

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/943
11 November 2010

(10-6035)

REPORT (2010) ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1. The present report is being circulated by the Chairperson of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on his own responsibility. This report provides a summary of the activities and decisions of the Committee during 2010.
2. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the "SPS Committee") has held three regular meetings in 2010: 17-18 March, 29-30 June, and 20-21 October. At the June meeting, Mr. Flavio S. Damico of Brazil was appointed Chairperson for the 2010-2011 period.
3. At its March 2010 meeting, the SPS Committee adopted the report on the Third Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/53). In addition, as agreed by the Committee in its Second Review (G/SPS/36), the Committee has been considering proposals to facilitate the use of ad hoc consultations and negotiations to resolve trade problems. The Committee has been discussing a proposed mechanism specifically for use with regard to the implementation of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/W/243/Rev.3), however a number of Members have indicated their preference for awaiting the outcome of negotiations on the "Procedures for the Facilitation of Solution to NTBs" under discussion in the Negotiating Group for Non Agricultural Market Access.
4. In accordance with the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement, 1,197 notifications (including addenda, corrigenda, revisions, supplements and agreements on equivalence) were submitted by Members in the period 1 January to 31 October 2010. This brings the total number of SPS notifications submitted since the entry into force of the Agreement to 12,057 by November 2010.
5. A workshop on the operation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement was held on 18 and 22 October. Concrete ways to enhance the implementation of transparency obligations and benefit from a transparent system were discussed. Hands-on training was provided on the SPS IMS and on the new system for online submission of SPS notifications.
6. The SPS Committee considered a wide range of specific trade concerns, including some related to individual notifications. During 2010, 16 new specific trade concerns were raised and nine previously raised concerns were again discussed. Two concerns were reported to have been resolved at the March Committee meeting, while at the October Committee meeting the European Union reported that 14 specific trade concerns previously raised by the European Union had been resolved.
7. The Committee also continued to discuss the effects of SPS-related private standards on trade, and the appropriate role of the SPS Committee. An ad hoc working group has been charged with identifying possible actions that could be taken by the Committee and/or Members to address concerns regarding the effects of private SPS standards (G/SPS/W/247/Rev.3). This group is expected to submit its report for consideration by the Committee at its March 2011 meeting.

8. At each of the Committee's meetings, Members, Observer Organizations and the Secretariat provided information on their respective SPS-related technical assistance activities, and the Secretariat kept the Committee informed of the work of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The most recent report on STDF activities is contained in G/SPS/GEN/1046.

9. The issue of special and differential treatment was considered at each meeting of the Committee. The Chairman informed the October meeting of the SPS Committee regarding his report to the Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology on the Transfer of Technology.

10. The SPS Committee maintained its close working relationship with the IPPC, the OIE and Codex and received regular updates on their activities. Other observer organizations also provided information on their activities, including technical assistance activities.

11. The Committee agreed to grant observer status, on an ad hoc, meeting-by-meeting basis, to the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC), to the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and to the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The Committee continued to invite organizations which had been granted observer status on an ad hoc, meeting-by-meeting basis to participate in each of its meetings during 2010. The Committee was unable to reach any decision with regard to pending requests for observer status from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Office International de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV), from the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), and from the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardisation Organization (GSO).

12. The Committee agreed to the following tentative calendar for its regular meetings in 2011: 30-31 March, 29-30 June and 19-20 October.
