



The European Union: preparing comments

TBT Committee: Thematic Session on transparency

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EU comments

Reflect the position of the whole EU.

The interests of individual Member States, various EU industries, as well as general EU interests need to be taken into account and assessed against the background of relevant EU policies.

EU comments

The EU sends only one set of comments on a given TBT notification.

The EU comments on third country notifications:

75 in 2020,

104 in 2019,

73 in 2018.

The process

**Encoding of new notification
internally**

Dispatch to relevant experts

Publication in the TBT database

The process

Initial assessment of the notified draft

Additional requests (translations, extension of deadline for comments)

Assessment of stakeholder contributions

The process

Internal approval of the draft EU comments

Sending the EU comments to the WTO Member

Publication of EU comments

Challenges

Inaccessibility of translations

**Late notifications/insufficient time
for comments**

Late reactions from stakeholders

Identical SPS/TBT notifications

Conclusions

Preparing EU comments is a very complex and lengthy process

Inaccessibility of translations has significant negative impact on the level of transparency.



**Thank you
for your attention.**