

Trade Watch Weekly Bulletin

June 27, 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 in China Intellectual Property Rights II suspended at the request of the United States.
- Fisheries subsidies negotiations chair introduces draft consolidated text to WTO members.
- WTO reports that while trade volumes will register a steep decline in 2020, they are unlikely to reach the worst-case scenario projected in April.

US, Europe & other jurisdictions

- European Commission adopts White Paper on leveling the playing field regards foreign subsidies.
- Philippines notified the WTO's Committee on Safeguards that it initiated three safeguard investigations: (i) on aluminum zinc sheets, coils and strips; (ii) on prepainted galvanized iron and prepainted aluminum zinc; and (iii) on galvanized iron sheets, coils and strips.
- South Africa launches safeguard investigation on "U, I, H, L and T sections of iron or non-alloy steel".
- US Congress may vote on vote on withdrawing from the WTO in July.
- USTR conducting a review of the action taken in the Section 301 investigation regarding enforcement of recommendations of the WTO dispute settlement body (**DSB**) in *EC Large Civil Aircraft* (DS316) dispute.

USTR may further increase tariffs on certain products from EU Member states depending on the findings.

India

- <u>Directorate General of Foreign Trade</u> (**DGFT**) specifies the manner and modalities of WTO committed tariff rate quotas on certain products including milk powder, corn, sunflower seeds and mustard oil.
- DGFT amends the Foreign Trade Policy with respect to export of cut and polished diamonds with re-import facility by automatically extending by 3 months, reimports expiring between Feb 1 Jul 31, 2020.
- Initiation of Anti-Dumping Investigation concerning imports of Aluminium Foil 80 micron and below from China PR,
 Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.
- Anti-Dumping Duty applied on import of Flat rolled product of steel, plated or coated with alloy of Aluminium and Zinc originating in, or exported from China PR, Vietnam and Korea RP in accordance with final findings dated February 21, 2020.

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