Information Sharing and Transparency: The WTO Transparency Mechanism for RTAs

Submitted by: WTO
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- improves existing RTA transparency provisions
- ensures coherence of transparency provisions for all RTAs
- outlines specific guidelines for the provision of RTA data
- charges the Secretariat with the preparation of a factual presentation of all RTAs notified to the WTO
- Mandates a public database on RTAs (www.rtais.wto.org)
The WTO RTA-IS
(Regional Trade Agreements Information System)

WTO RTA-IS

MANDATE FOR A DATABASE ON RTAs
The Transparency Decision provides a mandate to the WTO Secretariat to “establish and maintain an updated electronic database on individual RTAs”. It also includes relevant tariff and trade-related information, and all written material related to announced or notified RTAs available at the WTO. The database is accessible to the public.
A SIMPLE, DIRECT WAY to access the RTA-IS portal is to go to

You may also access the RTA-IS portal through the WTO
website at http://www.wto.org (then chose “Trade Topics”,
then, under “Other topics”, click on “Regional Trade
Agreements”, then click on the hyperlink indicating “RTA
Database”.

Four major ways to navigate the Database:

1. Search by country/territory
2. Search by criteria
3. Search the lists of RTAs
4. Examine pre-defined reports and summary tables
You can select the member you are interested in by clicking on the map or on the drop-down list. You will then have access to details of all RTAs that have been notified or early announcements by the selected member.

You must first define if you want to search all RTAs (covering goods and services), or only goods or only services.

Access to Turkey’s “ID-Card” (as an example)

The search also makes available a number of background WTO documents on WTO Members’ trade laws, policies, or trade environment, such as the Trade Profile, the Tariff Profile or the most recent Trade Policy Review.

Click on an RTA to access the ID-Card of the selected Agreement.
For each RTA, the information is presented in the form of an "ID-Card", which displays all the factual information available on a given agreement.

- Basic information on the selected RTA is available here.

- Information on signatories, date of signature, date of entry into force, etc.

- Access to the text of the agreement.

- Type of agreement, provision it has been notified under, date of notification, end of the implementation period.

For each RTA, the information is presented in the form of an "ID-Card", which displays all the factual information available on a given agreement.

- Information can also be traced on the WTO consideration process that has taken place regarding any agreement.

- All official WTO documents issued in relation to the selected RTA can be consulted here.
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Here you can view the list of the main topics covered by the selected RTA.

Note: The list of all main topics considered can be consulted in the "user guide".

ID-Card

Most information can also be retrieved in Excel format.

For each RTA, the information is presented in the form of an "ID-Card", which displays all the factual information available on a given agreement.

WTO RTA-IS

ACCESSING TRADE-RELATED DATA

In this section, users can find tariff and trade data received from the parties for the preparation of the factual presentation.

ID-Card

Information is presented in Excel format so that it can be utilized directly by the user.
WTO RTA-IS

**Search by criteria**

You can select a combination of search parameters to obtain a list of RTAs meeting those parameters. You can then click on the RTA name to obtain its ID-Card.

**Search through lists of RTAs**

You can search within the list using a selected string of characters to generate a specific list of RTAs.

- You must first define the coverage of the agreement (goods or services).

**Notes**

- You can then select the following criteria:
  - Type of Agreement = Economic Integration Agreement
    - The list will show all notified agreements that have a services component.
  - It is also possible to search by multiple criteria, e.g., all RTAs signed by a given member, with a specific year, etc.

The information can be sorted in ascending or descending order for any column.
Pre-defined reports are formatted as lists of all RTAs in force sorted by alphabetical order, date of entry into force, type of agreement, notification... 

Examine pre-defined reports and summary tables.

Summary tables provide detailed figures on the number of RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO and still in force, sorted by notification, by type of agreement, and by status in the WTO consideration process.

WTO statistics on RTAs, as contained in the summary tables, are based on notifications received from designated authorities. For RTAs that includes both goods and services, we count two notifications (one for goods and one more for services), even though it is physically the same RTA. Nevertheless, figures on the physical number of RTAs (including goods and services together) are provided in the last table.
WTO RTA Database: rtais.wto.org

Thank you