

## Trade Watch Weekly Bulletin

(International Trade and Customs)

July 18, 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

- WTO released a report on supporting global sustainable development and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through trade, fiscal and monetary policies.
- Candidates for the WTO Director-General post met with Members to present their vision for the organization.
- Peru initiates dispute complaint against Brazil's PET duties, tax treatment of imports (DS596).
- <u>US filed a request to suspend concessions in the China Agricultural Products (DS511) dispute because it is of the view that China has failed to bring its measures into compliance with the panel ruling within the reasonable period time.</u>
- EU and Columbia notify their intention to utilize the Multi-party Interim Appeal (MPIA) mechanism under Article 25 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) in the Colombia Frozen Fries (DS591) dispute.

## **US and Europe**

- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) determined that France's Digital Services Tax (DST) is unreasonable or discriminatory and burdens or restricts U.S. commerce and decided to apply 25% additional duties on certain products.
- U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT) ruled that President Trump's additional increase of Section 232 duties on steel imports from Turkey violates statutorily mandated procedures and the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under law.
- European Court of Justice (ECJ) invalidates Decision 2016/1250 on the adequacy of the protection provided by the EU-US Data Protection Shield.
- European Commission (EC) published Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) in support of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between the EU and Indonesia.

## <u>India</u>

- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended import policy of power tillers and its components from 'Free' to 'Restricted'.
- DGFT has amended export policy such that only non-woven fabrics for 25-70 GSM are prohibited and all other non-woven fabrics are freely allowed for exports.
- Central Board of Indirect taxes & Customs (CBIC) increased rate of customs duty on imports of "Polybutadiene Rubber" originating in Korea RP in accordance with Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) findings in safeguard investigation.

In the meantime, should you require any information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at insights@elp-in.com

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