TRADE COMMITTEE
2022 Activity Report

Mandate
The Trade Committee is focusing on international trade issues facing the global sporting goods industry, including eliminating trade barriers, defending against trade cases, examining new product safety and testing requirements, removing restrictions that impact WFSGI member companies' supply chains, supporting international trade agreements that benefit the global sporting goods industry.

2022 opened with a renewed focus by the WFSGI Trade Committee on the challenges created by the Covid 19 pandemic. Members were confronted with supply chain disruption and also sharply increasing ocean freight costs. Traditional trade barriers such as the anti-dumping expiry reviews of footwear from China in both Brazil and Argentina concluded. Significantly, in Brazil, anti-dumping duties against certain footwear producers were eliminated. The Trade Committee continues to monitor the potential for an investigation against footwear imports from Vietnam and/or Indonesia. Technical Barriers to Trade continue to increase in importance. The registration and the certificate of inspection for exports to Egypt was on the agenda in 2022 and will remain of importance in the near future. While there is a lack of written regulatory information, the WFSGI reached out to testing and auditing institutes and committee members are trying to gain clarity through their contacts with local law firms.

Another important trade case of this year was related to the United Arab Emirates control scheme of textile products. The WFSGI Trade Committee gathered different open points and issues that the industry face with the scheme. After that a position paper has been shared with the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MOIAT). The MOIAT invited the WFSGI and members to participate in a webinar where all concerns have been addressed and partly solved. Further exchange is taking place to gain full clarity over the process and try to address remaining industry issues. Finally, the WFSGI and a few of its member companies have been interviewed by the World Trade Organization in a series of interviews. The WTO will use these interviews for its podcasts series “Trade Goals podcast” which is part of its “Let’s Talk Trade” programme which focuses on the global value of chain of football.

The activity of the Trade Committee in 2023 will continue to focus on ensuring free and fair trade for the sporting goods industry. While the pandemic is still impacting the supply chains, the global challenging economic situation and the still rising number of trade barriers will have the Trade Committee’s attention.

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CHECK ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS