



Issue No. 1 of 13 January 2012

- Appellate Body report issued in the WTO dispute on *Philippines – Distilled Spirits*
- The customs union between Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia bans the importation and exportation of harp seal furs
- French Soda tax approved, contributing to an EU trend of taxing certain foods to combat obesity and generate revenues
- The WTO accession of Samoa and Vanuatu may contribute to resolve the 10-year long kava dispute

Issue No. 2 of 27 January 2012

- The WTO Dispute Settlement Body establishes a second panel to examine measures applied by Canada in its renewable energy sector
- Argentina to introduce new import control procedures
- The US appeals the panel report in *US – Tuna (Mexico) II* case
- Overview of the standard of review for possible justifications to introduce national food labelling rules in the EU

Issue No. 3 of 10 February 2012

- WTO Appellate Body upholds Panel's ruling in *China – Measures Related to the Exportation of Various Raw Materials*
- EU Parliament opposes draft EU Commission regulation permitting a 'now contains X% less' claim on food and drinks
- Panel Report issued in the WTO dispute on *Dominican Republic – Safeguards on Polypropylene Bags*
- EU businesses are worried about the new country of origin labelling rules for food

Issue No. 4 of 24 February 2012

- Brazilian poultry exporters challenge South African anti-dumping measures

- EU and US mutually recognise their respective organic standards and control systems as equivalent
- India files a request for consultations on Turkey's cotton yarn safeguards

Issue No. 5 of 9 March 2012

- The EU Commission's Trade and Investment Barriers Report for 2012 highlights an increase in legislation containing local content requirements
- In a report, the EU Parliament calls for the precautionary principle as a fundamental principle which must guide food safety policy
- The US requests consultations with India on SPS poultry restrictions
- The EU vote on polluting values for fuels obtained from oil sands ends in deadlock

Issue No. 6 of 23 March 2012

- The EU, the US and Japan requests consultations with China related to the exportation of rare earths, tungsten and molybdenum
- Concerns about the legal compatibility with EU internal market and WTO rules impede agreement on new GMO cultivation directive
- The European Parliament seals the trade deal on beef between the EU, the US and Canada
- Mexico agrees to cut future car exports to Brazil

Issue No. 7 of 5 April 2012

- New proposal to restrict access of third countries to the EU public procurement market is published by the European Commission
- WTO revives negotiations on a GIs register for wines and spirits
- The US suspends Argentina from its Generalised System of Preferences for failure to pay arbitration awards
- Financial crisis pushing Argentina towards protectionism?

Issue No. 8 of 20 April 2012

- WTO Appellate Body upholds Panel's ruling in *US – Measures Affecting the Production and Sale of Clove Cigarettes*
- Which remedies against Argentina's nationalisation of Repsol's assets?
- 'Sin taxes' on food and beverages in the EU Member States – A Model for the EU?

- India may challenge US measures raising visa fees

Issue No. 9 of 4 May 2012

- The EU Council approves an increase of the '*high-quality beef*' tariff rate quota to implement the arrangements with Canada and the US pursuant to the *EC-Hormones* dispute
- New negotiating topics to be expected in FTA negotiations between the EU and ASEAN Member States
- Further progress in the Canada – EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement negotiations is made, but important issues remain
- EU Member States endorse the '*Union list*' of flavouring substances despite Germany's opposition

Issue No. 10 of 18 May 2012

- The WTO Appellate Body issued its report in *US – Tuna II (Mexico)*
- The US could face a WTO challenge concerning subsidies affecting Caribbean rum
- Progress achieved in the formation of a WTO-attached International Services Agreement
- UNCTAD urges African nations to shift towards organic farming products - Opportunities for organic farming products in the EU

Issue No. 11 of 1 June 2012

- The US imposes preliminary anti-dumping duties on imports of solar panels from China
- France reported to be trying to revive EU initiative on carbon tax
- The EU adopts new rules for fruit juices, providing for numerous changes in relation to its composition and labelling
- The EU and the US agree to mutually recognise each other's certified trusted traders

Issue No. 12 of 15 June 2012

- Argentina raises a specific trade concern at the WTO regarding Spain's biodiesel measure
- European steelmakers requesting export restrictions on steel scrap
- Worrying trend towards protectionism in global trade identified by recent WTO and EU Commission Reports
- EU Commission authorises additional uses of existing food additives, without a need for risk assessments

Issue No. 13 of 29 June 2012

- New rules on investor-to-state disputes proposed by the EU Commission
- Panel Report issued in the WTO dispute on *China – Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Duties on Grain Oriented Flat-rolled Electrical Steel from the United States*
- The EU Council adopts conclusions on the protection and welfare of animals, including a call for increasing efforts at ensuring a level playing field for EU and third-country operators
- The EU signs a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Vietnam and a FTA with Colombia and Peru

Issue No. 14 of 13 July 2012

- WTO Appellate Body upholds the Panel's ruling in *US – Certain Country of Origin Labelling Requirements (COOL)*
- Bilateral trade agreements between the EU and Russia result in increased opportunities for EU businesses upon Russia's accession to WTO
- The European Parliament blocks the adoption of the ACTA

Issue No. 15 of 27 July 2012

- European Court of Justice rejects the EU Council's appeal in an anti-dumping case concerning the EU's failure to grant a Chinese company Market Economy Treatment
- Panel Report issued in the WTO dispute on *China – Certain Measures Affecting Electronic Payment Systems*
- Codex adopts MRLs for ractopamine in the tissues of pigs and cattle, amid strong opposition by the EU and China
- The WTO issues report on the impact on trade of non-tariff measures

Issue No. 16 of 7 September 2012

- Russia's WTO accession and EU anti-dumping measures on Russian seamless pipes: Will it soon be WTO dispute settlement?
- Argentina requests WTO consultations with the EU and Spain over Spain's biodiesel measure
- EFSA approves a health claim related to cocoa flavanols and blood circulation, which still needs to be endorsed by the EU Commission
- EU Member States may be re-thinking the 'Fat Tax' trend with Italy not proceeding with its tax on soft drinks and Denmark expected to repeal last year's tax on saturated fats

Issue No. 17 of 21 September 2012

- EU Commission's draft proposal reveals intended introduction of criteria for the differentiation of biofuels according to their sources of production
- The EU's Emission Trading Scheme and aviation: a WTO perspective
- The Court of Justice of the EU establishes that wine may not be promoted and labelled as being '*easily digestible*' ('*bekömmlich*')
- The EU Commission launches an investigation on dumping of Chinese solar panels and their component parts

Issue No. 18 of 5 October 2012

- The EU and Japan reported to launch bilateral trade negotiations in the coming months
- A WTO Panel will be composed to hear Canada's and Norway's concerns on the EU's seals regime
- EU postpones decision on an application to allow US wine exports to Europe to use the word '*Château*'
- Russia may contest EU energy laws at the WTO

Issue No. 19 of 19 October 2012

- Mexico files a request for WTO consultations concerning China's textiles subsidies
- The EU Commission reportedly found no evidence of subsidy or dumping in bioethanol from the US
- EU General Court confirms decision of the OHIM and finds likelihood of confusion between BIMBO DOUGHNUTS and earlier DOGHNUTS mark
- Reports indicate that negotiations on the International Services Agreement, an initiative of the WTO-linked '*Real Good Friends of Services*' Group, may begin early next year

Issue No. 20 of 2 November 2012

- Questions arising from the EU Commission's proposal on biofuels
- WTO Members discuss the use of the *ad hoc* mediation mechanism for SPS disputes
- Substantial amendment of the EU regulatory framework on medical devices and international trade implications
- The EU Commission Annual Report indicates trends in EU trade defence activities during 2011

Issue No. 21 of 16 November 2012

- The French Senate rejects the introduction of a special excise tax on palm oil, palm kernel oil and coconut oil
- China requests WTO consultations with the EU and certain Member States due to domestic content requirements in feed-in tariff schemes
- EU Environment Ministers approve stricter air pollution limits for shipping industry
- The new GSP adopted by the EU reduces the number of beneficiaries

Issue No. 22 of 30 December 2012

- Brazil's tax reduction scheme on industrialised products, particularly in the auto industry, lands before the WTO
- Food industry trade associations develop GDA Guidelines to assist companies in preparing for the label changes needed in order to comply with the new EU nutrition labelling rules
- EU Commission investigates whether Argentinean and Indonesian '*differential export taxes*' amount to subsidies under the EU Basic Anti-Subsidy Regulation
- Upcoming negotiations for an EU-Thailand FTA may embody the new EU framework on trade agreements and investment

Issue No. 23 of 14 December 2012

- Norway is considering significant tariff changes regarding meat and cheese
- Following a lack of opposition from the EU Council and the EU Parliament, the EU Commission can now adopt a regulation permitting the use of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination on bovine carcasses
- '*Reasonable period of time*' determined by WTO arbitrator in the *US – COOL* dispute
- The EU-China '*10 plus 10*' Geographical Indications project has been completed

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