

TRADE & CUSTOMS

Turkey



Trade & Customs

Consulting editors

Gary N Horlick

Law Offices of Gary N Horlick

Quick reference guide enabling side-by-side comparison of local insights, including into major domestic legislation and international agreements; trade defence investigations; customs duties; trade barriers; export controls; financial and other sanctions, including trade embargoes; and recent trends and hot topics.

Generated 11 July 2022

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Table of contents

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Domestic legislation

International agreements

TRADE DEFENCE INVESTIGATIONS (OUTSIDE THE WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM)

Government authorities

Complaint filing procedure

Contesting trade remedies

WTO rules

Appeal

Review of duties/quotas

Compliance strategies

CUSTOMS DUTIES

Normal rates and notification requirements

Special rates and preferential treatment

Challenge

TRADE BARRIERS

Government authorities

Complaint filing procedure

Grounds for investigation

Measures against foreign trade barriers

Private-sector support

Notable non-tariff barriers

EXPORT CONTROLS

General controls

Government authorities

Special controls

Supply chain security

Applicable countries

Named persons and institutions

Penalties

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SANCTIONS AND TRADE EMBARGOES

Government authorities

Applicable countries

Specific individuals and companies

OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

Other trade remedies and controls

UPDATE AND TRENDS

Recent developments

Contributors

Turkey



M Fevzi Toksoy
fevzi.toksoy@actecon.com
ACTECON



Bahadır Balki
bahadir.balki@actecon.com
ACTECON



Ertuğrul Can Canbolat
ertugrul.canbolat@actecon.com
ACTECON



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Domestic legislation

What is the main domestic legislation as regards trade remedies?

Turkey adopted its first legislation providing for trade remedies as early as 1989 to protect its domestic producers following the trade liberalisation (and the ensuing elimination of import restrictions) initiated in 1980. In this regard, Turkey's domestic legislation includes the following:

- Law No. 3577 on the Prevention of Unfair Competition in Imports;
- the Regulation on the Prevention of Unfair Competition in Imports (Regulation on Unfair Competition);
- the Decree on the Prevention of Unfair Competition in Imports (Decree on Unfair Competition);
- the Regulation on Safeguard Measures in Imports (Regulation on Safeguards);
- the Decree on Safeguard Measures in Imports (Decree on Safeguards);
- Communiqué No. 2008/6 on the Prevention of Unfair Competition in Imports; and
- the Procedure and Principles of Implementation for Communiqué No. 2008/6 on the Prevention of Unfair Competition in Imports.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

International agreements

In general terms what is your country's attitude to international trade? Has it raised tariffs in the last year?

From an international standpoint, being a party to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Turkey is also bound by the annexed multilateral agreements, including:

- the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994;
- the General Agreement on Trade in Services;
- the Agreement on Implementation of article VI of GATT 1994 (the Anti-Dumping Agreement);
- the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures; and
- the Agreement on Safeguards.

Turkey is also a member of other international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Group of 20, the World Customs Organization, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development so that its policies regarding international trade are in line with the concerned organisations' rules and disciplines. Being a candidate for full EU membership, Turkey has been reforming its domestic legal order to progressively integrate the EU's *acquis communautaire*, thereby closely following the legal developments taking place in the EU. Further, Turkey formed a customs union with the EU in 1995 placing an obligation on it to adopt the EU's common external tariff. More importantly, Turkey must also (theoretically) align its trade policy with the EU's Common Trade Policy. It follows, *inter alia*, from those obligations that Turkey must enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the countries with which the EU has signed such an agreement. It should, however, be indicated that Turkey is not under obligation to include as such the provisions contained in the FTAs concluded by the EU and may consider its industrial and trade priorities when negotiating.

There are currently 22 FTAs in force to which Turkey is a party (Albania, United Kingdom, Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Faroe Islands, Morocco, Palestine, South Korea, Georgia, Israel, Montenegro,

Kosovo, North Macedonia, Malaysia, Egypt, Moldova, Mauritius, Serbia, Singapore, Chile, Tunisia and Venezuela). The FTAs signed with Lebanon, Sudan, Qatar and Ukraine are undergoing the ratification process, whereas the FTA entered into with Syria was suspended in 2011 and the FTA signed with Jordan was repealed on 22 November 2018. The scope of the FTAs in force with EFTA, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia have been revised and entered into force. Additionally, the ratification process of the revised FTA with Montenegro is ongoing, while it is expected that revisions with respect to the FTAs with Georgia and Malaysia will be concluded soon and negotiations will commence for the revision of FTAs with Moldova and North Macedonia. On 26 April 2022, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates commenced negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Moreover, the countries and organisations with which Turkey continues its negotiations or talks to start such negotiations to sign an FTA are: the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Algeria, Cameroon, Canada, Central America, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Indonesia, Japan, Libya, Mexico, MERCOSUR, Pakistan, Peru, Seychelles, South Africa, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Turkey has also signed and ratified various bilateral investment treaties and trade and cooperation agreements with a large number of countries. On 8 June 2019, Turkey and Canada entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding the Joint Economic and Trade Commission to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries. On 11 November 2020, a bilateral investment treaty between Turkey and China entered into force.

Turkey is a notable user of trade remedies and is expected to remain so during current global protectionist tendencies. Indeed, as of May 2022, 191 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy and five safeguard measures are applied by Turkey. Within the framework of the WTO dispute settlement procedure, Turkey has initiated six cases as a complainant; while 12 cases have been brought against Turkey.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

TRADE DEFENCE INVESTIGATIONS (OUTSIDE THE WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM)

Government authorities

Which authority or authorities conduct trade defence investigations and impose trade remedies in your jurisdiction?

Under Turkish legislation regarding trade remedy investigations, the Directorate General for Imports of the Ministry of Trade (the Ministry) is authorised to conduct a preliminary examination ex-officio or upon application of the domestic industry. The Dumping and Subsidy Department, the Safeguards Department and the Department for Monitoring and Assessment of Import Policies are the competent administrative units to conduct trade remedy investigations.

If the Directorate General for Imports is convinced that the initiation of an investigation is justified, it presents its recommendations to the Board of Evaluation for Unfair Competition in Imports or the Board for the Evaluation of Safeguard Measures for Imports, and if the competent board resolves that an investigation should be initiated, it submits its resolution to the Minister of Trade for approval. Subsequently, the initiation notice is announced in the Turkish Official Gazette and any interested party may find the relevant questionnaire at the Ministry's website. The appointed case handler analyses and examines the investigation during the proceedings and prepares a report based on his or her findings, against which any cooperating party may present their comments.

Different authorities are competent for the enactment of anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures, and safeguard measures:

- after having decided whether to impose an anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measure, the Board of Evaluation for

Unfair Competition in Imports transfers the proposed decision to the Minister of Trade, whose approval is necessary for the entry into force of the measure through the publication of a communiqué in the Official Gazette; and

- if the Board for the Evaluation of Safeguard Measures for Imports decides that a safeguard measure should be taken, it publishes a communiqué along with the Ministry's evaluations in the Official Gazette. This decision recommends to the Turkish president that a safeguard measure should be imposed. If that recommendation is accepted, a presidential decree is published in the Official Gazette to announce the entry into force of the safeguard measure.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Complaint filing procedure

What is the procedure for domestic industry to start a trade remedies case in your jurisdiction?
Can the regulator start an investigation ex officio?

A trade remedy investigation can be initiated upon application of domestic producers or ex officio by the Ministry if there is sufficient evidence that dumped or subsidised imports of a given product caused an injury to a domestic industry. The content of the application form varies depending on the requested trade remedy and can be accessed at the Ministry's website.

Application for the imposition of an anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measure

According to Law No. 3577, an application may be made by or on behalf of the domestic industry in writing. The complaint shall be considered to have been brought by, or on behalf of, the domestic industry if it is supported by the producers whose collective output constitutes more than 50 per cent of the total production of the like product produced by that portion of the domestic industry expressing either support for or opposition to, the application and shall not be less than 25 per cent of the total production of the like product produced by the domestic industry in Turkey (the representativeness test). In the case of fragmented industries involving a large number of producers, the support and opposition of the domestic industry may be determined by using statistically valid sampling techniques.

Such an application must include, among other things, the following information and details:

- the applicant and the other domestic producers;
- the products concerned by the application;
- the production process of those products;
- like products;
- the market structure;
- the applicant's imports of those products;
- the sales, cost and accounting structure of the applicant;
- pricing;
- the applicant's economic indicators (eg, productivity, sales, costs, profitability, employment, capacity usage rate and investment);
- known exporters and importers; and
- the dumping or subsidy, material injury, the threat of material injury or material retardation of the establishment of an industry, and causation allegations (eg, dumping calculation, schedule, amount or characteristics of the subsidy, development of imports, both in absolute and relative terms and the import's effects on the domestic industry's prices).

In the case of an application for the initiation of a subsidy investigation, the documents referring to the existence of a subsidy will also be attached. Also, the applicant must provide a non-confidential version of the application and the Ministry is obliged to respect the confidentiality under both the relevant domestic legislation and the anti-dumping agreement. Upon the Ministry's first review of the application, potential deficiencies will be notified to the applicant and missing or additional information will be required.

An investigation shall not be initiated where it is determined that the dumping or subsidy margin is de minimis or that the import volume is deemed negligible. The criteria used in this regard are as follows:

- regarding dumping investigations, cases where:
- regarding subsidy investigations, cases where:

Within 45 days of the submission of a complete application, the Directorate General for Imports must conclude its examination and submit its recommendation (whether to initiate an investigation) to the Board of Evaluation for Unfair Competition in Imports. If the Board resolves to launch an investigation, this will be presented to the Minister of Trade's approval. Afterwards, the relevant country is notified about the initiation of an investigation and an initiation notice is published in the Official Gazette. On the other hand, if the Board of Evaluation for Unfair Competition in Imports decides not to investigate, only the applicants are notified.

As regards the initiation of an expiry review investigation, the Ministry announces through a communiqué the measures that will expire on a given date. Producers may require the extension of the applicable measures at the latest within the three months before the expiry date. Such applications should be substantiated by documents demonstrating that dumping, subsidy and injury are likely to continue or recur. Moreover, once the measures have been in force for one year, an interim review investigation may be requested by an exporter, importer or domestic producer on the ground that a change took place regarding dumping, subsidy or injury.

Application for the imposition of a safeguard measure

The Regulation on Safeguards stipulates that the relevant natural or legal persons or the professional organisations or chambers with which they are affiliated may submit a written application for the imposition of a safeguard measure. This form may be obtained from the Directorate-General for Imports.

The application must mainly consist of the following information and details:

- the applicant and the other domestic producers;
- the products concerned by the application;
- the production process of those products;
- customers;
- the market structure;
- the factors influencing the demand and competition;
- the development of imports, both in absolute and relative terms;
- unforeseen developments, serious injury or threat of serious injury and causation allegations;
- the applicant's costs and economic indicators (eg, productivity, sales, costs, profitability, employment, capacity usage rate and investment); and
- creation of an adaptation plan to the new competitive environment if a safeguard measure is brought into force.

Afterwards, the Directorate General for Imports will conduct a preliminary examination, in the course of which additional information or documents could be requested. The outcome of this preliminary investigation is then presented to the Board for the Evaluation of Safeguard Measures. The Board could either decide that an investigation should be launched (in which case an initiation notice is published in the Official Gazette and is notified to the WTO) or that an investigation is unwarranted (in which case the applicant is notified of the Board's decision).

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Contesting trade remedies

What is the procedure for foreign exporters to defend a trade remedies case in your jurisdiction?

The relevant country is notified that an investigation has been initiated and a communiqué is published in the Official Gazette. Initiation communiqués address the following subjects:

- the subject products;
- the country of origin or consignment;
- allegations made regarding the concerned imports; and
- the time frame imposed on interested parties to submit their responses to the questionnaire.

The usual period of investigation is 12 months, but an additional six-month extension can be applied by the Ministry. In most cases, the Ministry concludes the investigation by the end of 12 months. The use of an extra six months depends on the number of cooperating firms, as well as the number of subject countries and subject products.

After the initiation of an investigation, questionnaires are sent to known importers and exporters of the subject product, and the embassies in Turkey of the countries subject to investigation. Those questionnaires are also published on the Ministry's website. Any parties willing to cooperate with the investigating authority should submit their responses to the questionnaire within 37 days in the case of anti-dumping or anti-subsidy investigations (which may be extended upon request) and at most 40 days in case of safeguard investigations. During those investigations, the interested parties may submit their comments (in writing) against the evaluations and allegations made by the case handler or the domestic industry. Additionally, parties may also present orally their comments during potential hearings.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

WTO rules

Are the WTO rules on trade remedies applied in national law?

Yes, Turkey is a member of the WTO. Article 90(5) of the Turkish Constitution provides that international agreements duly put into effect have the force of law. Turkey has signed and ratified the Agreement Establishing the WTO, and all the multilateral agreements annexed thereto so that those agreements are legally binding legal instruments.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Appeal

What is the appeal procedure for an unfavourable trade remedies decision? Is appeal available for all decisions? How likely is an appeal to succeed?

The decisions taken in respect of trade remedies are administrative acts over which the Council of State exercises sole

jurisdiction.

Turkish law confers on the investigating authority wide discretion and that approach is generally backed by the Council of State's case law. It is therefore important to be cautious of the likelihood of success of an appeal procedure against a decision of the Ministry. Judicial review success in trade remedy cases is thus dependent on the quality of supporting evidence and on the nature of the investigating authority's errors in making its determinations.

In this regard, the Council of State had annulled Communiqué No. 2015/28 on the Prevention of Unfair Competition in Imports (Decision dated 28 December 2017 and numbered 2015/6922 E, 2017/6614 K) because there was no concrete and sufficient evaluation regarding injury and causation. However, the concerned decision was overturned upon the Ministry's appeal by the majority of the members' votes of the Plenary Assembly of the Tax Law Division.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Review of duties/quotas

How and when can an affected party seek a review of the duty or quota? What is the procedure and time frame for obtaining a refund of overcharged duties? Can interest be claimed?

The Regulation on Unfair Competition allows interested parties to request the initiation of the following investigations:

- interim review investigation – exporters, importers or domestic producers may request the review of a definitive measure after one year of the entry into force. The request must be supported by sufficient evidence demonstrating that the review is warranted. Additionally, the request must be submitted in writing to the Directorate-General for Imports;
- expiry review investigation – measures about to expire are announced in the Official Gazette in the last year of the five-year validity period of the concerned measures. The domestic producers of the subject product may request the initiation of an expiry review investigation at the latest three months before the end of the validity period. The request must be supported by sufficient evidence and must be submitted in writing to the Directorate-General for Imports.
- new exporter or shipper review investigation – the exporters or producers that have not exported the product subject to Turkish measures during the period of investigation may request in writing the determination of individual dumping or subsidy margins from the Directorate General for Imports. To this end, the applicant should prove that it is not related to any of the exporters or producers subject to the measures in question and that it has exported the subject product to Turkey after the period of investigation or has concluded an irrevocable contractual obligation to export a significant quantity;
- anti-absorption re-investigation – the domestic industry may request such an investigation in writing because the definitive measures have been neutralised due to a fall in export prices. The request shall contain sufficient evidence of the measures being absorbed; and
- anti-circumvention investigation – the domestic producers claiming that an applicable measure is being circumvented may submit a written request for the initiation of an anti-circumvention investigation to the Directorate General for Imports (along with the documents demonstrating that there is a change in the pattern of trade between a third country and Turkey or the country subject to measures and Turkey or individual companies in the country subject to measures and Turkey, stemming from practice, process or work for which there is an insufficient due cause or economic justification other than the imposition of the applicable measure, and the remedial effects of the duty are being undermined or nullified).

Furthermore, the Regulation on Safeguards sets out that a safeguard measure may be imposed in the form of customs duties, additional financial charges, quantity or value restrictions, tariff quotas or a combination of these measures.

The duration of safeguard measures shall not exceed four years, including the duration of any provisional measure unless it is extended. The duration of the measure may be extended by the results of a new investigation to be initiated, provided it is determined that the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and there is evidence that the domestic producers are adjusting to the conditions of the market. An extended measure shall not be more restrictive than it was at the end of the initial period and shall continue to be liberalised. The total period of application of a safeguard measure with respect to WTO members shall not exceed 10 years.

Last, a refund application must be submitted within six months of the collection date of the measures. The application must be supported by the evidence concerning the following subjects:

- the dumping or subsidy margin for a representative period;
- the amount of refund of taxes claimed;
- customs documentation regarding the calculation of the measures; and
- the producer or exporter's normal value and export prices to Turkey for a representative period.

A refund application must be submitted in writing to the Directorate-General for Imports. The Directorate-General for Imports must take its decision within 12 months, but this time frame can be extended by six months. If the decision is positive, the relevant authorities must grant a refund within 90 days from the date of the refund decision.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Compliance strategies

What are the practical strategies for complying with an anti-dumping/countervailing/safeguard duty or quota?

Depending on the commercial terms used by the parties, importers in Turkey are generally liable for the payment of the customs duties on imports. Accordingly, importers will benefit from close cooperation with exporters to take all the appropriate precautions and to minimise the risks associated with the implementation of trade remedies. Moreover, any activity violating the customs legislation could potentially trigger the application of hefty administrative fines along with the retroactive collection of the duties, and in certain circumstances, the application of criminal sanctions.

Eventually, any strategy that will closely monitor the subject products, market structures (including upstream and downstream markets), competitiveness, cost-price analysis, pricing policy and Turkey's approach may be useful for potential review cases.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

CUSTOMS DUTIES

Normal rates and notification requirements

Where are normal customs duty rates for your jurisdiction listed? Is there an exemption for low-value shipments, if so, at what level? Is there a legally binding system of information for applied tariffs or similar in place? Are there prior notification requirements for imports?

The lists containing the applicable customs duty rates are available on the Directorate-General for Imports of the Ministry of Trade (the Ministry) website. Likewise, the Ministry's Tariff Search Engine provides general information on the customs duties as well as required documents on the imports of a given product. Additionally, binding tariff information or an advance ruling can be given by the Customs Undersecretariat upon a taxpayer's written request.

Importers may request binding tariff information concerning:

- the determination of import or export taxes – calculation of export tax refunds in the scope of the agricultural policy and all payments given to import or export; and
- usage of import, export or prior consent documents – binding tariff information is binding from the date the information is given and valid for six years from the date the information is given.

The exemptions from customs duty and exceptions are listed under article 167 of the Customs Law, whose fourth paragraph regulates the exemption for low-value shipments. As a general practice, the Turkish president determines the exemptions, including the exemption for low-value shipments, under Turkey's current trade policy. Currently, article 45 of the Decree on the Implementation of Certain Articles of the Customs Law (the Decree) stipulates that books or printed publications sent by post or fast cargo for personal use whose value does not exceed €150 for each shipment, are exempt from customs duty. Also, article 62 of the Decree sets out the following customs duty rates for goods, books or printed publications for personal use sent by post or fast cargo and for the goods referred to in article 59 of the Decision brought into Turkey by passengers provided that the value of such goods does not exceed €1,500:

- 18 per cent for those consigned from the EU;
- 30 per cent for those consigned from other countries;
- zero per cent for books or similar printed publications; and
- 20 per cent additionally to the above-mentioned rates for the goods listed in Annex IV of the Special Consumption Tax Law No. 4760. These goods include caviar, perfume, hair spray, fur, crystal products, gold and silver tableware.

However, books or printed publications that are sent to or procured by public institutions and organisations, libraries and museums, as well as organisations engaging in educational or scientific research, are exempt from customs duty. Turkey's customs tariff system (Customs Tariff Statistics Positions) is based on the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization and is updated and approved every year by the Turkish president. The Customs Tariff Statistics Positions establishes 12-digit codes for the identification and classification of imported and exported products.

The Customs Guide portal , launched by the Ministry, provides basic and conceptual information concerning customs procedures for individual and commercial goods.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Special rates and preferential treatment

Where are special tariff rates, such as under free trade agreements or preferential tariffs, and countries that are given preference listed?

Reduced customs duty rates are published in the lists annexed to the Import Regime Decree and are provided for in the free trade agreements concluded by Turkey. Article 16 of Decision No. 1/95 of the EC–Turkey Association Council of 22 December 1995 on implementing the final phase of the Customs Union obliges Turkey to harmonise its tariffs to align with the EU's preferential customs regime.

The EU's regime is now partly applied, meaning certain countries that are covered by the EU's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) regime are not included in Turkey's GSP regime. Those countries may be considered either as third countries or beneficiaries from special incentive arrangements. (See annex 1 of the Import Regime Decree for the list of GSP beneficiary countries.) The lists of applicable customs duty rates depending on the concerned country's status

(GSP or not) are provided in Turkish at the Ministry's website . In general, GSP beneficiaries are certain developing and least-developed countries.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

How can GSP treatment for a product be obtained or removed?

GSP treatment for a product can be obtained from, and removed by, the Directorate General for Imports within the Ministry.

According to the Import Regime Decree, Turkey takes any necessary measure for countries, establishments and companies that disturb the balance of commerce and payments in Turkey's commercial relations, breaching their obligations determined by international agreements or acting contrary to the principle of universality within the context of international agreements.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Is there a duty suspension regime in place? How can duty suspension be obtained?

Turkey has a tariff suspension system. The products that are free of customs duties are listed in Appendix V of the Import Regime Decision. The suspension list is being arranged in cooperation with the EU and such goods are indicated in List-V. This list shows either reduced or mostly suspended customs duties applied to imports of certain products predominately used as raw materials or intermediate inputs. Producers located in Turkey can request tariff suspension for raw materials, semi-finished goods or components to be used in their products that are not available either in the EU nor Turkey. Additionally, the amount of the import duty saved must be at least €15,000.

All requests are forwarded to the Economic Tariff Questions Group within the European Commission. Those requests are first evaluated by this group and the outcome is sent to the European Commission. After the final decision by the European Commission, suspension updates enter into force in the EU and Turkey simultaneously.

Suspension decisions are valid for five years. Communication from the European Commission concerning autonomous tariff suspension and quotas, which is also applicable to Turkey, and its annexes regarding the documents required, are available on the EU's Official Journal website.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Has your country applied tariffs for 'national security' reasons?

Turkey has not applied tariffs for national security. However, the Turkish president can apply additional customs duties with different grounds.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Challenge

Where can customs decisions be challenged in your jurisdiction? What are the procedures?

Disputes between declarants and customs authorities that concern customs decisions may be resolved through two distinct procedures according to the Customs Law: administrative review and settlement.

An application can be made either before the competent settlement commission within 15 days after the notification or

before the Head Directorate within 15 days from the date of notification.

The settlement procedure may be used, among other things, in cases where penalties have been imposed or where there are differences between the tax declaration and the determinations of the customs authorities. Following the amendment made on 24 November 2019 to the Customs Law, it is now possible to trigger both an administrative review and settlement procedures at the same time. Failing to resolve the disagreement with the settlement and administrative review, the decision of the customs authorities may be challenged before the administrative courts within 30 days from the date of notification.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

TRADE BARRIERS

Government authorities

What government office handles complaints from domestic exporters against foreign trade barriers at the WTO or under other agreements?

According to the Regulation on Trade Barriers, complaints from domestic exporters are handled through the Turkish Trade Barrier Notification Centre by the Market Access Barriers Working Group of the Ministry of Trade.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Complaint filing procedure

What is the procedure for filing a complaint against a foreign trade barrier?

The relevant parties can file a complaint regarding a foreign trade barrier on the Directorate-General for Exports of the Ministry of Trade's website. A working group on trade barriers reviews whether the notified issue constitutes an actual trade barrier. After sufficient data is gathered on the issue to provide a legal basis in light of international treaties, the issue will be submitted to the relevant units to take legal action. The complainant will be informed of any legal issues and actions concerning its complaint.

The relevant parties may also file a complaint against a foreign technical barrier on the Turkish Trade Barrier Notification Centre website.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Grounds for investigation

What will the authority consider when deciding whether to begin an investigation?

The authority will consider whether all the documents and information sent by applicants contain sufficient evidence to justify the initiation of an investigation.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Measures against foreign trade barriers

What measures outside the WTO may the authority unilaterally take against a foreign trade barrier? Are any such measures currently in force?

Turkey signed and ratified treaties with Bulgaria, China, European Free Trade Association, the EU, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Russia and Lebanon. Some measures may be taken against foreign trade barriers under these treaties.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Private-sector support

What support does the government expect from the private sector to bring a WTO case?

The government does not have any known expectations in this regard from the private sector.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Notable non-tariff barriers

What notable trade barriers other than retaliatory measures does your country impose on imports?

Imports of the products listed in the annexes of Communiqué No. 2022/1 on Product Safety and Inspection are inspected by the Inspectors for Standardisation of Foreign Trade for commercial quality. A control certificate is given to the importers if the products meet the required standards.

Agricultural products are inspected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs under the annexes of the Communiqué No. 2022/5 on Product Safety and Inspection published by the Directorate General for Product Safety and Inspection. Before importing these agricultural products, a control certificate is required from the Ministry of Trade. Upon inspection by the Ministry, a letter of conformity is issued to the importer provided that the products in question do not constitute any health risks.

As to plants and animals, a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin is additionally required for plants and related products, and health certificates may be required for livestock and animal products, depending on the country of origin.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

EXPORT CONTROLS

General controls

What general controls are imposed on exports?

Products listed in Appendix 1 of the Regulation on Trade Barriers and Standardisation of Foreign Trade are subject to mandatory standards and quality controls. Exporters must apply to the relevant Group Presidency of Inspectorates for the Standardisation of Foreign Trade to export the listed products. A control certificate is issued by the Group Presidency of Inspectorates for the Standardisation of Foreign Trade if the products meet the required standards.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Government authorities

Which authorities handle the controls?

In general, the inspectorates of standardisation for foreign trade are empowered to conduct conformity assessments

of the exported products against required standards, technical regulations and quality. Those are also competent to deliver the relevant documentation in this regard. Furthermore, the administrative authorities in charge of controlling and those in charge of approving the exportation of the goods subject to control are mentioned in each of the relevant regulations. The main authorities administering export control are:

- the Ministry of National Defence (for military material and equipment);
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (for livestock and certain agricultural products);
- the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (for nuclear and nuclear dual-use material); and
- the Ministry of Trade (for other dual-use material).

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Special controls

Are separate controls imposed on specific products? Is a licence required to export such products? Give details.

Specific certificates and analysis may be required in particular in cases of plant and livestock exports. The details are as follows:

- phytosanitary certificate – export of unprocessed agricultural products requires a phytosanitary certificate to attest that the consignment meets phytosanitary export requirements. The certificate is prepared in line with the 1951 Treaty of Rome; and
- health certificate – all agricultural products require a health certificate based on the requirements of the purchasing country. The evaluations of the inspection report and analysis results are based either on the requirements of the purchasing country or the Turkish Food Codex.

There are also additional procedures, such as the EU's analytical report requirement and health certificate to show that aflatoxin levels are acceptable in the case of exportation of nuts and dried fruit, or the requirement of a radiation analysis to prove that radiation levels are below the limits for exportation of mushrooms.

The Russian Federation also requires additional analysis when exporting fresh fruit and vegetables. Exports of livestock and animal products may also differ from country to country. Under the Regulation on the Protection of Export of Dual-Use and Sensitive Products and the Communiqué on the Export of Chemical Products that are listed in the Appendix of the Chemical Weapons Agreements, the Directorate General for Imports of the Ministry of Trade controls the export of dual-use and chemical products. According to the legislation, the exporter must apply to the Secretary-General of the Istanbul Mining and Metals Exporters Union to obtain a licence.

Additionally, Turkey is a party or member of the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Supply chain security

Has your jurisdiction implemented the WCO's SAFE Framework of Standards? Does it have an AEO programme or similar?

Turkey is a party to the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global

Trade. According to article 5/A of Customs Law No. 4458, the authorised economic operator status can be granted by the Customs Undersecretariat to economically active residents who have the requisite qualifications, such as financial capability.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Applicable countries

Where is information on countries subject to export controls listed?

The following communiqués establish lists of products subject export control:

- the Communiqué setting out the List regarding War Tools and Equipment, Weapons, Ammunitions and Spare Parts thereof, Military Explosive Materials, and Technologies thereof established based on the Law No. 5201;
- Communiqué No. 96/31 on the Goods whose Export is Prohibited or Subject to a Pre-Authorisation;
- Communiqué No. 2006/7 on the Goods whose Export is Subject to Registration; and
- Communiqué No. 2007/1 on the Warning List regarding Nuclear Transfer and the List of Nuclear Dual-Use Goods, which Indicate the Items of the Goods Falling under the Regulation on the Granting of the Document that Will Serve as a Basis for the Approval of the Use of Nuclear and Nuclear Dual-Use Goods.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Named persons and institutions

Does your jurisdiction have a scheme restricting or banning exports to named persons and institutions abroad? Give details.

No, there is no such scheme restricting or banning exports in Turkey. Nevertheless, Turkey implements the lists of sanctioned individuals and entities established by the United Nations and the EU.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Penalties

What are the possible penalties for violation of export controls?

The violation of an export control rule can lead to the imposition of an administrative fine that is the double of the customs value of the goods whose exportation is prohibited by a general administrative act (article 235(2) of Customs Law No. 4458). The exportation of goods whose exportation is subject to the granting of a licence, to the satisfaction of a condition or approval may lead to an administrative fine worth a tenth of the customs value.

From a criminal viewpoint, article 3 of Anti-Smuggling Law No. 5607 provides that those who export goods whose exportation has been prohibited can be subject to imprisonment from one to three years and to a judicial fine equivalent to 5,000 days unless the behaviour concerned constitutes an offence requiring a heavier punishment. According to article 52(2) of the Turkish Penal Law, the amount of a fine equivalent to one day varies between 20 Turkish lira and 100 Turkish lira and must be determined based on the economic situation and other personal characteristics of the person concerned.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SANCTIONS AND TRADE EMBARGOES

Government authorities

What government offices impose sanctions and embargoes?

The Turkish president is authorised to impose embargoes. Any customs related sanctions are to be applied by customs authorities and deputies.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Applicable countries

What countries are currently the subject of sanctions or embargoes by your country?

There are currently no official sanctions or embargoes applied by Turkey. On the other hand, Turkey applies the sanctions taken by the United Nations against certain countries.

However, the practice in Turkey can differ for foreign-originating companies in Turkey (Turkish companies with foreign partners and companies working with EU member states or the United States). Foreign-originating companies may refrain from working with countries such as China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Syria, Zimbabwe, Russia and Belarus owing to sanctions or embargoes applied in the country where they originate.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Specific individuals and companies

Are individuals or specific companies subject to financial sanctions?

There is currently no official list of individuals or specific companies subject to financial sanctions applied by Turkey.

However, the practice in Turkey can differ for foreign-originated companies in Turkey, Turkish companies with foreign partners and companies working with EU Member States or the United States. Foreign-originated companies may refrain from working with persons, groups and entities subject to financial sanctions in the country in which they originate.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

Other trade remedies and controls

Describe any trade remedy measures, import or export controls not covered above that are particular to your jurisdiction.

There are no other measures or import or export controls.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

UPDATE AND TRENDS

Recent developments

Are there any emerging trends or hot topics in trade and customs law and policy in your jurisdiction? What effects are Brexit, the withdrawal of the US from TPP and TTIP, RCEP and negotiations of FTAs (such as the EU–Japan Free Trade Agreement, the Pacific-Alliance, etc) expected to have on your jurisdiction?

Green Deal Action Plan from Turkey

On 16 July 2021, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 2021/15, Turkey took its first concrete step to implement the Green Deal. According to the Presidential Decree, the 'Action Plan for the Green Deal' was published by the Ministry of Trade in order to contribute to Turkey's transition to a sustainable and green economy and to ensure that Turkey adapts to the changes envisaged by the European Green Deal in a way that will preserve and further the integration provided within the scope of the Turkey-EU Customs Union. The Presidential Decree highlights the envisaged transformation in international trade and economy, Turkey's 2023 development goals, and the importance of maintaining and improving Turkey's competitiveness in its exports in terms of strengthening its integration into the global economy and supply chains with the advanced economic integration established by the Turkey-EU Customs Union.

Turkey's Green Deal Action Plan consists of a total of 32 objectives and 81 actions under nine main headings: carbon border adjustments, green and circular economy, green finance, clean, affordable and secure energy supply, sustainable agriculture, sustainable smart mobility, combatting climate change, green diplomacy and information and awareness raising activities.

Carbon border adjustments from Turkey's perspective

In line with the Turkish Green Deal Action Plan, Turkey is currently considering an appropriate carbon pricing mechanism as well as evaluating support mechanisms for increasing costs on Turkish producers/exporters ('Turkish sectors'). Enabling the recognition of monitoring systems for greenhouse gas emissions and certification in accordance with the EU's methodology is also on the agenda. In addition, the Ministry of Trade aims to evaluate the impact of the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism on Turkish sectors and to determine the roadmaps/activities to support and incentivise the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in energy intensive sectors.

WTO Panel reports on Turkey's disputes with the EU

At the end of April 2022, the WTO Panels published their reports on 'Turkey – Pharmaceutical Products (EU)' (DS583) and 'EU – Safeguard Measures on Steel (Turkey)' (DS595) concerning disputes between the EU and Turkey on pharmaceutical measures and steel safeguards.

In the 'Turkey – Pharmaceutical Products (EU)' dispute, which was initiated on 2 April 2019 upon the complaint of the EU, the EU claimed that various Turkish measures concerning the production, importation and marketing of pharmaceutical products amounted to: (1) localisation requirements; (2) technology transfer requirements; (3) an import ban on localised products; and (4) prioritisation measures. Accordingly, the EU asserted that the concerned measures were inconsistent with various provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures, Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. In its report, the Panel upheld the EU's arguments and recommended Turkey to bring its measures into conformity with its obligations under GATT 1994. On 28 April 2022, Turkey decided to appeal the Panel report before the Arbitrator in accordance with the Agreed Procedures for Arbitration reached between the EU and Turkey.

The 'EU – Safeguard Measures on Steel (Turkey)' dispute was initiated on 13 March 2020 upon Turkey's challenge to the EU's provisional and definitive safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products and the investigation that had led to the imposition of those measures. Turkey asserted that the concerned measures, as well as the investigation process, were inconsistent with the WTO rules in GATT 1994 and the Agreement on Safeguards. More specifically, Turkey put forward that the EU had failed to make reasoned and adequate findings with respect to its determinations relating to: (1) like products, (2) the unforeseen developments and how those unforeseen developments resulted in increased imports, (3) the products concerned threatening to cause serious injury to domestic producers, (4) the increase in imports of the products concerned, in absolute or relative terms, (5) the existence of a threat of serious injury to the domestic industry, and (5) finding of a causal link between the increase in imports and the threat of serious injury to the domestic industry. While both the EU and Turkey claims victory over the concerned Panel report, it should be noted that the Panel found that the concerned definitive safeguards were only inconsistent with respect to the EU's failure (1) to establish that the increase in imports had taken place 'as a result of' the unforeseen developments, (2) to identify in its published reports the obligations whose effect resulted in the increase in imports, and (3) to base its finding of serious injury on facts as required by the Agreement on Safeguards. As a result, the Panel recommended the EU to bring its measures into conformity with its obligations.

Law stated - 13 May 2022

Jurisdictions

	Chile	Porzio Ríos García
	Colombia	Araújo Ibarra International Trade Consultants SAS
	Eurasia	Dentons
	European Union	Fieldfisher
	Japan	Mori Hamada & Matsumoto
	Jordan	AL Armouti Lawyers & Consultants
	Malaysia	SKRINE
	Mexico	Galicia Abogados SC
	Thailand	Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners Ltd
	Turkey	ACTECON
	Ukraine	Sergii Koziakov & Partners
	United Kingdom	Clifford Chance
	USA	Cassidy Levy Kent LLP