



**REPORT OF THE SPS EXPERTS MEETING OF 11 OCTOBER 2019  
TO PREPARE FOR THE WTO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE OF NOVEMBER  
2019**

The meeting was convened to prepare the 76<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee) that will take place at the Centre William Rappard, Geneva on **7 and 8 November 2019**. The SPS Committee meeting will be preceded by a thematic session on approval procedures (5 November) and an informal meeting of the Committee (6 November). As regards the future organisation of the preparatory meeting with Member States, COM suggested to consider shortening the meeting to a half day, which seems sufficient to cover the agenda of the SPS Committee in the light of the recent experience

**I. GENERAL ISSUES**

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

- The ongoing WTO Trade Policy Review of the EU;
- The draft EU Technical Assistance report containing all the technical assistance provided by the EU and the MS in 2017-2018 in the SPS area;
- The side event organised by STDF (Standards and Trade Development Facility) on 7 November presenting the findings and recommendations of an independent evaluation of projects the STDF organised in the AESAN countries, Africa and Latin America on setting maximum residue levels (MRLs) for certain minor crops and strengthening capacity to meet pesticide export requirements.

**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 **22 November 2019** in the Centre Borschette in Brussels. COM outlined the draft agenda of this meeting.

**B.5. 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

WTO Members' contributions to the final agenda of the SPS Committee will have to be submitted to the Secretariat by **17 October 2019**. Therefore, any input from EU Member States should be submitted to the Commission as soon as possible but **no later than 15 October 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](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 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.