



**REPORT OF THE SPS EXPERTS MEETING OF 17 JUNE 2019
TO PREPARE FOR THE WTO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE OF JULY 2019**

The meeting was convened to prepare the 75th regular meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee) which will take place at the Centre William Rappard, Geneva on **18 and 19 July 2019**. The SPS Committee meeting will be preceded by a workshop on Transparency and Coordination (15-16 July) and by an informal meeting of the Committee on 17 July.

I. GENERAL ISSUES

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

- The state of play of the 5th review of the operation and implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement;
- Transparency and Coordination workshop, informal meeting and information sessions organised on the margins of the next formal meeting of the SPS Committee

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. WTO Dispute Settlement cases

COM provided information on the state of play of the current WTO Dispute Settlement concerning certain measures adopted by the Russian Federation affecting the importation of live pigs and their genetic material, pork, pork products and certain other commodities from the European Union.

B.2. 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.3. 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.4. SPS Market Access Working Group (MAWG)

The next meeting of the SPS MAWG is scheduled for **25 July 2019** in the Centre Borschette in Brussels. COM outlined the draft agenda of this meeting.

B.5. New activities to promote the EU model and increased market access

COM informed the meeting about the new activities (new Partnership Instrument project, study visits) launched to promote the EU system and to increase market access.

MS were invited to suggest topics and priorities for these initiatives, as well as to express possible interest to participate in their organization and development. Feedback from Member States will be used by the Commission to set priority actions in priority countries, for priority sectors related to the exports of animals, plants and their products.

B.6. Certification of low risk food and drink products (China and Morocco)

COM reported about its separate dialogues with Morocco and China on this issue and updated the MS on the current state of play.

B.7. New features of the Market Access Database (MADB)

COM made a presentation about the new features of the MADB, and provided information on the user guide and the possibility of e-mail notifications as well.

As it was the case with the previous version of the MADB, the Commission will use this function to ensure that Member States are immediately informed or are asked to provide feedback about a particular SPS exports matter.

B.8. SPS market access issues and possible bilateral meetings in 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. 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

WTO Members' contributions to the final agenda of the SPS Committee will have to be submitted to the Secretariat by **28 June 2019**. Therefore, any input from EU Member States should be submitted to the Commission as soon as possible but **no later than 17 June 2019**.

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.