



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate A
TRADE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate D

Brussels,
SANTE A4/TRADE D3/

**AGENDA OF THE INFORMAL COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP MEETING OF
18 OCTOBER 2023 IN PREPARATION OF THE WTO SPS COMMITTEE**

It will be a virtual meeting, which will be held on the WebEx video conferencing platform on **18 October 2023 from 10 AM.**

Meeting number (access code):

Meeting password:

Dial in phone number:

It will serve to prepare the upcoming meeting of the **WTO** Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (**SPS Committee**) that will be a virtual and physical meeting on **15-17 November 2023**. The regular SPS Committee meeting will be preceded by informal meetings on Monday, **13 November** (afternoon) and Wednesday, **15 November** (morning) covering the SPS Declaration work programme and other issues identified by the members.

ISSUES RELATED TO THE NOVEMBER 2023 SPS COMMITTEE

Side events at the margins of the SPS Committee meeting

- Thematic session on risk communication, misinformation and disinformation (14 November)
- Oxford University Press side event (15 November)
- EU side event on BTSF (TBC)

Regular committee meeting

- **Statements from Members and ISSBs**
- **Operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement**

Procedure for the sixth review

- **Cross-cutting issues**

SPS Declaration work programme – factual summary and draft report to the 13th Ministerial Conference

Thematic sessions in 2024

- **Defensive Specific Trade Concerns (STCs)**

The Commission has not been informed yet of the cases that will be raised by third countries.

- **Offensive Specific Trade Concerns**

Following STCs are intended to be reiterated:

- Mexico import restriction due to African Swine fever (ID 563)
- India – approval procedures to import plants, animals and their products (ID 565)
- India's Draft Food Safety and Standards (Import) Amendment Regulation (ID 553)
- India's Order related to requirement of health certificate accompanied with imported food consignment of milk, pork, fish and related products (ID 554)
- General import restrictions due to BSE (ID 193)
- Korea's lack of progress on pending applications for authorization of beef imports (ID 490)
- South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (ID 431)
- China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (ID 406)
- China's import restrictions due to African swine fever (ID 392)
- Peru's non-application of regionalization for African swine fever (ID 544)
- The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat (ID 466)TBC
- Qatar's new import rules for dairy products (ID 529)
- Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products (ID 441)
- India's requirement for certificate for non-GM origin and GM-free status (ID 501)
- US import restrictions on apples and pears (ID 439)
- US non-recognition of the pest-free status in the European Union for Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle (ID 471)

- Morocco's import ban on ornamental plants (ID 548) TBC
- Panama: undue delays in the renewal of authorisations for plants of the European Union (ID 509) TBC
- **Monitoring of the use of international standards**
 - ASF restrictions not consistent with the WOAHA international standards – *previously raised.*
 - HPAI restrictions not consistent with the WOAHA international standards – *previously raised.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Information on Committee of Trade and Development Special Session (CTDSS) - thematic session on SPS and TBT

SPS- MARKET ACCESS ISSUES

- **SPS Market Access Working Group (MAWG)**

The next meeting of the SPS Market Access Working Group is planned for 7 December 2023. Member States are invited to send by e-mail to TRADE-SPS@ec.europa.eu the SPS market access issues or other topics to be included in the agenda and presented/discussed during this Working Group.

- **Suggested bilateral meetings with importing countries**
 - **Qatar:**
 - **Thailand**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WTO Members' contributions to the final agenda of the SPS Committee will have to be submitted to the Secretariat by **25 October 2023**. Therefore, any input from EU Member States should be submitted to the Commission as soon as possible but **no later than 23 October 2023**.

A hybrid coordination meeting is planned prior to the formal SPS Committee on 15 November.

General SPS concerns and EU import related issues should be addressed to the EU SPS Notification Authority and Enquiry Point at sps@ec.europa.eu and general trade and SPS export related issues to TRADE-SPS@ec.europa.eu

Member States are kindly reminded that the Commission would appreciate being kept informed of any significant developments with respect to MS trade concerns particularly when the Commission has been involved in related multilateral or bilateral discussion.