



14 September 2018

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Trade Policy Review Body

Original: English/anglais/inglés

UNOFFICIAL ROOM DOCUMENT¹

**TRADE POLICY REVIEW OF THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU,
KINMEN AND MATSU (12 AND 14 SEPTEMBER 2018)**

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY
OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU

Organe d'examen des politiques commerciales

DOCUMENT DE SÉANCE NON OFFICIEL¹

**EXAMEN DES POLITIQUES COMMERCIALES DU TERRITOIRE DOUANIER DISTINCT DE
TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN ET MATSU (12 ET 14 SEPTEMBRE 2018)**

DÉCLARATION FINALE DE LA REPRESENTANTE DU TERRITOIRE DOUANIER DISTINCT
DE TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN ET MATSU

Órgano de Examen de las Políticas Comerciales

DOCUMENTO DE SALA NO OFICIAL¹

**EXAMEN DE LAS POLÍTICAS COMERCIALES DEL TERRITORIO ADUANERO DISTINTO DE
TAIWÁN, PENGHU, KINMEN Y MATSU (12 Y 14 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2018)**

DECLARACIÓN FINAL DE LA REPRESENTANTE DEL TERRITORIO ADUANERO DISTINTO
DE TAIWÁN, PENGHU, KINMEN Y MATSU

* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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OPENING

Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador Marc Vanheukelen, distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

1. First of all, on behalf of my government, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Chair, the discussant, the Secretariat and Members for your valuable comments and contributions to our trade policy review.

2. We come to this trade policy review with a goal to further enhance the transparency of our trade policy and to seek feedback from all Members. We very much appreciate the insightful and constructive comments from Ambassador Marc Vanheukelen and nearly 30 delegations that either took the floor or shared their written statements with us.

3. Some Members recognize our efforts to extend the public consultation period for new legislation to 60 days, and a user-friendly website has been established to facilitate open discussion. Members also made positive comments on our Customs-Port-Trade Single Window. Several Members expressed their interests in our innovative development and deregulation of financial services, including the financial sandbox mechanism, and the streamline on opening banking accounts. We are pleased to receive the recognition from Members on our economic and trade developments that took place during the review period.

4. We are also pleased that our Aide for Trade programs are well-received from our partners, we will continue our efforts to respond to the needs of developing and least-developed countries for sustainable development, and assist their further integration into the global trading system. We would also like to state that my government would not claim the special and differential treatment granted to developing country Members in the future rounds of WTO negotiations.

5. Now, I would also like to take this opportunity to respond to a few concerns raised on Wednesday.

FOOD SAFETY AND SPS

6. First, with regard to our SPS measures, I understand some Members are concerned about our food safety standards and relevant import regulations. During the review period, a series of food safety incidents happened in the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kimen, and Matsu. Food safety has therefore become a highly sensitive issue for us. As a result, consumers, consumer protection groups and legislators are highly concerned about the safety of food and related products. To ensure the food safety and rebuild consumer confidence, we will continue to conduct risk assessment, risk communication and necessary risk management in order to protect public health and ensure our measures are in line with WTO rules.

7. Second, we are currently building an online inquiry system for MRL applications to improve transparency and efficiency. The system is expected to launch by the end of this year. Very soon, applicants will be able to track the progress of the application online. I would also like to let you know that this week, we issued a revised standard for pesticides residues in food, which added and modified forty-three residue levels to various agricultural products for 10 kinds of pesticides.

8. Third, we notice that some Members expressed their concerns on the issue of disease-free zoning. As a Member of the WTO and OIE, we recognize the zoning principle and follow the international standards and conduct risk assessments based on scientific evidences to evaluate all applications.

IPR

9. Forth, as some Members stated on Wednesday, my government has been actively modernizing IPR legal framework in recent years in order to provide right holders with more comprehensive protection of their interests. In addition, we have been eagerly engaging in international cooperation on IPR matters with many Members. Those achievements are widely accepted and accredited. However, as the Internet is constantly evolving, online infringement is an issue we must continue to make efforts on enforcement and online piracy combatting.

AGRICULTURE

10. Fifth, regarding notification of our domestic support, we attach great importance to transparency, and will submit our notification on the domestic support of agriculture as soon as possible.

11. Sixth, some Members inquired about our progress on combatting IUU fishing activities. We fully support sustainable management of marine resources. Thus, we have actively participated in the WTO negotiation on fishery subsidy. We also firmly support the elimination of subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing. Moreover, in the early 2017, we promulgated the Act for Distant Water Fisheries, the Act of Govern Investment in the Operation of Foreign Flag Vessels, and amended the Fisheries Act and several related regulations in order to strengthen the management of fishing vessels and fishery sector. With these efforts, we are confident that the IUU fishing activities will be effectively eradicated.

TRANSPORTATION

12. Lastly, one Member raised concerns regarding the exclusion from bidding for our railway project and opening of shipping route. Actually, several transport-related contracts have been awarded to the Member's suppliers from 2017 to 2018. And we are willing to discuss the issue of opening of shipping route with that Member.

CONCLUSION

13. This concludes our brief response to some of the important issues you raised on Wednesday. We will respond to other questions submitted after the deadline within 30 days. Every question, comment and feedback we received contributes to our efforts to further promote trade liberalization and improve the domestic business environment.

14. Finally, on behalf of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the Chair, our discussant Ambassador Marc Vanheukelen, the Secretariat and all Members. Thank you very much.
