This year antidumping has been frequently featured in international news headlines. But what is so special about these duties and why should we pay attention to them?

In the WTO framework, **antidumping duties**, together with countervailing duties and safeguards, constitute a set of corrective trade policy measures known as **trade remedies**. Each type of remedy serves a specific purpose:

- As the name suggests, antidumping measures are duties levied against imports that are being “dumped”. In this context dumping is defined as a situation where a country is exporting at an unfairly low price i.e. the price of a product sold in an importing country falls below the price of that same product sold in the market where it was produced or below a “normal value” in case of a non-market economy. If the responsible investigative authorities determine that a product is being dumped and that it is causing harm to its national producers it may levy additional duties on these imports.
Countervailing duties follow the same logic to offset unfair subsidies given to exporters from an offending country.

Finally, safeguards allow a WTO member to restrict all imports of a product in response to a surge in imports, providing the domestic industry with the time to adjust. Unlike the others, safeguards can be implemented on products imported under fair trade conditions.

In the literature trade remedies are often referred to as Temporary Barriers to Trade (TTB) since they are temporary by design. Nevertheless, these duties are often extended multiple times and their impact on the final price of a product can well exceed MFN tariff rates (e.g. a current U.S. duty of 363.31% on Melamine imports from China). As such they may form a prohibitive trade barrier and have a significant effect on trade flows. Countries may use trade remedies as a form of retaliation in trade disputes, as we have seen in the recent application of antidumping duties on Chinese steel. Here, China’s excess production capacity for steel is perceived as a threat by partner countries’ domestic producers. At the same time, more and more trade agreements are including safeguard clauses in their schedules in order to mitigate the effects of trade diversion in sensitive industries. Given these various applications momentum is rising among African developing countries to build the legal expertise required to effectively deploy these trade policy tools.

In the last two years, 69 countries representing almost 85% of world imports, employed trade remedies. This underlines the importance of capturing trade remedies and their resulting duties.

It serves as a one stop shop for information on anti-dumping measures, countervailing duties and safeguard measures from all countries by integrating information available through different sources (i.e. national sources and 3 separate WTO databases on members’ notifications).

In order to address this need, ITC’s Market Access Map database provides a comprehensive set of Trade Remedy data from 2005 to date. The main strengths of this database are:

- Users can directly access original documents from national authorities
- Where applicable, company-specific information provides duty rates by exporting and producing firm

**CAPACITY BUILDING IN MARKET ACCESS CONDITIONS**

ITC Market Analysis section has recently participated in two events regarding its innovative market analysis tools. Both events were related to regional trade integration efforts and ITC serves as a cornerstone in this process as it provides crucial data on market access that can open up exports in the region.

The first event took place in Gambia, where ITC collaborated with Gambia’s Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE) to offer an institutional capacity-building exercise focused on ECOWAS integration and particularly on Gambia.
The objective of the training was to sensitize Gambian stakeholders about the availability of ITC databases that can help them carry out actionable trade-related decisions, as well as inform the audience on ITC ongoing efforts regarding the Non-Tariff Measures collection.

The second event, VI USAID Central Asian Trade Forum, took place in Kazakhstan. Its theme this year was “Export Potential and Trade Development: New Challenges and Opportunities in Central Asia”. ITC took part in this forum as part of an effort to disseminate results of Transparency in Trade (TNT) initiative, a joint project of ITC, UNCTAD, and World Bank that aimed at collection of new market access data with an objective to expand the overall coverage. The results are now publicly available on online data platform: Market Access Map.

TNT initiative received a big interest from participants of the Forum which networked with the speakers at a TNT booth during the two days of the forum. Participants, predominantly Central Asian business owners, showed a great interest in ITC's ongoing projects as they stressed the importance of public dissemination of information on various market requirements. Participants also expressed their need for a Russian version of the tool.

TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2016

Open data – and diverse data – make the difference in fostering sustainable trade worldwide, and this can only be done through partnerships among farmers, business and government. That's the takeaway from the International Trade Centre’s (ITC) Trade for Sustainable Development Forum.

Business leaders and industry experts gathered at the 28-30 September event, held on the margins of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum, highlighted the importance of collecting and analysing big data to inform decisions enabling small-scale producers to improve their livelihoods and better respond to consumers who increasingly demand products that respond to their social and environmental values.

‘Consumers want good trade – more environmentally sustainable, more socially responsible – and better consumer protection,’ said ITC Executive Director Arancha González at the start of the opening session.

Session briefs, videos and photos can be found here.
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS: NEW PUBLICATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE AND ITC

This new report finds that the design of governance structure of social and environmental sustainability standards determines how accessible they are to producers in developing countries.

The increase in consumer demand for sustainable trade has given rise to a growing array of social and environmental standards. This joint ITC-EUI report shows that such standards can be made more accessible to producers through cost-sharing, technical assistance and transparency. It also shows that country-level characteristics affect the presence and adoption of standards. The report concludes with recommendations on how standard-setting

NON-TARIFF MEASURES

Over the last four months national stakeholders meetings have been carried out in Philippines, Dominican Republic and Nepal under Phase II of the NTM Programme. The events brought together representatives from national private sector, government agencies, trade experts and development agencies to discuss the NTM Survey results and policy implications.

In Philippines, the roundtable on NTM was organized in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Manila on 29 June 2016. More than 60 participants gathered to discuss the main results of the survey conducted in 2015 and 2016 in a thousand of companies from the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The survey highlights the difficulties faced by businesses in complying with foreign technical measures – such as fumigation and labelling regulations or product certification and testing. The discussions resulted in a dozen proposals to speed up the compliance of Filipino products with foreign regulations, streamline export and import clearance, and simplify customs procedures. The recommendations will help formulate trade policies and trade-related technical assistance projects at the national and regional levels. They were notably integrated into the Action Plan of the Philippines’ Export Development Council (EDC) which aims at improving the capability of Filipino exporters to overcome NTMs.

In Dominican Republic, the main NTM-related challenges revealed by the survey conducted
on 850 companies affect particularly the agricultural exports. A temporary ban imposed by US phytosanitary authorities as well as changing and diverse labelling requirements in destination markets - in particular for tobacco products, are one of the main trade barriers identified by businesses. On the other hand, non-technical inspections and clearance procedures before exporting are usually pointed as burdensome and affect all kind of exports. During the roundtable organized in collaboration with the Direction for Foreign Trade and International Trade Treaties (DICOEX) on 25 July 2016, recommendations proposed by stakeholders aimed at facilitating export procedures and increasing the compliance of Dominican products with foreign standards and regulations. These recommendations will help formulate trade policies and trade-related technical assistance projects at the national level.

The study conducted by ITC in Nepal finds improvements in the current quality of national infrastructure critical to support the country’s push for export growth. The finding is based on a large scale survey of close to 600 Nepalese exporting companies conducted between April and August 2016 in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce (MoC). Survey results show that the companies which operate in the agricultural sector are the most affected particularly by obstacles relate to SPS/TBT regulations and the associated conformity assessment requirements such as testing and certifications. Lack of accredited testing laboratories in the country for products exported to has been cited as a cause of concern. Majority of these difficulties related to product standards and requirements of major trading partners such as India and the European Union. The results were presented during a stakeholder meeting on NTM held in Kathmandu on 14 September 2016. Discussions during the meeting focused on identifying necessary policy action and the way forward to enhance quality infrastructure of the country and improve trade facilitation. Together with the study on non-tariff measures, ITC is working with MoC in the development of four Sector Export Strategies (SES): tea, coffee, large cardamom, and handmade paper.

ITC and the national counterparts in Philippines, Dominican Republic and Nepal continue working in the preparation of a final report that incorporates the results and recommendations of the respective roundtables and which will be published in the coming months as part of the ITC series on NTMs. In the last quarter of the year a series of NTM events will be also held and complete the phase II of the ITC Programme on NTM. These events include notably Jordan, Uganda, Benin, Ecuador and Comoros.

You can download NTM-related publications on www.intracen.org/publications/ntm or visit www.ntmsurvey.org for more information on the survey implementation and results.
DID YOU KNOW, in the EuroMed Trade Helpdesk portal under Import Procedures module, users will find “A step-by-step guide for SMEs and first time importers/exporters” for each of the EuroMed TIFM member country.

The guide provides information on the country’s procedural requirements for customs clearance in the region with information on the necessary approval processes, the time and cost of customs clearance, import inspection procedures, import documentation, and other trade control procedures.

To access the guide, visit euromed.intracen.org and log in with your ITC Tools username and password. Once you provide all the search criteria and the result is rendered, click on “Import Procedures” tab. As of now, the documents are available for Jordan and Turkey. The guide for other 7 countries will become available for downloads between now and June 30, 2017.

On September 5-9 2016, an ITC representative from EuroMed Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism, a project funded by the European Union (EU), attended the 5th edition of the International Single Window Conference and Exhibition in Marrakesh, Morroco. The Conference was organized with the aim of improving the business climate and analysing the latest trends in electronic services to facilitate procedures and enhance competitiveness.

The EuroMed Trade Helpdesk was one of trade facilitation solutions showcased during the conference. The participants, which included international organizations, government officials, exhibitors and over 500 delegates from more than 40 countries, expressed avid interest in using the portal to do businesses with South Mediterranean countries in the future.
Aligned with the Trade Map goal of improving data quality and facilitate data analysis, outliers are now detected on monthly trade data. The objective of the outliers’ detection in Trade Map is to inform users that some data must be used with extra caution.

After several tests, the Z-modified methodology has been selected to detect outliers on short time series while the robust regression has been applied to detect outliers on long time series.

On the tool, outliers are spotted in italic with an asterisk as shown below. There is also an explanatory note available on pages containing outliers.

To learn more about outliers methodology applied on Trade Map, you can read the explanatory note, available on the website and though the link: http://www.trademap.org/Docs/Metadata/Methodology_outliers_M_EN.pdf
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