

Doha Development Agenda:

New rules for the Agreement on Agriculture

Charles J. O'Mara

President

O'Mara & Associates

The Rules of Implementation

1. Accurately represent the intent of the negotiators
2. Promote transparency
3. Require timely notification and review
4. Facilitate compliance and enforcement

Lessons of the Uruguay Round

- Primary objectives of the URAA:
 - establish a basis for initiating a process of reform...
 - establish a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system...
 - reform should be initiated through the negotiation of commitments... and through the establishment of strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines...

Were URAA Objectives Achieved?

- Promoted major reforms – negotiation rather than unilateral action – in Members best interest
- Prior to URAA, Agriculture excluded – outside of tariff bindings – no rules for domestic subsidies or export competition
- Bound commitments for trade distorting domestic support and export subsidies
- Dispute settlement

Was the URAA perfect?

- No, but was not intended to end global agricultural distortions
- Members acknowledged need to further reforms, Purpose of Article 20 – continuation clause
- Did rules completely eliminate circumvention – no
- Was every commitment implemented as intended -- no

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- Doha can approve upon the URAA reforms
- Rules can be strengthened, circumvention can be minimized
- However, Members must ensure that no loopholes remain and rules effectively discipline

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- Drafting rules for implementation not an easy undertaking
- Many very complex issues remain unresolved
- The more complex the rules, the more difficult to ensure compliance and implementation

Transparency and Reporting

- Transparency and reporting are critical
- Rules must be drafted so to ensure that Members are providing the Committee on Agriculture timely and accurate reports – there must be deadlines

Conclusion

- *The Agreement on Agriculture will only be as strong and enforceable as the rules permit...*