



**REPORT OF THE SPS EXPERTS MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2024
TO PREPARE THE WTO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE OF MARCH 2024**

The virtual meeting was convened to prepare the upcoming 88th formal meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee) that will take place on 20-22 March 2024.

I. GENERAL ISSUES

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

- informal meeting on Wednesday on 20 March (morning) covering the 6th review and other issues identified by the members;
- Workshop on Transparency (18-19 March);
- Introducing the EU-funded AGRINFO Information Programme on New EU Policies and Regulations” (19 March);
- International Francophonie Day (20 March)

COM provided information on the current state of play on:

- the follow-up to the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference;
- the Sixth Review of the SPS Agreement;
- the G90 specific proposals on Special and Differential Treatment in relation to the TBT and SPS Agreements;
- the Thematic sessions proposed for 2024.

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 5 March 2024. 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 and general trade and SPS export related issues to 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.