WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

REPORT PROVIDED BY THE OIML AT THE TBT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 7 – 9 JUNE 2006

Agenda Item 5: Updating by Observers

The following report, dated 7 June 2006, is being circulated at the request of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

1. The OIML works for international harmonisation in the field of legal metrology. The following developments in its work since our last report in March are of interest to the TBT Committee:

I. MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE ARRANGEMENT

2. The aim of the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) is to enable test data obtained in legal metrology testing laboratories in one OIML Member State to be accepted and used by responsible bodies in other OIML Member States. It will therefore assist manufacturers in obtaining national type approval certificates in other participating Member States.

3. The first Declarations of Mutual Confidence (DoMC), on non-automatic weighing instruments (OIML R 76) and load cells (OIML R 60) are in the process of being signed and should be completed by September 2006.

4. Work on the next DoMC for water meters (OIML R 49) is underway, and it is intended to call for participants in DoMCs for fuel dispensers (OIML R 117/R 118) and automatic catchweighing instruments (OIML R 51) in 2007.

5. Further information can be found at www.oiml.org/maa.

II. PACKAGED GOODS SEMINAR

6. The OIML is holding a seminar on "Legal metrology aspects of prepackaging for international trade" on 16 October in Capetown, South Africa. This seminar is intended to attract both industry and government representatives and will address packaging, labelling, the use of measuring container bottles (MCBs) and OIML work on the development of an international quantity mark. Further details, as well as the programme of the event, are available on the OIML website at www.oiml.org/capetown/seminar.

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III. FUTURE SEMINAR ON OIML D 1

7. We intend to organise a seminar in 2007 on OIML D 1 *Elements for a law on metrology*. This should be of interest to developing countries and others in the process of reviewing their legal metrology legislation.

IV. TRANSPARENCY/OPENNESS

8. We are currently trialling a new discussion forum system to make participation in the OIML's technical work more accessible to Members. It is hoped that this will lead to an improved level of participation and therefore increased efficiency and speed of the work.