



# **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TBT COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE :**

*the use of electronic tools*

**Geneva,  
November 7th 2007**



# Role of the EC-TBT notification and enquiry point



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+ *legal team*

- ensures the participation of the European Communities in the procedure
- transmits EEC notifications to the WTO secretariat
- analyses, with the help of experts and stakeholders, the notified 3rd country projects
- coordinates the issuing of comments
- ensures the follow-up of comments received by the EEC or its Member States
- answers the requests of information about notified projects
- exchanges information with EU members states

## 2004 - 2007: use of the EC-TBT electronic tools

### June 2004

- launch of the EC-TBT website
- improved transparency



### January 2004

- launch of the management application
- improved follow-up and coordination



### before 2004

- «paper management »
- only Excel files used for the follow-up



# The EC-TBT electronic tools : at what cost ?

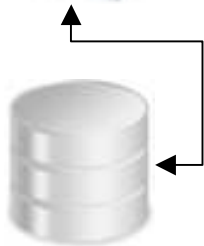


## Analysis

- around **300 person/days**

## Development

- around **200 person/days**
- **hardware/software requirements :**
  - 2 servers
  - 1 database (Oracle)
  - 1 application server (Adobe ColdFusion)
  - 1 web server
  - 2 development platforms



## Support & maintenance

- around **50 person/days**

# The EC-TBT management application



## Goals

- **improve coordination within the European Commission and with Member States**
  - easier way to alert services on a new notification
  - easier way to transmit the documents
  - decentralised access to useful information
  - supports the follow-up after comments sent/received [...]
- **improve document management**
  - respect of TBT classification
  - no paper files, independent of staff mobility
  - creation of a library for TBT related documents [...]
- **get rid of repetitive tasks**
  - checking the WTO website for new notifications
  - providing interested parties with notified texts
  - requesting the notified text from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries [...]

# ex : the “checkWTOwebsite” automated procedure

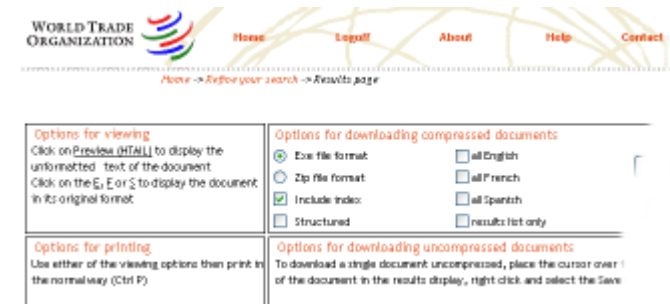
  
checkWTOwebsite  
(runs 2x/day)

1



2

• check for **New** documents



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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07-4528	U	G/TBT/N/MEX/127 <a href="#">Catalogue record</a>	Comité de Obstáculos Técnicos al Comercio - Notificación - México - Substancias, materiales y residuos peligrosos <a href="#">Preview HTML</a>	19/10/2007 <b>New 15</b>

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EC-TBT Database



- save the documents in the database
- extract TITLE, CONTENT and OBJECTIVE
- send a report to the Managers

# The EC-TBT website

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/>



## ≡ The notification procedure created by the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade : an instrument of market

Enterprises are the driving forces in international trade. So that they can fully benefit from the growth in international trade, the trade is accompanied by the removal of unjustified technical barriers. Differences between the technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures of different countries can result in the creation of obstacles to international trade. The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) adopted to date in the field of technical regulations. The Agreement aims to ensure that regulations, standards and testing and certification procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade.

**New** Conference : "The Notification Procedure under the TBT Agreement" - 29 March 2007. (Wel



\*\*\* LIVE DEMO \*\*\*

- public access

- shares the same database as the management application

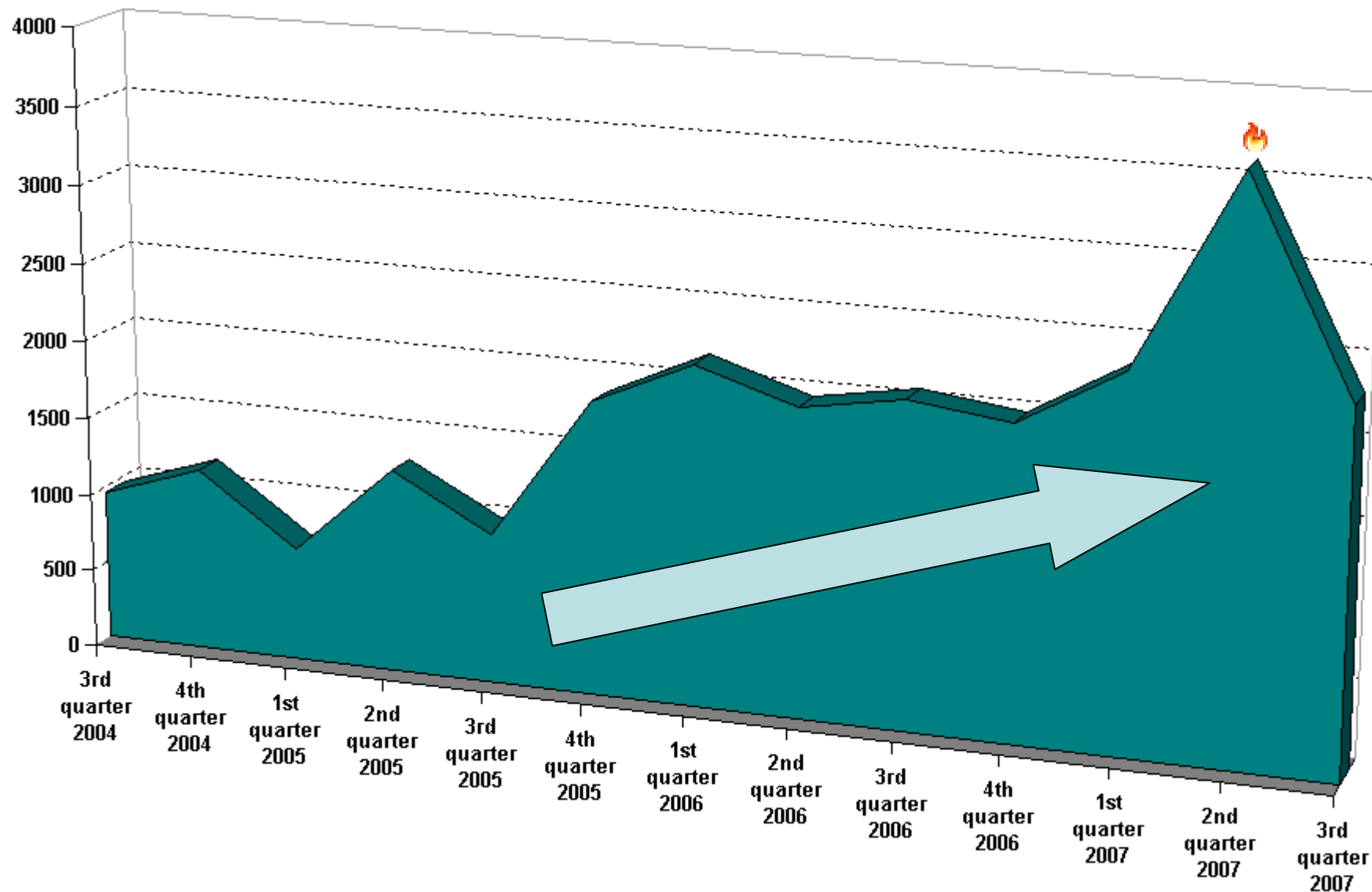
- alert system for economic operators and other interested parties

- monthly review of the activity of the EC-TBT notification and enquiry point

- privileged access for Member States and Commission services

# The EC-TBT website - Statistics

Number of searches (average 600/month)



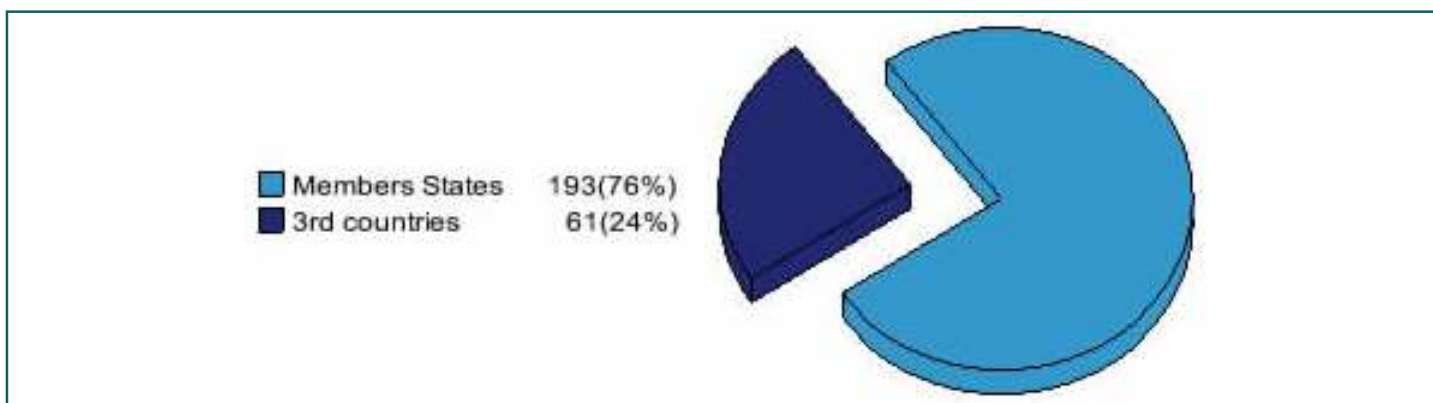
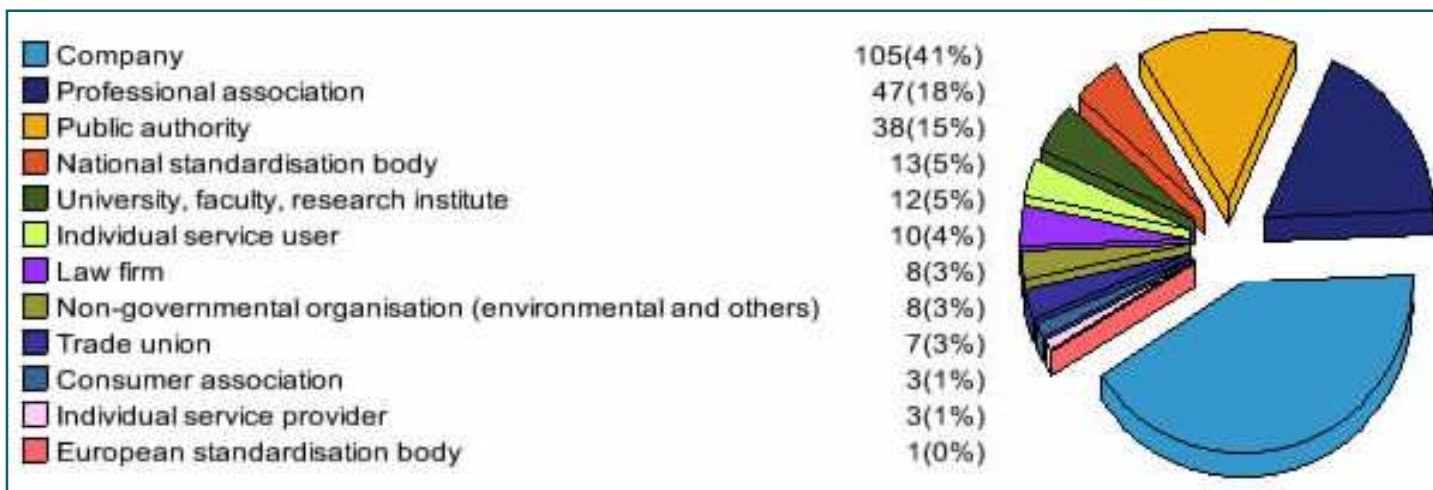


# The EC-TBT mailing list - Statistics



**254 subscribers** (25/10/2007)

## distribution per type of subscriber



## What can be improved ?

- **Better communication on any changes in contact point information**  
(email, people...)
- **Provide a precise link where the text can be found**
- **Share translations when possible !**

## Contact

**EC-TBT website :** <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/>

**email address :** [ec-tbt@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec-tbt@ec.europa.eu)

**THANK YOU !**

