

**QUOTA:** Explicit limit on the physical amounts of particular products that can be imported or exported during a specified time period, usually measured by volume but sometimes by value. The quota may be applied on a "selective" basis, with varying limits set according to the country of origin, or on a global basis that specifies only the total limit and thus tends to benefit more efficient suppliers. (Contingent)

**RULES OF ORIGIN:** Laws, regulations and administrative procedures that determine the origin of a good. Rules of origin may be designed to determine the eligibility of a good for preferential access under the terms of a free trade agreement, or they may be designed to determine a good's country of origin for various purposes. A decision by a customs authority on origin can determine whether a shipment falls within a quota limitation, qualifies for a tariff preference or is affected by an anti-dumping duty. These rules can vary from country to country and from purpose to purpose. (Règles d'origine)

**SUBSIDY:** An economic benefit granted by a government to producers of goods, often to strengthen their competitive position. The subsidy may be direct (a cash grant) or indirect (e.g., low-interest export credits guaranteed by a government agency). (Subvention)

**TARIFF:** A tax on merchandise imports. Levied either on an ad valorem (percentage of value) or on a specific basis (e.g., \$5 per 100 kilograms). Tariffs give price advantage to similar locally produced goods and raise revenues for government. (Tarif douanier)

**TRANSPARENCY:** Visibility and clarity of laws and regulations. (Transparence)

**WTO:** World Trade Organization. Established on January 1, 1995, to replace the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, it forms the cornerstone of the world trading system. (OMC : Organisation mondiale du commerce)