



**REPORT OF THE SPS EXPERTS MEETING OF 2 JUNE 2020
TO PREPARE FOR THE WTO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE OF JUNE 2020**

The meeting was convened to prepare the upcoming regular meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee) that will take virtually on **24 - 26 June 2020**.

I. GENERAL ISSUES

COM provided information to the Member States on the following issues:

- The outcome of the virtual consultation of 25 May, mainly related to the practical arrangements for the virtual SPS Committee meeting;
- The current state of play of the Fifth Review of the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement and the EU position.
- The intended information points of the EU on composite products, the new OCR legislation and the technical assistance report.
- The envisaged discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on trade and the EU position.

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 **10 June 2020** in a virtual format. 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 with third countries on 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.

III. 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 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 discussions.