



**REPORT OF THE SPS EXPERTS MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2023  
TO PREPARE THE WTO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE OF MARCH 2023**

The meeting was convened to prepare the upcoming regular meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee) that will take place in a hybrid format on **22 -24 March 2023**.

**I. GENERAL ISSUES**

COM informed the participants about the different events planned in the margins of the next SPS Committee meeting:

- 20-21 March - thematic group meetings (Group 1, 3, 4 and 5) in the context of the SPS declaration work programme
- 22 March - OECD Side event: “Sanitary and Phytosanitary Approval Procedures - Key Issues, Their Impact on Trade and Ways to Address Them”.
- 22 March - informal meeting, which will discuss the implementation of the work programme outlined by the MC12 SPS Declaration and the follow-up of the 5<sup>th</sup> review.
- 23 March - Codex-IPPC-WOAH Side Event: Monitoring the Implementation of International Standards.

**II. SPECIFIC ISSUES**

**A. Issues of possible interest to third countries.**

The issues raised by third countries at the previous SPS Committee meetings were discussed and an update was given by COM on those topics, which were likely to be raised at the next meeting.

**B. Issues of interest to the EU**

**B.1. Possible specific trade concerns (STCs)**

The issues raised by the EU at the previous SPS Committee meetings were discussed and an update was given by COM on those topics, which were likely to be raised at the next meeting.

## **B.2. Monitoring of the use of international standards**

COM informed the Member States on cases of third countries trade restrictions not in line with existing international standards (ASF, HPAI) and outlined its planned actions to remedy the situation.

## **B.3. SPS Market Access Working Group (MAWG)**

The next meeting of the SPS MAWG is scheduled for 30 March 2023. COM outlined the proposed agenda and invited the participants to comment on it.

## **B.4. SPS market access issues and possible bilateral meetings (in and outside Geneva)**

COM informed MS about a number of SPS market access issues and its intention to request bilateral meetings in the margins of the next SPS Committee meeting and other upcoming meetings with third countries. To prepare the bilateral meetings with third countries, Member States were reminded to provide information on the latest developments on market access issues.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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](mailto:sps@ec.europa.eu) and general trade and SPS export related issues to [TRADE-SPS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:TRADE-SPS@ec.europa.eu).

Member States were 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 discussions.