

## **Doha Development Agenda - Rules Negotiations**

In November 2001, at the Doha Ministerial Conference, the Ministers of WTO Members agreed to the initiation of negotiations on the Anti-Dumping and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) Agreements. The mandate given to the Negotiating Group on Rules is *“to clarify and improve disciplines while preserving the basic, concepts, principles of these agreements, and taking into account the needs of developing and least-developed participants”*. This mandate was confirmed in the “July Package” and at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005,

Egypt has, from the outset of the Doha Development Agenda, very actively engaged in the negotiations on the revision of the Anti-Dumping Agreement. In line with the mandate agreed to in Doha, in the first phase of the negotiations, Egypt has submitted a number of proposals with a view to ensuring that all Members, regardless of their level of development and available resources, are able to enforce the rights and comply with the obligations set forth in the Anti-Dumping Agreement. A number of these proposals have been reflected in the first draft consolidated Anti-Dumping Agreement that has been circulated by the Chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules in November 2007. Egypt is opposed to the introduction of significant procedural requirements that would impose additional burden on interested parties and investigating authorities. Egypt is also concerned with proposed modifications that constitute a departure from the basic concepts and principles embodied in the current version of the Anti-Dumping Agreement as, these are likely to affect the interests of those Members that intend to effectively defend their domestic industries against the injurious effects of dumped imports.

As regards horizontal disciplines within the SCM Agreement, in line with the position expressed by the Chair of Negotiating Group on Rules, Egypt is of the opinion that the transposition into the SCM Agreement of amendments agreed to with respect to the Anti-Dumping Agreement will require further technical discussions and should only be made where relevant and appropriate. Egypt is closely following the discussions on the definition of the concept of benefit, since these could have serious implications for Members where prices are regulated.

With respect to the proposed disciplines on fisheries subsidies, Egypt supports a wide-ranging prohibition with some very limited general exceptions and some specific exceptions for developing country Members. The latter should, in particular, guarantee the right of developing country Members to assist small-scale and artesian fisheries operating within their territorial waters. While most of the exceptions should be subject to clear conditions, these should not prevent developing country Members from invoking the exceptions designed for them.

During the period from December 2007 to April 2008 some meetings were held during which all WTO member countries refused the draft consolidated text submitted by the chairman of the Negotiating Group in Rules. Members considered that the text to be unbalanced and did not reflect the proposals previously submitted by them.

On 28 May 2008, a new text was issued by the chairman of the Negotiating Group in Rules. The new text includes all proposals previously submitted by member countries and it is under revision by them.

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