



TABLE RONDE 2: « ORIGINE PRÉFÉRENTIELLE »

Traitement de l'origine préférentielle à l'OMC

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1. Regional Trade Agreements (“Authorized violation” of the WTO principle of Non-Discrimination (Most Favoured Nation) - GATT Art.24, Waivers, and Enabling Clause)

- Free Trade Agreements, Cooperation or Partnership Agreements
- Customs Unions

2. Multiplication:

- **70** PTA in force in 1999, close to **300 in 2010**
- All WTO Members belong to at least 1 PTA
- **13** is the average number of PTAs that a WTO Member is party to

3. Despite that, a majority of international trade is NOT preferential

- 20 largest importers: 30% of world merchandise trade is preferential (incl. EU)
- Preferential margins above 10 percentage points: less than 2% of world trade
- No or under utilization (including because of rules of origin)



4. Multiplicity of rules or origin: obstacle to international trade

- Rule itself is inadequate or too strict (cumulation, value thresholds, etc.)
- Cumbersome procedural requirements (certificate of origin, methodology for the calculation of value, verification and inspection)
- Business surveys: ROO = 2nd most commonly cited obstacle to trade
- Obstacle for 13-15% of companies [ITC (2013), *Company Perspectives – An ITC Series on Non-Tariff Measures* – Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, etc.]

5. WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin: transparency

6. Who is most vulnerable to the types of compliance costs and obstacles related to RO?

- Companies and countries trading intermediate goods
- Companies and countries specializing in assembly operations
- Companies and countries exporting to a large number of markets





GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS

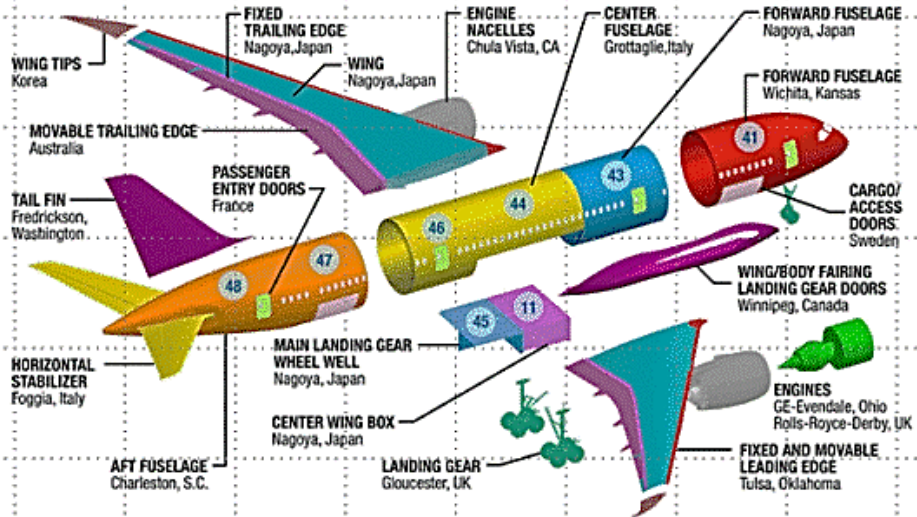
- Fragmentation of production and specialization in “tasks”
- Trade intra-firms
- Trade in intermediate goods
- *What consequence for the design and application of rules of origin?*

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