

Environment and the WTO – how can statistics help?

**UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade
Statistics**

Work Programme on Wellbeing and Sustainability

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Outline



- Overview of trade and environment work in WTO
 - Committee on Trade and Environment
 - Environmental Database
 - Environmental initiatives – TESSD, DPP and FFSR
- Main considerations and selected issues regarding statistics
 - Main considerations
 - Environmental goods and services
 - Circular Economy
 - Plastics

Overview of trade and environment work in WTO



- Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE): central forum to discuss the impact of trade policies on the environment and of environmental policies on trade.
- Environmental initiatives: complement work in the CTE and other WTO bodies to identify trade solutions in support of environmental objectives.
 - Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD)
 - Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP)
 - Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR)
- Recent Secretariat initiatives and analysis
 - International task force on carbon pricing policies (with OECD, IMF, WBG, UNCTAD, UNFCCC)
 - [Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action](#)
 - [IRENA-WTO report on International trade and green hydrogen](#)
 - [World Trade Report 2022 on Climate change and international trade](#)

CTE – recent issues being discussed



- Environmental measures and market access
 - Trade aspects of the European Green Deal
 - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Deforestation, Waste Shipment; Ecodesign
 - UK – Updates on consultations on a CBAM
 - India's concerns on the use of environment measures as non-tariff measures
 - Brazil, India, US - Update on Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)
- Updates on Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS)
- Updates on environmental initiatives at WTO (TESSD, DPP, FFSR)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UNEP
 - Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)
- Thematic sessions: Clean energy transition (Nov 23 & April 24); Trade-related Climate Measures (Oct 24); planned topics: technology transfer; sustainable agriculture

WTO Environmental Database

- Environment-related **measures notified** under WTO Agreements
- Environment-related entries mentioned in **Trade Policy Reviews**.
- Classified by environment-related objective, sector, type of measure, keyword

<https://edb.wto.org>

The screenshot shows the WTO Environmental Database (EDB) website. At the top, there are logos for the World Trade Organization and the Environmental Database, along with a search bar. Below the logos, there are navigation links for Members, Notifications, Trade policy reviews, Infographics, Documents, and Search. The main content area features a large banner image of a wind turbine in a mountainous landscape. A text box on the banner states: "The WTO's Environmental Database (EDB) contains all environment-related notifications submitted by WTO members as well as environmental measures and policies mentioned in the Trade Policy Reviews of WTO members." Below the banner, there are three large numbers representing key statistics: 7899 Environment-related notifications, 16854 Environment-related measures, and 10899 Environment-related TPR entries. To the right of these statistics is an "EDB DISCLAIMER" section. Below the statistics is a line graph showing the "Proportion of Environment-related Notifications" (blue line) and "Total Environment-related Notifications" (green line) from 1997 to 2021. The graph shows a steady increase in total notifications over time, with a significant jump in 2021. The proportion of environment-related notifications remains relatively stable, around 8-10%. Below the graph are sections for "NOTIFICATIONS", "TRADE POLICY REVIEWS (TPR)", and "OTHER RESOURCES". The "NOTIFICATIONS" section includes a brief description and a "More info..." link. The "TRADE POLICY REVIEWS (TPR)" section includes a brief description and a "More info..." link. The "OTHER RESOURCES" section includes links to a Glossary, WTO Docs Online, I-TIP, TBT-IMS, SPS-IMS, and ePina.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION | Environmental Database

Search all data

Members | Notifications | Trade policy reviews | Infographics | Documents | Search

The WTO's Environmental Database (EDB) contains all environment-related notifications submitted by WTO members as well as environmental measures and policies mentioned in the Trade Policy Reviews of WTO members.

7899 Environment-related notifications

16854 Environment-related measures

10899 Environment-related TPR entries

EDB DISCLAIMER

The environmental database has been prepared under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of WTO members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

NOTIFICATIONS

To improve the transparency of WTO's members' trade measures, members are required to report their measures in the form of notifications to the relevant WTO body.

More info...

TRADE POLICY REVIEWS (TPR)

The WTO conducts regular reviews of members' trade policies. For each review, two documents are prepared: a policy statement by the government and a detailed report written independently by the WTO Secretariat.

More info...

OTHER RESOURCES

- Glossary
- WTO Docs Online
- I-TIP
- TBT-IMS
- SPS-IMS
- ePina

Member data

The member profiles provide a platform to view the notification status of an individual Member in depth

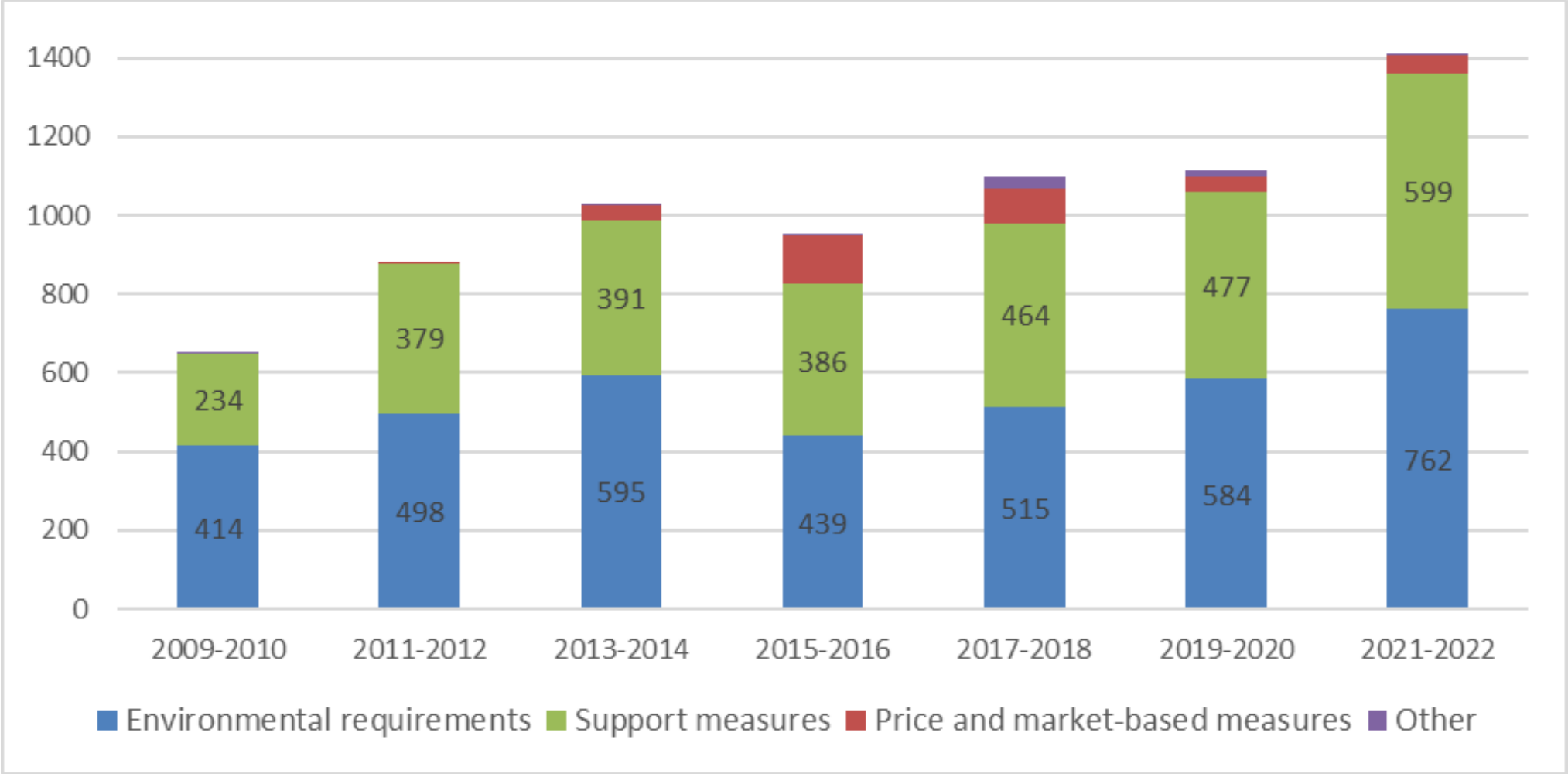
Documents

Download the Environmental Database reports and data sheets published.

Line graph showing the Proportion of Environment-related Notifications (blue line) and Total Environment-related Notifications (green line) from 1997 to 2021. The Total Environment-related Notifications show a steady increase over time, reaching 931 in 2021. The Proportion of Environment-related Notifications remains relatively stable, around 8-10%.

Year	Total Environment-related Notifications	Proportion of Environment-related Notifications (%)
1997	165	8.1%
1998	211	11.3%
1999	182	9.2%
2000	245	10.7%
2001	186	7.8%
2002	281	11.3%
2003	247	9.8%
2004	244	10.3%
2005	311	10.8%
2006	357	14.7%
2007	353	13.5%
2008	395	14.4%
2009	480	14.5%
2010	450	13.1%
2011	468	15.5%
2012	561	16.6%
2013	620	17.5%
2014	551	14.6%
2015	499	14.6%
2016	575	15.4%
2017	602	15.9%
2018	663	17.0%
2019	672	14.3%
2020	827	16.7%
2021	931	18.9%

Trade-related climate measures notified by Members to the WTO, 2009-2022



Source: WTO Environmental Database

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES AT WTO



Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (**TESSD**)

- Four Working Groups: Trade-related climate measures; Environmental goods and services; Circular economy, and Subsidies



Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (**DPP**)

- Working on increasing transparency on trade in plastics; trade-related policies aimed at reducing plastics pollution and promoting non-plastic substitutes; improving capacity of developing countries



Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (**FFSR**)

- Seeks to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by sharing information and experiences, while taking into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries

Main considerations regarding statistics



- Integration of trade/business and environmental statistics beneficial for discussions at WTO on trade and environment
- Measurement of carbon emissions key for discussions and analytical work on needed for carbon pricing, carbon leakage and border carbon adjustment
- Geostatistical/spatial data for business and trade statistics can help better understand environmental impacts of trade and trade policies (as well as the impact of climate change on trade)
- Granularity of statistics at product/business level important for analytical work and insights for policymaking

Environmental goods and services (EGS)



- TESSD: focus on how EGS in sectors such as renewable energy and water management can contribute to achieve env and climate objectives
 - Identification of EGS; trade barriers and supply chain bottlenecks, developing country perspectives and opportunities for facilitating trade in EGS.
 - Living outcome document: Analytical Summary ([WT/MIN\(24\)/11/Add.3](#))
- Inclusion of environmental goods lists in recent regional trade agreements and initiatives

Statistics-related issues on environmental goods

- Identification of EG and measurement of their trade
 - Multiple uses of products at HS 6-digit (subheading level) (use of ex-outs)
- Information on environmental benefits and costs along the lifecycle of a product
 - Extraction of raw materials, energy use in production, disposal and recycling

Environmental services



- Limited scope of environmental services per se
 - At WTO: W/120 list based on CPC Prov.: "6.A – Sewage services" (CPC 9401); "6.B – Refuse disposal services" (CPC 9402); "6. C – Sanitation and similar services" (CPC 9403); and "6.D – Other" (e.g. "Cleaning of exhaust gases" (CPC 9404); "Noise abatement services" (CPC9405); "Nature and landscape protection services" (CPC 9406); and "Other environmental protection services not elsewhere classified" (CPC 9409).
- Increasing relevance of environmentally-related services (depending on use)
 - Ex.: Architectural; construction and engineering for RE projects; technical testing
 - [APEC Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services](#)
 - Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) list of environmentally-related services
 - TESSD: Services related to renewable energy projects
- Statistics-related issues
 - Lack of disaggregated services trade statistics
 - Can statistics capture the “use” of environmentally-related services?

Circular Economy



- Little information is available on trade in products related to circular economy
- Lack of consistency and alignment in the definitions and classification of CE-related products
 - Differences among jurisdictions on what is considered waste and scrap, secondary raw materials, second-hand goods, or goods for refurbishment or remanufacturing.
- HS codes generally do not distinguish
 - between secondary raw materials and waste and scrap
 - between new or used goods, second-hand goods for re-use, and goods intended for refurbishment, remanufacturing, recycling
 - products made from virgin or recycled materials
- Use of trade in services related to circular economy
- Traceability of materials along lifecycle
- Transparency and data are an enabler of circular economy. The lack of identification of circular-economy products hinders the circular business models and trade.

Trade in Plastics



- Trade in plastics represents some 5% of global trade (1.2 trillion USD annually). However, this does not cover
 - plastic packaging used in traded goods
 - plastic embedded in goods
- Countries do not know how much plastic they are actually exporting and importing.
- Following letters by the Co-coordinators of the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution, the current HS 2028 reform process is considering some further breakdowns of HS codes to include goods "made of" plastics, which could help enhance statistics.
- Similarly, little visibility of trade in non-plastic substitutes as HS codes are rarely broken down by the type of material used/embedded in the good

Thank you