



FIRST QUARTER 2010 PROTECTIONISM DATA: REQUESTS FOR NEW TRADE BARRIERS FALL FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE QUARTER; NEWLY IMPOSED BARRIERS ALSO FALL

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25 May 2010

A Monitoring Update to the Temporary Trade Barriers Database¹

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first quarter of 2010 saw a substantial *decrease* in industry demands for temporary new import barriers under potentially WTO-legal “trade remedy” policies – antidumping, safeguards, and countervailing duty (anti-subsidy) policies.² The first quarter 2010 resulted in a 20% decrease in newly initiated *investigations* in which domestic industries request the imposition of such new import restrictions compared to the number during the same time period in 2009. This follows the fourth quarter 2009 which also resulted in a 20% decrease relative to the same time period in 2008.

In the first quarter of 2010, thirteen different WTO member economies initiated new trade remedy investigations. Developing countries initiated 74.1% of the new investigations, while industrialized economies initiated the remaining 25.9%. China’s exporters continued to be the dominant target, being named in 47.4% of the new country-level investigations that may result in import restrictions.

The first quarter 2010 also exhibited a substantial *decline* in the imposition of the new trade barriers that can come at the conclusion of the investigations that were initiated earlier. When compared to the same period in 2009, the first quarter of 2010 resulted in a 51.1% decrease in the number of new import-restricting measures imposed. It is also a substantial reduction from the number of new import restrictions imposed in the previous quarter – i.e., the fourth quarter of 2009.

In the first quarter 2010, only 60.9% of the completed investigations that had been initiated in earlier quarters concluded with a result that the government imposed a new trade remedy. Seven different economies concluded investigations without imposing new trade barriers in first quarter 2010.

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