

## Development cooperation: a global task

### Product standards and market access: a two-track approach

Tjalling Dijkstra  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Netherlands



## The Challenge

- Over 650,000 standards worldwide.
- A growing number are environment-related.
- Both product and process standards.
- Developing Countries (DCs) face:
  - Shortage of skilled staff.
  - Lack of recognised testing labs.
  - Inadequate physical infrastructure.
  - Lack of awareness, poor dissemination of info.

## The international setting

- GATT, SPS, TBT, DSU, MEAs, Doha round.
- EU: EC Treaty art 178 on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD).
- NL: PCD-test for all new EC proposals.
- Private standards: lack of transparency and inclusiveness.

## A two-track approach

- In standard setting: taking into account possible consequences for DCs:
  - Stakeholder consultations.
  - *Ex ante* impact assessments.
- In standard implementation: offering financial and technical assistance to DCs.

## *Ex ante* stakeholder consultations

Internet makes consultations accessible, e.g.

EU Chemicals regulation (REACH):

–over 6,400 contributions.

–However:

- 99 DCs affected by REACH, 11 participated;
- 48 LDCs affected by REACH, 1 participated.
- Why?

## *Ex post* stakeholder consultations

Explaining new directives to stakeholders, e.g.

- EU Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)
- EU Directive on restriction of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (ROHS)

Inviting stakeholders to participate in consultation forums for implementation, e.g.

- EU Directive on ecodesign requirements for Energy-using products (EuP)

## Impact assessments matter 1

### EU regulation on ochratoxin A in roasted coffee beans:

- First draft: maximum level 3 ppb.
- Impact Assessment:
  - 3 ppb = 5% rejected, 5 ppb = 1% rejected.
  - Costs: \$160 mln/year to DCs (esp. Africa).
  - No real difference in risk to health.
- Questions by DCs in SPS Committee.
- Final EU regulation: 5 ppb.

## Impact assessments matter 2

### •EU Chemicals regulation (REACH):

- First draft: authorisation required for ores and ore concentrates with hazardous impurities.
- Impact Assessment:
  - Loss of income to SSA: € 2.13 bln in 10 years.
  - Little risk to environment and public health.
- Present draft: ores and ore concentrates completely exempted.

## Advice to DCs

- Participate in stakeholder consultations.
- If necessary, ask for TA to participate in these consultations.
- Ask developed countries about impact assessments.
- If necessary, carry out impact assessments yourself.

## Technical assistance and capacity building: recent trends 1

- More transparency: S&D and TA in Addendum to SPS notifications.
- Linking transition periods to capacity building: EU Official Feed and Food Controls art 50.
- In-house experts provide TA: TA by European Chemicals Agency under REACH.

## Technical assistance and capacity building: recent trends 2

- TA in formulating proposals: project preparation grants by STDF.
- Coordinating TA on the basis of registers: WTO/OECD Trade Capacity Building Data Base.
- One stop sources of information for exporters: e.g. CBI AccessGuide.

## Technical assistance and capacity building: ask for it!

- SPS: react to notifications, ask for S&D.
- EU OFFC: ask for a longer transition period and TA.
- EU REACH: ask the European Commission and Agency for TA.
- STDF: promote and use the facility.
- CBI AccessGuide: Inform your exporters.

## Conclusion

- Two track approach: in standard setting and standard implementation.

- **Use both tracks!**

## Thank you!

- Tjalling Dijkstra
- DGIS/Policy Coherence Unit
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- PO Box 20061
- 2500 EB The Hague
- The Netherlands
- [Tjalling.Dijkstra@minbuza.nl](mailto:Tjalling.Dijkstra@minbuza.nl)