is expected that liberalization of trade in goods and services could boost Canada-EU trade by 20 per cent.²⁴¹²

In November 2016, the Government of France donated EUR50,000 to help the poorest members of the WTO implement food safety, animal health and plant health standards. The objective is to help these countries participate more actively in global agricultural trade. WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said: “France’s donation is very welcome. It will help developing and least-developed countries to implement food safety, animal health and plant health standards so that they can participate more effectively in world trade.”²⁴¹³

²⁴⁰⁹ Improve the Classified Administration of Export Tax Rebate and Support the Development of Comprehensive Service Enterprises in Foreign Trade Industry", State Administration of Taxation of The People's Republic of China 07.11.2016. Access date: 08 January 2017. <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/2013/n2925/n2957/c2342551/content.html>.

²⁴¹⁰ China and Mauritius Launch the Joint Feasibility Research on the Free Trade Agreement and Sign the MOU, Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China 06.11.2016. Access date: 08 January 2017 <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201611/20161101670108.shtml>.

²⁴¹¹ A conference to strengthen Franco-Nordic economic relations, French government 29.11.2016. Access date: 8 December 2016 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-conference-to-strengthen-franco-nordic-economic-relations>

²⁴¹² Economic Profile – France, the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service. Access date: 8 December 2016 <http://tradecommissioner.gc.ca/france/market-facts-faits-sur-le-marche/61739.aspx?lang=eng>

²⁴¹³ France donates EUR 50,000 to support food safety, animal/plant health standards and trade, WTO 23.11.2016. Access date: 8 December 2016 https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres16_e/pr785_e.htm

France has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Mark Rakhmangulov & Anastasiya Polovko

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 15 December 2016, the Federal Minister for Development Gerd Müller, and the Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Sigmar Gabriel, presented a new initiative aimed at promoting trade with Africa. The initiative includes the development of finance instruments, export credits and investment guarantees from the Federal Government.²⁴¹⁴

On 28 October 2016, the Federal Network Agency asked the four German electricity transmission system operators to regulate the electricity transport capacities on the German-Austrian border. With the introduction of bottleneck management on the German-Austrian border by summer 2018, Germany is responding to demands from other neighboring countries and the recommendation of the European regulatory authority.²⁴¹⁵

On 13 October 2016, the Federal Interministerial Committee for Export Credit Guarantees (IMA) made an important principle decision on the implementation of the new export strategy. It is planned to further develop the coverage of foreign supplies. At the same time, the IMA decided to extend the possibility of lowering the self-participation by three more years to improve export opportunities, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.²⁴¹⁶

On 11 October 2016, State Secretary Matthias Machnig together with the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Gennady Subko opened the Ukrainian Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Kiev, which is financially supported by funds from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. State Secretary Machnig together with Subko discussed the engagement of foreign companies in Ukraine in the framework of the High Level Group for Economic Cooperation.²⁴¹⁷

Germany has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Nekrasova

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 23 September 2016 to 31 October 2016, India improved World Bank Logistics Performance Index. According to the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) report for 2016, India

²⁴¹⁴ Gemeinsame Initiative von BMZ und BMWi für wirtschaftliches Engagement in und mit Afrika, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy 15 December 2016. Access date: 25 December 2016.

<http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=792988.html>.

²⁴¹⁵ Deutsche Übertragungsnetzbetreiber sollen Engpassbewirtschaftung an der deutsch-österreichischen Grenze einführen, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy 28 October 2016. Access date: 25 December 2016.

<http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=787466.html>.

²⁴¹⁶ Gabriel: Erste Maßnahme zur Umsetzung der neuen Exportstrategie stärkt deutsche Exportwirtschaft, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy 13 October 2016. Access date: 25 December 2016.

<http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=785822.html>.

²⁴¹⁷ Machnig eröffnet Deutsch-Ukrainische Industrie- und Handelskammer in Kiev, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy 11 October 2016. Access date: 25 December 2016.

<http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=785356.html>.

ranked 35th among 160 countries. The LPI analyses countries across six components: (i) quality of trade and transport infrastructure, (ii) competence and quality of logistics services, (iii) efficiency of customs and border management clearance, (iv) ease of arranging competitively priced shipments, (v) ability to track and trace consignments and (vi) frequency with which shipments reach consignees within scheduled or expected delivery times. India reached significant improvement in all listed spheres, which allowed it to enhance its position.²⁴¹⁸

According to WTO Report on G-20 Trade Measures (mid-May 2016 to mid-October 2016) India has implemented temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 30 per cent to 10 per cent) on potatoes (HS 0701.90.00), (from 12.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent) on crude palm oil of edible grade and (from 20 per cent to 15 per cent) on refined palm oil of edible grade (HS 1511) (effective 23 September 2016). Moreover, on 3 October 2016 there was elimination of import tariffs on technetium-99m (HS 2844).²⁴¹⁹

On 15 to 17 October in Goa, India held the 8th BRICS summit. During the summit, BRICS countries signed the Statute on the establishment of the Customs Cooperation Committee of BRICS countries. This event was an important step towards creating a legal and regulatory framework in the field of customs cooperation in the framework of the association.²⁴²⁰

India takes actions to lower trade costs nationally and assists developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of + 1.

Analyst: Evgeny Tsarik

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 20-21 September 2016, the first session of the Indonesia – European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement took place in Brussels, discussing the issues of market access for trade in goods and services, customs and trade facilitation, technical regulations in technical barriers to trade, intellectual property rights, sustainable trade, policy transparency and others.²⁴²¹

On 22 November 2016, it was announced that Indonesia's government would soon release the fifteenth economic policy package to maintain structural reform momentum, which is expected to include clauses on deregulation and infrastructure development²⁴²² and hence might contribute to lowering trade costs.

²⁴¹⁸ India improves World Bank Logistics Performance Index to 35th in 2016 report, MML India 11 November 2016. Access date: 17 December 2016. <http://www.mmlindia.com/india-improves-world-bank-logistics-performance-index-to-35th-in-2016-report/>.

²⁴¹⁹ Report on G20 Trade Measures, WTO OMC 10 November 2016. Access date: 17 December 2016. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/g20_wto_report_november16_e.pdf.

²⁴²⁰ 8th BRICS Summit Goa Declaration: Here is the full text adopted by the member nations, The Indian Express 16 October 2016. Access date: 18 December 2016. <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/8th-brics-summit-go-declaration-here-is-the-full-text-adopted-by-the-member-nations/>.

²⁴²¹ The DG of International Trade Negotiations: The First IEU CEPA Negotiation Went Very Positively, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia 23 September 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.kemendag.go.id/files/pdf/2016/09/27/dirjen-ppi-perundingan-pertama-ieu-cepa-sangat-positif-en0-1474947392.pdf>.

²⁴²² Indonesia to Release 15th Economic Policy Package Soon, Indonesia Investments 22 November 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.indonesia-investments.com/news/todays-headlines/indonesia-to-release-15th-economic-policy-package-soon/item7379>.

On 17-21 October 2016, Indonesia took part in the 15th round of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in China, covering the issues of trade in goods, trade in services, investment, rules of origin, intellectual property, competition, electronic commerce.²⁴²³

On 3-4 November 2016, Indonesia took part in the second RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting was held in the Philippines, covering the issues of trade in goods, trade in services, investment, as well as the way forward for future negotiations.²⁴²⁴

On 22 November 2016, it was reported that Indonesia's government pledged to keep its market open for trade and investment and fight against protectionism as part of its commitment to the 2016 Leaders' Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and to continue pushing for economic reform to boost trade with Indonesia's APEC partners.²⁴²⁵

On 8 December 2016, Indonesia's Trade Ministry director general for international trade negotiation Iman Pambagyo announced Indonesia's trade negotiation priorities for 2017, which include conclusion of comprehensive economic partnership agreements with European Union and Australia, RCEP agreement, and free trade area agreements with Peru and Chile.²⁴²⁶

On 13 December 2016, it was reported that Indonesia and India had signed the memorandum of understanding aiming to increase cooperation on trade standardization, which as assessed by the Indonesian President Joko Widodo as an important tool to help increase trade between the two countries and support greater economic cooperation.²⁴²⁷

Indonesia took actions to lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of + 1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

According to the Global Enabling Trade Report 2016 (developed by the World Economic Forum and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation), Italy became 36th in 2016 ranking and made significant progress to reach other advanced European countries. The improvement in border administration was the second widest globally. The overall quality of infrastructure has also

²⁴²³ Fifteenth Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 12 October 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1012_01.html.

²⁴²⁴ Second Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 1 November 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1101_01.html.

²⁴²⁵ Indonesia vows greater liberalization under APEC, The Jakarta Post 22 November 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2016/11/22/indonesia-vows-greater-liberalization-under-apec.html>.

²⁴²⁶ Indonesia to finalize five trade deals next year in hunt for wider markets, The Jakarta Post 8 December 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/12/08/indonesia-to-finalize-five-trade-deals-next-year-in-hunt-for-wider-markets.html>.

²⁴²⁷ Indonesia, India sign agreements for cooperation in three areas, ANTARA News 13 December 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/108339/indonesia-india-sign-agreements-for-cooperation-in-three-areas>.

improved, driven by advancement of the air transport, of the road network and in the availability and use of ICTs.²⁴²⁸

Italy has ratified Trade Facilitation Agreement.²⁴²⁹

On 22 September 2016, Italian Ambassador to Iran Mauro Conciatori, in a meeting with Hormuzgan Governor General Jassem Jadari in Bandar Abbas, voiced Rome's willingness to expand economic and industrial relations with Tehran. According to officials, cooperation will take place in, infrastructure, railway, airport construction and shipping among other issues.²⁴³⁰

On 29 November 2016, Italian Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Ivan Scalfarotto and New Zealand Minister of Trade, Todd McClay, have jointly hosted a business event in Milan and committed to doubling two-way trade between the two countries. The parties stressed that one of the ways to reach the goal is to sign EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.²⁴³¹

Italy has taken actions to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs but failed to lower trade costs nationally. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 15 September 2016, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry released “Basic Policies for Future-oriented Trade Practices.”²⁴³² The focal areas of the policies highlighted by the ministry include strictly dealing with inappropriate actions by main subcontracting enterprises, disseminating and establishing desirable trade practices and other actions contributing to fair trade and improvement of added value for both main subcontracting enterprises and subcontractors, and making efforts for improving trade environments across whole supply chains.

On 17-21 October 2016, Japan took part in 15th round of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in China, covering the issues of trade in goods, trade in services, investment, rules of origin, intellectual property, competition, electronic commerce.²⁴³³

²⁴²⁸ The Global Enabling Trade Report 2016, World Economic Forum. Access date: 13 December 2016. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GETR_2016_report.pdf.

²⁴²⁹ Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.tfafacility.org/>.

²⁴³⁰ Italy Calls for Broadening of Economic Ties with Iran, FARS News Agency 25 September 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13950704000669>.

²⁴³¹ Italy and NZ commit to doubling two-way trade, The Official Web-site of New Zealand Government 29 November 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/italy-and-nz-commit-doubling-two-way-trade>

²⁴³² Basic Policies for Future-oriented Trade Practices Released, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 15 September 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/0915_01.html.

²⁴³³ Fifteenth Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 12 October 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1012_01.html.

On 3-4 November 2016, Japan took part in the second RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting was held in the Philippines, covering the issues of trade in goods, trade in services, investment, as well as the way forward for future negotiations.²⁴³⁴

On 2 November 2016, during the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Myanmar, it was announced that Myanmar would receive a more than USD10 billion worth aid package from Japan, part of which to be spent on infrastructure development and capacity building. In addition, November 2016 was marked by the final stage of the Myanmar – Japan joint project on automation of customs processes, specifically, Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System was switched to regular operations mode.²⁴³⁵

In November 2016, during the visit of Prime Minister Abe to Argentina, the countries announced the start of formal negotiations for a pact on mutual assistance in customs matters, as well as of informal consultations for concluding an agreement to help avoid double taxation in order to further enhance bilateral investment and economic exchanges.²⁴³⁶

Japan has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 17-21 October 2016, Korea took part in the 15th round of negotiations for the RCEP was held in China, covering the issues of trade in goods, trade in services, investment, rules of origin, intellectual property, competition, electronic commerce.²⁴³⁷

On 3-4 November 2016, Korea took part in the second RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting was held in the Philippines, covering the issues of trade in goods, trade in services, investment, as well as the way forward for future negotiations.²⁴³⁸

On 11 November 2016, an emergency meeting with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and other trade policy related ministries of Korea took place in Seoul to discuss trade issues arising from US President Elect Donald Trump threats to revise the US – Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) agreement.²⁴³⁹ The meeting inspected the key pending US – Korea trade issues as part of an effort to strengthen the FTA execution mechanism, sought various solutions to those issues, such as

²⁴³⁴ Second Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 1 November 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1101_01.html.

²⁴³⁵ Automation comes to Yangon customs processes, Myanmar Times 2 November 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/23436-automation-comes-to-yangon-customs-processes.html>.

²⁴³⁶ Investment pact with Argentina on fast track, The Japan News 23 November 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0003363814>.

²⁴³⁷ Fifteenth Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 12 October 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1012_01.html

²⁴³⁸ Second Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 1 November 2016. Access date: 1 December 2016. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1101_01.html

²⁴³⁹ Ministry reviews Korea-US trade issues in response to election results, Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy November 9 2016. Access date: 9 December 2016. <http://english.motie.go.kr/?p=7510&paged=0>

reinforcing bilateral and multilateral communication channels, reinforcing the public-private joint response system, and announced continuous and close monitoring of the US trade policy.

On 17 November 2016, it was announced that Korea had reached a free trade agreement with Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama, having certain provisions for market access.²⁴⁴⁰

With respect to assisting the developing countries in reducing trade costs, Korea is well-known globally as a major contributor to these processes. However, no new measures in this domain taken by Korea during and before the compliance period have been registered.

Korea has taken actions to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs but failed to lower trade costs nationally. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 26 July 2016, Mexico ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).²⁴⁴¹

On 27-29 September 2016, the fifth round of negotiations on expanding the Economic Complementation Agreement No. 53 (ACE 53) between Mexico and Brazil was held in Mexico City. The discussion of the round focused on trade facilitation, removing technical barriers to trade and improving regulatory coherence. The review of the Agreement also aims to expand preferential tariffs as well as update and modernize the existing legal framework to stimulate economic operators to increase their commercial activities. The work on expanding the Agreement is carried out in line with Mexican strategy of trade integration with the Latin American countries. The fifth round of negotiations was attended by the private sector representatives.²⁴⁴²

On 12 October 2016, Mexican Minister of Finance José Antonio Meade and US Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson held a working meeting to discuss progress on major bilateral customs initiatives aimed at trade facilitation and strengthening border security. The participants of the meeting emphasized achievements in implementing of the Cargo Pre-Inspection Program (Programa de Pre-inspección de Carga), a mechanism that already operates at Laredo and Texas airports as well as customs point in Mesa de Otay, Baja California state. José Antonio Meade and Jeh Johnson said that the program should be expanded and announced the launch of pilot project at the San Jerónimo Industrial Park in Chihuahua state for shipment computers and electronic equipment to the United States as well as air cargo to Mexico. José Antonio Meade and Jeh Johnson welcomed the progress in cross-border customs clearance and promoting security.²⁴⁴³

On 27 October 2016, Mexico and Colombia signed a number of agreements in spheres of trade, consumer protection, regulatory policy, etc. on the occasion of the meeting between the Mexican

²⁴⁴⁰ Korea-Central America reach FTA agreement, Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy 17 November 2016. Access date: 5 December 2016. <http://english.motie.go.kr/?p=7537&paged=0>

²⁴⁴¹ Mexico ratifies Trade Facilitation Agreement. Access date: 24 November 2016. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/fac_26jul16_e.htm

²⁴⁴² Se celebró la V Ronda de Negociaciones del ACE 53 entre México y Brasil en la Ciudad de México. Access date: 24 November 2016. <http://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/se-celebro-la-v-ronda-de-negociaciones-del-ace-53-entre-mexico-y-brasil-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico?idiom=es>

²⁴⁴³ Comunicado No. 140. México y Estados Unidos fortalecerán sus iniciativas bilaterales en materia aduanera. Access date: 22 November 2016. <http://www.gob.mx/shcp/prensa/comunicado-no-140-mexico-y-estados-unidos-fortaleceran-sus-iniciativas-bilaterales-en-materia-aduanera?idiom=es>

President Enrique Peña Nieto and President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos on the eve of the XXV Ibero-American Summit held in Cartagena.²⁴⁴⁴ In particular the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Bank for Foreign Trade (Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, BANCOMEXT) and Colombian Foreign Trade Bank (Banco De Comercio Exterior De Colombia, BANCOLDEX S.A.) was signed aimed at facilitating and increasing bilateral trade and investment flows.²⁴⁴⁵ In accordance with the MoU BANCOMEXT and BANCOLDEX S.A. will provide the Mexican and Colombian companies with financial and non-financial services in particular of export / import financing hereby contributing to decrease of trade costs.²⁴⁴⁶

On 14-15 November 2016, the first round of negotiation on extending the Economic Complementation Agreement (ACE 6) between Mexico and Argentina was held in Mexico City. The expansion of ACE 6 which is in force since 1987 aims to modernizes the existing legal framework in the economic sphere between the countries as well as provide new opportunities for entrepreneurs of both countries in order to facilitate and increase bilateral trade. The amended Agreement also aims to extend tariff preferences including new goods. The next round of negotiation will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the first quarter of 2017.²⁴⁴⁷

On 22-25 November 2016, the second round of negotiations for modernising the trade pillar of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement was held in Mexico City following the first round held in Brussels, Belgium on 13-14 June 2016.²⁴⁴⁸ Mexico and the EU intend to include an ambitious chapter building on WTO Agreement provisions and recently concluded FTAs of each side to address technical barriers to trade (TBT) and provide regulatory coherence hereby facilitating trade.²⁴⁴⁹

Mexico has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally AND assist developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 14 September 2016, a meeting of the working group on the implementation of Support of Access to Foreign Market and Export Action Plan (Roadmap) was held. Experts from the Federal Customs Service, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development and other agencies concerned, as well as exporters and representatives of business associations discussed the implementation of individual items of the roadmap, including lowering trade costs. The main goals

²⁴⁴⁴ Suscriben convenio en materia de comercio México y Colombia. Access date: 24 November 2016.

<http://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/suscriben-convenio-en-materia-de-comercio-mexico-y-colombia?idiom=es>.

²⁴⁴⁵ Colombia y México firmaron instrumentos de cooperación luego del encuentro de los Presidentes Juan Manuel Santos y Enrique Peña Nieto. Access date: 24 November 2016. <http://es.presidencia.gov.co/noticia/161027-Colombia-y-Mexico-firmaron-instrumentos-de-cooperacion-luego-del-encuentro-de-los-Presidentes-Juan-Manuel-Santos-y-Enrique-Pena-Nieto>.

²⁴⁴⁶ Bancomext firma acuerdo de cooperación con Bancoldex. Access date: 24 November 2016.

<http://eleconomista.com.mx/sistema-financiero/2016/10/30/bancomext-firma-acuerdo-cooperacion-bancoldex>.

²⁴⁴⁷ México y Argentina realizaron la Primera Ronda de Negociaciones para Ampliar y Profundizar el Acuerdo de Complementación Económica. Access date: 24 November 2016. <http://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/mexico-y-argentina-realizaron-la-primera-ronda-de-negociaciones-para-ampliar-y-profundizar-el-acuerdo-de-complementacion-economica?idiom=es>.

²⁴⁴⁸ Segunda Ronda de Negociaciones para la Modernización del Pilar Comercial del Acuerdo Global México-Unión Europea. Access date: 24 November 2016. <http://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/segunda-ronda-de-negociaciones-para-la-modernizacion-del-pilar-comercial-del-acuerdo-global-mexico-union-europea-83467?idiom=es>.

²⁴⁴⁹ Report from the 1st round of negotiations for modernising the trade pillar of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement. Access date: 24 November 2016. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/july/tradoc_154726.pdf.

of the updated roadmap include further improvement of export support mechanisms. The document was submitted to the Russian government for final approval.²⁴⁵⁰

On 30 November 2016, the Russian government adopted the passport of the priority project on Systemic Measures of International Cooperation Development and Export. It is aimed at creating inductive environment for middle enterprises focused on exports and creating favourable regulation for exporters. The project will be implemented from November 2016 to December 2025.²⁴⁵¹

On 9 December 2016, at a meeting of the Presidium of the Russian Presidential Council on Strategic Development and Priority Projects the Government instructed the Ministry of Industry and Trade and other ministries and entities to develop a program of creating technical, regulatory, institutional and logistical environment conducive to increasing exports of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).²⁴⁵²

Russia has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally but no action to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs have been registered during the compliance period. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

In 2016 the Ministry of Commerce and Investment announced that it will provide a service allowing Saudi manufacturers and exporters to print certificate of origin at the website coo.mci.gov.sa with no need to visit the ministry offices. The ministry will provide the certificate data electronically and ensure the validity and accuracy of the data contained in the certificate in order to facilitate procedures for the exporters.²⁴⁵³

On 28 July 2016, Saudi Arabia ratified the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.²⁴⁵⁴

On 19-20 October 2016, the Ministry of Commerce and Investment in cooperation with the WTO held the workshop "Trade facilitation" designed for international trade employees working in public and private sectors. The workshop was dedicated to the Trade facilitation agreement and its impact on facilitating exports and reducing trade costs.²⁴⁵⁵

On 13 November 2016, the Ministry of Commerce and Investment held a workshop to discuss the prospects of the free trade agreement between the Gulf Cooperation Council and China. In

²⁴⁵⁰ Revised Version of Roadmap to Support Exports Submitted to the Government, Russian Export Center 15 September 2016. <https://www.exportcenter.ru/en/news/revised-version-of-roadmap-to-support-exports-submitted-to-the-government/?navNum=1&page=1>

²⁴⁵¹ Government of Russia 9 December 2016. <http://government.ru/news/25593/>

²⁴⁵² On the Decisions of the Meeting of the Presidium of the Russian Presidential Council on Strategic Development and Priority Projects Government of Russia, 9 December 2016. <http://government.ru/orders/selection/401/25598/>

²⁴⁵³ MCI: Allows Exporters To Issue And Print The Certificate Of Origin Electronically From Their Offices, Ministry of Commerce and Investment 4.08.2016. Access Date: 21 December 2016. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/04-08-16-01.aspx>

²⁴⁵⁴ Peru, Saudi Arabia ratify Trade Facilitation Agreement, WTO 28.07.2016. Access Date: 21 December 2016. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/fac_28jul16_e.htm

²⁴⁵⁵ MCI Holds A Workshop To Present And Introduce Trade Facilitation Agreement In Riyadh, Ministry of Commerce and Investment 20 October 2016. Access Date: 21 December 2016. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/08-10-16-02.aspx>

particular, the participants debated the draft chapters of the economic feasibility study signed by the Gulf Cooperation Council for this free trade agreement.²⁴⁵⁶

On 17 November 2016, the Ministry of Commerce and Investment held a meeting with representatives of retailers in Saudi Arabia in the context of "Partners 2030" initiative. The parties debated on facilitating trade procedures by automating them and speeding up the entry of goods from the ports.²⁴⁵⁷

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aydar Shakirov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 26 September 2016, the Manifest Processing System (automated solution for the receipt and processing of prescribed reports in respect of international cargo to be imported into, or to be exported from South Africa) has been enhanced with paperless benefits.²⁴⁵⁸

On 14 October 2016, the automation of Provisional Payments for Customs Imports Declaration and Activation of Preferential Codes took place in South Africa to offer improved and efficient customs service.²⁴⁵⁹

On 10 October 2016, the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and five southern African countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa – entered into effect. It gives the first four countries duty-free, quota-free access to the EU while also benefiting South Africa which will have enhanced market access. The African markets will open partially to EU exports, providing their industries with the requisite intermediary goods.²⁴⁶⁰

On 15-17 October 2016, the 8th BRICS summit was held in Goa, India. During the summit, BRICS countries signed the Statute on the establishment of the Customs Cooperation Committee of BRICS countries. This event was an important step towards creating a legal and regulatory framework in the field of customs cooperation in the framework of the association.²⁴⁶¹

²⁴⁵⁶ "MCI" Organizes A Workshop To Discuss The Free Trade Agreement With China, Ministry of Commerce and Investment 13 November 2106. Access Date: 21 December 2016. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/13-11-16-01.aspx>.

²⁴⁵⁷ "MCI" Host A Meet For The Retail Companies Within "Partners 2030" Initiative, Ministry of Commerce and Investment 17 November 2016. Access Date: 21 December 2016. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/17-11-16-01.aspx>.

²⁴⁵⁸ Customs and Excise, South African Revenue Service. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/default.aspx>.

²⁴⁵⁹ Customs and Excise, South African Revenue Service. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/default.aspx>.

²⁴⁶⁰ Economic Partnership Agreement with southern African countries enters into effect, European Commission 10 October 2016. Access date: 21 December 2016. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3338_en.htm.

²⁴⁶¹ 8th BRICS Summit Goa Declaration, The Indian Express 16 October 2016. Access Date: 21 December 2016. <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/8th-brics-summit-go-a-declaration-here-is-the-full-text-adopted-by-the-member-nations/>.

On 17 October 2016, Updated Customs Provisional Payments external guides were issued.²⁴⁶² The purpose of the guides was to ensure uniform implementation of Customs procedures in the Customs declaration process.²⁴⁶³

South Africa has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and assisted developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 11 November 2016, Minister of Customs and Trade of Turkey, Mr. Bülent Tüfenkci, and Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Belarus, Mr. Yuri Senko, signed an Agreement on Mutual Trade Promotion System between the two countries.²⁴⁶⁴

On November 23-24 2016, VII International Forum on the Role of Customs Administrations on Promoting and Facilitating Trade among Silk Road Countries, was held in Aktau, Kazakhstan. On the sidelines of the Forum, bilateral meeting between the Turkey and Georgia were held. During the meetings cooperation at the border crossing points Sarp-Sarpi. The Project of Joint Use of Border Gates and other projects were discussed.²⁴⁶⁵

On 17-19 October 2016, Turkish Deputy Minister Mr. Fatih Çiftci represented the Ministry of Customs and Trade at the 7th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Customs Administration of Economic Cooperation Organization. The main issues discussed at the meeting included entry into force of the Agreement on Establishment and Operation of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank and other issues and agreements connected with customs and trade facilitation.²⁴⁶⁶

Turkey has taken actions to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs but failed to lower trade costs nationally. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

United Kingdom: 0

United Kingdom has partially complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 1 March 2016, FoodTrade Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) was launched. The ESA is a five-year trade enhancement and promotion programme focusing on staple food crops. It operates in nine East and Southern African countries. The programme works to “improve storage, inputs and service

²⁴⁶² Customs and Excise, South African Revenue Service. Access Date: 16 January 2017.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/default.aspx>.

²⁴⁶³ Customs External Completion Manual Declarations, South African Revenue Service 14 October 2016. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <http://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/OpsDocs/Manuals/SC-CF-04%20-%20Completion%20of%20declarations%20-%20External%20Manual.pdf>.

²⁴⁶⁴ Mutual Trade Promotion System between Turkey and Belarus, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Customs and Trade 11 November 2016. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <http://english.gtb.gov.tr/news/mutual-trade-promotion-system-between-turkey-and-belarus>.

²⁴⁶⁵ VII International Silk Road Forum, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Customs and Trade 30 November 2016. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <http://english.gtb.gov.tr/news/vii-international-silk-road-forum>.

²⁴⁶⁶ Deputy Minister Çiftci Attends ECO Customs Heads Council Meeting, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Customs and Trade 24 November 2016. . Access Date: 16 January 2017. <http://english.gtb.gov.tr/news/deputy-minister-ciftci-attends-eco-customs-heads-council-meeting>.

markets, information and coordination mechanisms and policy and regulation with the aim to get more people trading in regional staple food markets.”²⁴⁶⁷

On 23 September 2016, Corridors for Growth program was launched by Department for International Development to increase Tanzania’s infrastructure capacity and trade opportunities. Project budget is GBP71,000,000.²⁴⁶⁸

On 2 November 2016, the government announced an investment up to GBP1 billion to support trade and development in Colombia. The government’s export credit agency will provide up to GBP1 billion in support for UK trade with Colombia to support rural and post-conflict projects.²⁴⁶⁹

On 24 November 2016, a list of suspension and quota applications round: 1 July 2017 was published. It provides a list and current status of applications for the 1 July 2017 round of the European Union temporary duty suspensions and tariff quotas scheme. This scheme allows “the duty free importation into the EU of raw materials, components and semi-finished products which cannot be supplied, or supplied in sufficient quantities, from EU or Turkish manufacturers and are used in a process to make another product.”²⁴⁷⁰

The United Kingdom has taken actions to assist developing countries in lowering trade costs but failed to lower trade costs nationally. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Irina Popova and Anrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 16 November 2016, US Customs and Border Protection announced the process of preparing for installation systems, through which the trade community would report imports/ exports and the government would determine admissibility. The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) aims at lowering trade costs nationally. It is being developed for the electronic importing and exporting of goods facilitation and trade processing modernization across all sectors.²⁴⁷¹

On 22 November, the US government has contributed USD600,000 to encourage developing countries and least-developed countries participation in negotiations on global trade.²⁴⁷²

On 15 November 2016, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reported that the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) was “awarding USD200 million to more than 70 US agricultural organizations to help expand export markets for US farm and food products

²⁴⁶⁷ Foodtrade Eastern and Southern Africa Programme, UK Government 1 March 2016. Access Date: 16 January 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/east-and-southern-africa-food-trade-programme>.

²⁴⁶⁸ Corridors for Growth, Department for International Development. Access Date: 16 January 2017.

<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204369>.

²⁴⁶⁹ Colombia state visit strengthening trade and investment links, UK Government 2 November 2016. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/colombia-state-visit-strengthening-trade-and-investment-links>.

²⁴⁷⁰ Import duty suspensions and tariff quotas: status of applications, Government of the United Kingdom 24 November 2016. Access Date: 16 January 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-suspension-and-quota-prolongation-applications-round-1-7-2013#history>.

²⁴⁷¹ ACE and Automated Systems, Official website of the department of Homeland Security 16 November 2016. Access date: 20 November 2016. <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated>.

²⁴⁷² US donates USD 600,000 to help developing countries participate in trade talks, World Trade Organization 22 November 2016. Access date: 30 November 2016. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/news16_e.htm.

through the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program.”²⁴⁷³

On 21 September 2016, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) accepted applications for projects funded under the Facility Guarantee Program (FGP). Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Jonathan Cordone reported at the US-Africa Business Forum in New York. The program provides credit guarantees to contribute to establishment or up graduation of facilities or infrastructure in developing markets, “enhancing the ability of those countries to import US agricultural commodities.”²⁴⁷⁴

The US has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and assist developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Sedova

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on lowering trade costs.

On 20-21 September 2016, the first session of the Indonesia – European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement took place in Brussels, discussing the issues of market access for trade in goods and services, customs and trade facilitation, technical regulations in technical barriers to trade, intellectual property rights, sustainable trade, policy transparency and others.²⁴⁷⁵

On 28 September 2016, the European Commission proposed to simplify and harmonize export control rules. The specific measures aim to: 1) optimize licensing processes, introduce EU General Export Authorizations, simplify the controls on technology transfers; 2) avoid divergent levels of controls throughout the EU; 3) prevent the misuse of dual-use items in relation to terrorism.²⁴⁷⁶

On 30 October 2016, the EU and Canada signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA). 99 per cent of import duties will be eliminated, saving European exporters of industrial goods and agricultural products more than EUR500 million per year. CETA is a landmark accord that includes ambitious chapters on sustainable development, labor and the environment.²⁴⁷⁷

On 9 November 2016, the European Commission presented a proposal for a new method for calculating dumping on imports from countries where there are significant market distortions or where the state has a pervasive influence on the economy. The adoption of a proposed new anti-

²⁴⁷³ USDA Awards Funds for Fiscal Year 2017 Market Development Programs, the US department of agriculture 15 November 2016. Access date: 30 November 2016. <https://www.fas.usda.gov/newsroom/usda-awards-funds-fiscal-year-2017-market-development-programs>.

²⁴⁷⁴ USDA is accepting applications for Facility Guarantee Program, the US department of agriculture 21 September 2016. Access date: 15 November 2016. <https://www.fas.usda.gov/newsroom/usda-accepting-applications-facility-guarantee-program>.

²⁴⁷⁵ The DG of International Trade Negotiations: The First IEU CEPA Negotiation Went Very Positively, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia 23 September 2016. Access date: 13 December 2016. <http://www.kemendag.go.id/files/pdf/2016/09/27/dirjen-ppi-perundingan-pertama-ieu-cepa-sangat-positif-en0-1474947392.pdf>.

²⁴⁷⁶ Commission proposes to modernize and strengthen controls on exports of dual-use items, European Commission 28 September 2016. Access date: 21 December 2016. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3190_en.htm.

²⁴⁷⁷ EU-Canada summit: newly signed trade agreement sets high standards for global trade, European Commission 30 October 2016. Access date: 21 December 2016. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3581_en.htm.

dumping methodology would allow the EU to impose higher anti-dumping duties in some instances while respecting WTO rules.²⁴⁷⁸

On 10 October 2016, the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and five southern African countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa – entered into effect. It gives the first four countries duty-free, quota-free access to the EU while also benefiting South Africa which will have enhanced market access. The African markets will open partially to EU exports, providing their industries with the requisite intermediary goods.²⁴⁷⁹

On 14 October 2016, the European Union signed a three-year EUR380,000 deal with UNCTAD to support Central African countries in cutting the costs of their cross-border trade. The deal enables UNCTAD to help Central African countries comply with different trade regulations, including the Trade Facilitation Agreement.²⁴⁸⁰

The European Union has taken actions to lower trade costs nationally and assist developing countries in lowering trade costs. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aydar Shakirov

²⁴⁷⁸ Commission proposes changes to the EU's anti-dumping and anti-subsidy legislation, European Commission 9 November 2016. Access date: 21 December 2016. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3604_en.htm.

²⁴⁷⁹ Economic Partnership Agreement with southern African countries enters into effect, European Commission 10 October 2016. Access date: 21 December 2016. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3338_en.htm.

²⁴⁸⁰ New EU-UNCTAD agreement to help Central Africa cut its trade costs, UNCTAD 14 October 2016. Access date: 21 December 2016. <http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1356>