

Trade Watch Weekly Bulletin

June 20, 2020

Given below are key news updates from the past week pertaining to international trade and customs both from India and around the world.

WTO

• Panel report in the case brought by Qatar in Saudi Arabia — Measures concerning the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (DS567) circulated.

This dispute is a challenge against Saudi Arabia's failure to provide adequate protection of intellectual property rights for entities based in Qatar. The report elucidates upon the security exception under the TRIPS Agreement and is the first time that a panel has rejected a party's national security defense.

■ Panel's authority in EU — Price Comparison Methodologies (DS516) has lapsed.

China temporarily suspended its dispute against the EU concerning determination of normal value for **non-market economy** countries in anti-dumping proceedings involving products from China. It is reported that this suspension happened after the issuance of its interim report in 2019, which prevented the ruling from going public. On June 15, 2020, China allowed the Panel's authority to lapse in this dispute.

- Canada requests authorization to suspend concessions in view of the US not informing its intent to implement the DSB's recommendations and rulings in *US Supercalendered Paper* (DS505).
- Korea requests for the establishment of the panel in Japan Measures Related to the Exportation of Products and Technology to Korea (DS590)
- WTO members resume working towards an agreement on fisheries subsidies disciplines as COVID-19 containment measures have gradually eased.

US and Europe

USTR Robert Lighthizer presented before the House Ways and Means Committee to discuss the President Trump's
2020 Trade Policy Agenda

Lighthizer discussed US trade policy agenda with respect to trade agreements and approach at WTO. In this regard, USTR submitted that the US seeks to have a broader reset at the WTO.

EC has launched a major review of their trade policy.

This includes public consultations with the European Parliament, Member States, stakeholders and civil society to build a consensus around direction for EU trade policy and responding to new global challenges.

Turkey launches safeguard investigation on polyethylene terephthalate chips

Turkey notified the WTO's Committee on Safeguards that it initiated on 11 June 2020 a safeguard investigation on polyethylene terephthalate chips. Interested parties such as companies, institutions and establishments outside of Turkey can send their answers to the <u>questionnaires</u> and their official views to the <u>Directorate General's E-mail address: korunma@ticaret.gov.tr</u>

India

- News reports state that India intends to apply extra tariffs and trade barriers on 300 imported products.
- Newspaper reports that government steps up scrutiny of alleged Chinese abuse rules of origin.
- India lifts export ban on Hydroxychloroguine API.

- DGTR makes preliminary findings in the following anti-dumping investigations:
 - "Ciprofloxacin Hydrochloride" originating in or exported from China PR;
 - Aniline from China PR; and
 - Black Toner in powder form" originating in or exported from China PR, Malaysia & Chinese Taipei.
- Final findings issued in anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Coated/Plated Tin Mill Flat Rolled Steel Products originating in or exported from the European Union, Japan, USA and Korea RP.
- Final findings issues in Sunset Review of anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of 'Measuring Tapes', originating in or exported from China PR.
- India revises tariff value of Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, Poppy Seeds, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver- Reg

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