

Turkey's Positions on Various Doha Files

1. Agriculture

Being a G33 member, Turkey is a proponent of the issues of Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism.

On Special Products, Turkey is of the view that the current draft modalities text on Special Products can be a good basis; that is (a) for the number ,12% of the tariff lines can be designated as Special by developing countries, & (b) for the treatment the overall reduction of SPS tariffs should be 11%, and 5% of the tariff lines can be exempt from tariff reduction.

On Special Safeguard Mechanism, Turkey is a proponent of the Special Safeguard Mechanism, which allows developing countries to impose additional duties on their imports in case of import surges. Turkey is of the view that the mechanism should be operational and effective. The import duties resulting from the application of the mechanism should be allowed to exceed the Uruguay Round Bound Tariffs under operational conditions and generally Turkey can work on the basis of the modalities text for this point.

2. Non-agricultural Market access negotiations

On the formula and the flexibilities, despite the fact Turkey is a developing country it is a member of a customs union with the EU , so at the end of the day it will defacto apply the concessions of the EU .

On NTBs, Turkey has some difficulty in accepting the “Horizontal Mechanism” as it extends not only to non-agricultural products but also to agricultural products . Turkey also supports the EC proposals on the harmonization of standards and conformity assessment procedures in the area of electronics and electrical equipment and automotives.

On sectorals, Turkey is of the view that sectoral initiatives should be wide in scope, and should not be limited to a few tariff lines in any sector.

On country specific flexibilities, Turkey believes that the demanders in this regard should substantiate their requests by sound and convincing reasoning.

On preference erosion, Turkey is of the view that the text reflects a delicate balance that should not be reopened.

3.Services

Specific Commitments:

Requests and Offers: Turkey submitted its initial and revised offers which include both adding new commitments in new sectors in addition to improvements in its original commitments.

Concerning the Plurilateral requests, Turkey has submitted only one plurilateral request to Egypt on Construction and related engineering services

4. Rules

Turkey belongs to the so called "the Friends of Anti-dumping Negotiations (FANs)" whose position is as follows:

- Oppose zeroing
- Have great number of proposals modifying principles and conditions. These include amendments to the definition of the concepts of product under consideration, like product and domestic industry; new rules governing the assessment of dumping, injury and causal link; a mandatory lesser duty rule; and, the introduction of a new requirement for the imposition of anti-dumping measures: the existence of public interest.
- Very Supportive of new procedural requirements that investigating authorities would have to comply with in the framework of investigations. These include additional publication and notification requirements; the obligation to provide prompt access to the public file and to allow for copies of all documents placed on that file to be made; stricter deadlines; and, the requirement to pay interests in the case anti-dumping duties are refunded.
- Special and differential treatment provisions should be limited and conditional, doubts on the proposed language and implementation of some of the proposals of the African and ACP Groups.

5. Trade Facilitation

- Internet Publication promptly
- Free and Transparent Transit Regime, (Egypt shares this proposal as a co-sponsor), as well as transit quotas in road transportation. The proposal sought to eliminate the transit quotas faced in road transportation that had a negative impact on trade.
- Internet Publication/Establishment of Official Website

- Notification to the Trade Facilitation Committee
- Prior Consultation and Commenting on New and Amended Rules

6. Intellectual Property Rights

- Brazil, EC, Switzerland and India: Submitted the position TN/C/W/52, which states that text based negotiations need to take place, in Special Sessions of the TRIPS Council and as an integral part of the Single Undertaking, to amend the TRIPS Agreement to (i) establish a register of geographical indications (GIs) for wines and spirits protected by any of the WTO Members; (ii) include a mandatory requirement for the disclosure of the country providing/source of genetic resources, and/or associated traditional knowledge for which a definition will be agreed, in patent applications; (iii) extend the additional level of GI protection currently granted to wines and spirits to all products, including the extension of the Register; and (iv) include CBD and GI issues in the Horizontal Modalities as part of the Single Undertaking through text based negotiations.
- Turkey is a co - sponsor of this joint proposal.