

WTO – Trade Policy Review

Trade Policy Review (TPR) is a WTO function defined by Article III of the WTO Agreement. It is conducted periodically in accordance with the principle of transparency and the defined procedure, aimed at monitoring implementation of commitments arising from the relevant agreements, as well as commitments assumed during the accession negotiations. Moreover, the aim of TPR is to introduce the member countries with the most important trade, economic and monetary policies. The Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) was established for the purpose of the review. Four Member States with the largest shares of world trade (USA, EU, Japan and China) are subject to TPR each two years. Next 16 Member States are reviewed each four years, whilst the TPR is implemented for the remaining countries each six years, with the possibility of prolonging this period for the least developed countries and developing countries. The WTO member countries adopted the decision in July 2017 changing the Mechanism for the Trade Policy Review by prolonging these review cycles by one year, respectively for each group of Member States.

More information about TPR and Programme of Reviews (2019) can be found [here](#).

The First Trade Policy Review of Montenegro

TPR is one of the most important activities conducted after the accession of Montenegro to WTO. This was a complex process of reporting, commenting and inter-ministerial cooperation. The basis for the review was a Report by the WTO Secretariat and a Report by the Government of Montenegro. For the purpose of organizing the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) Meeting, experts of the WTO Secretariat visited Montenegro two times and held a series of meetings.

The TPRB Meeting, as a final phase of the TPR process, was held in Geneva (Switzerland) on 11-13 April 2018. During the Meeting twenty-eight member countries took part in the discussion, expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved by Montenegro since its accession to the WTO, particularly in terms of fulfilling the international commitments.

TPR formally started in February 2017, in accordance with the previously defined procedure, and ended in May 2018 by submitting the answers to additional questions of the WTO members. Members were entitled to submit questions to both reports, in writing and online. It is worth mentioning that Montenegro was the first member to use the online system for questions and answers. Total number of questions was 217, whereof 184 questions regarding the Secretariat's Report and 33 questions for the Government's Report.

Ministry of Economy coordinated preparation for and participation in the TPRB Meeting, in cooperation with the competent authorities. The official TPR documents for Montenegro can be downloaded [here](#).

The overview of activities regarding the TPR process is shown in the table below

Activity	Period / date
Initial request of the WTO Secretariat for	February 2017 – December 2017

submission of information and Montenegrin legislation	(This was a complex process of reporting and submission of comments and information)
First WTO experts' visit	25 – 28 April 2017
Second WTO experts' visit	27 November – 1 December 2017
The Government of Montenegro adopted the Information on the First Trade Policy Review by the World Trade Organization, which was submitted to the Ministry of Economy	The Government session held on 30 November 2017 (The Conclusions no 07-3637 from 30 November 2017)
Pursuant to the Government Conclusions no 07-3637, the Ministry of Economy established a Working Group for implementation of the Trade Policy Review process, monitoring and implementing the WTO legislation and commitments undertaken by the WTO membership	The Resolution no 69-1004/2017-7 from 28 December 2017
H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt was appointed as the discussant. The discussant opens the discussion at the TPR Meeting and is appointed by the Chairperson of the TPRB in consultation with the members and in accordance with the previously defined procedure for selection of the discussant.	6 February 2018
The Government's Report adopted (submitted by the Ministry of Economy)	11 January 2018 (Government Conclusion no 07-4033 from 18. January 2018). The document was translated and submitted to the WTO Secretariat on 24 January 2018
The WTO Secretariat translated reports into Spanish and French (both documents to be available to the members on all three official WTO languages)	31 January 2018
The Government's Report and the Secretariat's Report were distributed to the WTO members	7 March 2018
Platform for participation of the Montenegrin delegation in the TPRB Meeting adopted (submitted by the Ministry of Economy)	22 March 2018 (Conclusions no 07-1071 from 29 March 2018)
Montenegro submitted comments to the Secretariat's Report, according to the regular WTO procedure (Ministry of Economy prepared comments to the Report in cooperation with the competent authorities)	4 April 2018
TPRB Meeting	11 – 13 April 2018
Answers to WTO questions were submitted (TPR formally completed)	9 May 2018, all answers to WTO questions submitted. It is worth mentioning that the deadline for their

	submission was 13 May 2018, when the process formally ended.
The Government of Montenegro adopted the Report on the activities arising from the WTO membership and CEFTA 2006 and the Free Trade Agreement with the EFTA countries	The Government session held on 27 September 2018 (Conclusions no 07-4476 from 4 October 2018)