

**Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Joint Management Committee
(CETA SPS JMC) Meeting Report
111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Canada
March 26-27, 2018**

PARTICIPANTS

CANADA:

Regulatory Co-operation Division, CFIA
Global Affairs Canada
Regulatory Co-operation Division, CFIA
International Phytosanitary Standards, Plant Protection Division, CFIA
Animal Import/Export Division, CFIA
Food Import/Export Division, CFIA
International Affairs Unit, Health Canada
Office of Policy and Strategic Advice, Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Market Access and Trade Division, Natural Resources Canada
Mission of Canada to the European Union
Europe, Middle East and Africa Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
Europe, Middle East and Africa Division, AAFC

EU:

European Commission, DG-SANTE
DG-SANTE
Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Export issues, DG-TRADE
Trade affairs, Delegation of the European Union to Canada
Veterinary International Trade, Agriculture House, Ireland
Embassy of France in the United States
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands
Directorate-General for hygiene food safety and nutrition, Ministry of Health, Italy

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

1.1

opened the meeting, welcomed the participants to the inaugural JMC meeting following the provisional application of CETA on September 21, 2017 and thanked the EU for coming to Ottawa. She explained that this group has an expanded scope under CETA and that there is an ambitious agenda for the meeting.

European Commission, DG-SANTE, and thanked Canada for hosting and agreed that the group has an ambitious agenda and that there is a lot of important work to do during this meeting. He mentioned that Canada and the EU have had previous very good cooperation under the Veterinary Agreement and they look forward to continued good relations under the new CETA SPS JMC. EU emphasized the importance of delivering on the ambitious CETA SPS chapter and looking forward to these discussions.

1.2

Introductions

Officials from the Canadian and EU delegations were introduced, as listed above.

1.3	Adoption of the Agenda
	EU and Canada agreed to change Annex Review to Annex Discussion in Section 4 for this inaugural meeting given that there is no work to review at this stage. The agenda was finalized and approved by both sides.
2.0 Operation and Implementation of the SPS Chapter	
2.1	Rules of Procedure
	<p>Canada indicated that the CETA Secretariats of both Canada and the EU agreed in principle to the Joint Committee draft Rules of Procedure on March 23, 2018, and that the intention is for the rules of procedure to apply to all specialized committees, including the CETA SPS JMC, at least for the first year of provisional application. The EU understood that once the rules of procedure are agreed to at the EU-level, the SPS JMC can then decide whether to have specific rules for the work of this committee. Canada has been instructed that the rules apply immediately, and the EU agreed to check with the EU CETA Secretariat to see if they have received similar instructions. The draft rules of procedure will have to go through formal adoption procedure at the EU Council level and adoption by the CETA Joint Committee subsequently before they would become applicable.</p> <p>The EU and Canada discussed sections relating to transparency, including Rule 8.3 (sharing the agenda prior to the meeting), and 9.5 (short summary of the minutes) and, in view of the importance of transparency, aim to follow these rules. The EU indicated that finalizing the minutes of the meeting before the end of these two days would be consistent with the timelines set out in the draft rules of procedure.</p>
2.2	Establishment of the CETA SPS JMC Work Programme
	<p>Canada and the EU agreed on a process for developing the draft SPS JMC work programme, draft meeting report and draft action items list for approval prior to the conclusion of the meeting.</p> <p>As each agenda item is discussed, Canada and the EU will agree to a high-level summary of the item, including action items and tentative work programme items, to be captured in the running meeting summary report. The work plan will capture long term work, including milestones, while the list of action items will include more transactional items.</p> <p>Following the completion of agenda discussions, Canada and the EU will work collaboratively to adjust and finalize the draft meeting report, and work programme. Work programme timelines may be adjusted during the finalization process of the minutes to ensure that work being committed to can be delivered.</p>
2.3	CETA Chapter Articles, for further reflection
	Canada and the EU agreed to read through the articles in the SPS chapter in order to

	<p>identify articles that may inform future work.</p> <p>The EU highlighted Article 5.5 relating to allowing trade to continue while applying the concept of zoning and regionalization in the event of pest detection or disease outbreaks. The EU stated that Article 5.6 on equivalence is also important to the work of this group, and that equivalence should be adhered to once the lengthy process to achieve equivalence is completed. Also, on Article 5.7 on trade conditions, a key concern for the EU relates to import requirements applying to all the EU Member States, and that this type of work will be discussed later in the meeting. For example, in the area of plant health, there is an apple pilot project ongoing, which aims to allow the use of data generated to be used for a pest risk assessment for all EU Member States.</p> <p>Canada stated that this is part of the priority-setting exercise for the work programme and agreed that Article 5.7 is an important article that allows for flexibility. Canada observed that there are sometimes cases in which some Member States may not comply with all EU and Canadian requirements, and the situation may need flexibility so that the other Member States aren't blocked due to the limitations of a small number of Member States. EU stressed that all recommendations pertaining to compliance with EU regulations were satisfactorily addressed. Both Parties agree that work on recognition of EU Member States' meat inspection systems is a high priority. Based on audit findings and recommendations, actions plans are developed to address the findings.</p> <p>For Article 5.14, Canada and the EU will need to discuss how this SPS JMC will report to the CETA Joint Committee. For this year, the Co-Chairs agreed to send the minutes of the SPS JMC to the Joint Committee, along with an Annex that outlines updates on the implementation of the work programme and decisions taken. Canada highlighted that 5.14, section 2(g) states the requirement to maintain a document on the state of equivalence discussions, but that there is nothing to add at this point.</p>
	<p>3.0 Information-sharing</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p><i>Safe Food for Canadians Regulations – Information</i></p> <p>Canada provided an update on the proposed new <i>Safe Food for Canadians Regulations</i> (SFCR) which will bring into force the <i>Safe Food for Canadians Act</i> (SFCA) of 2012. The SFCR was published in January 2017 in Canada Gazette I. The new regulations will ensure that all food imported into Canada or prepared for trade meet a common set of requirements consistent with Codex standards. The final publication of the SFCR is expected in 2018, and all stakeholders will have a period of time to review the final regulations once they are published. Canada proposed to offer a briefing on this through the EU delegation in Ottawa. The EU thanked Canada for the offer and the EU Delegation will work with CFIA to set up the videoconference.</p> <p><i>Action: Canada committed to holding a videoconference with the European Commission and Member States on the SFCR by May 2018.</i></p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p><i>Incoming and outgoing audits – Information</i></p> <p>Canada indicated that the CFIA has a tentative plan to conduct a maintenance audit of the</p>

	<p>meat inspection system by visiting Denmark, Germany, Portugal and Spain in early 2019.</p> <p>The EU indicated that there might be an audit on horse meat and an audit related to ash wood. There had been a tentative plan for an audit for seeds for sprouting due to importer interest, but Canada does not have a program for seeds for sprouting at this time, and there is no significant interest on the part of Canadian exporters has been expressed in Canada at this time.</p>
3.3	<p>Transparency on new disease outbreaks – Information</p> <p>Canada proposed that DG SANTE and the CFIA set up a mechanism to discuss disease events of epidemiological significance. Canada indicated that it would like to receive more detailed and timely information on these disease events in order to be informed on any control measures which may be taken by Member States.</p> <p>The EU indicated that Canada is kept informed at the same time as Member States. The EU also mentioned that Member States put information online. Canada referenced an animal disease presentation that was given at the meeting in Bratislava in 2016 that was extremely useful. The EU suggested that a technical call take place to help point the CFIA to information that is currently available and for Canada to provide updates as well.</p> <p>The EU queried why the findings of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EHDV) in wild deer in September last year, were only reported in December.</p> <p><i>Action: DG SANTE and CFIA to hold a technical call to provide an overview of animal disease outbreaks by the end of June 2018.</i></p>
3.4	<p>e-Certification – Information</p> <p>Canada provided an update on ongoing work in the CFIA on its digital service delivery platform. Canada is in the beginning stages of the development of tools for electronic certification with the potential to exchange paperless export certificates with other governments. Canada proposed engaging with the EU on discussions to facilitate the use of electronic certification between Canada and the EU.</p> <p>The EU has ongoing e-certification projects with Australia and New Zealand for several years and offered to share the names of contacts to begin a dialogue.</p> <p><i>Action: Canada and the EU will share relevant contacts for e-certification by the end of April 2018.</i></p>
3.5	<p>New Animal Health Law</p> <p>The EU provided an update on the Animal Health Law. The EU is working to implement the law, and is working to finalize implementation by the middle of 2019. The EU offered to present further information to Canada via a technical presentation. The CFIA thanked the EU for the offer and is looking forward to this presentation.</p> <p><i>Action: DG SANTE and CFIA will arrange a time for a presentation on this issue by October 2018.</i></p>
3.6	<p>New Plant Health Law</p>

	<p>The EU provided an update on the new Plant Health Law, which is looking to identify high-risk plants, and offered to provide a presentation on this issue. Canada agreed that a presentation would be very useful, and are following this law closely. Canada is very interested in getting more information as work continues.</p> <p><i>Action: DG SANTE and CFIA will arrange a time for a presentation on this issue by October 2018.</i></p>
3.7	<p>New Regulation for Official Controls</p> <p>The EU provided an update on the implementing and delegated acts on the new EU regulation 2017/625 on official controls. The main implementing and delegated acts will be adopted by April 2019 and implemented by the end of 2019. Canada expressed support for measures that simplify rules and that are in line with principles and guideline of international standard-setting bodies. Canada expressed interest in receiving additional information on this regulation.</p> <p><i>Action: DG SANTE and CFIA will arrange a time for a presentation on this issue by October 2018.</i></p>
4.0 Annex Discussion	
4.0	<p>Annex 5-C: Process of recognition of regional conditions</p> <p>The EU expressed interest in working on this annex. For example, for animal diseases, there is already work done with regards to seasonal freedom, and zones. Canada is interested in this area, in terms of timelines for recognizing zones. Canada noted that exporters are concerned that it takes a longer time for the EU to recognize Canadian regionalization decisions than it does for Canada to recognize EU regionalization decisions, and Canada would like to see how the EU could minimize trade disruptions in this area.</p> <p><i>Action: EU to explore reducing time required for recognition of Canadian regionalization decisions.</i></p> <p>For plant health, the EU is interested in having discussions for further collaboration on pest-free areas. Canada bases its decisions on IPPC standards. Canada and the EU agreed to describe their respective procedures, including timelines for the recognition of pest-free areas and protected zones, as well as movement controls. This could be the basis for further work on this annex.</p> <p><i>Action: EU and Canadian plant health experts will share this information by October 2018.</i></p> <p>Annex 5-D: Guidelines to determine, recognize and maintain equivalence</p> <p>Canada and the EU agreed that there is an international standard, and that, at this time, no work is required in this area.</p> <p>Annex 5-E, Section A – Horizontal Issues – Establishment listing Annex 5-F, Approval of establishments</p> <p>The EU proposed that the issue of simplified listing could be resolved through inclusion in the table (Annex 5-E). Canada noted that the issue of simplified listing is covered in Annex</p>

5-E under Horizontal Issues and requested both sides to adhere to the process agreed in the Annex. Canada expressed concerns regarding proposed amendments that are related to the rejection of recommended establishments by the other Party that will be explored later (Annex 5-F). Canada underscored the need for the EU to respect current obligations with respect to listing of establishments without undue delay. The EU however clarified the need to include the rejection provision as that would be in accordance with the Bratislava recommendation that was endorsed by the EU Member States and also in conformity with the only other country for which the simplified procedure applies, New Zealand. The EU indicated its willingness to engage with Canada in respect to the listing of establishments. The EU indicated that Article 5.7 paragraph 4 requires the listing of all establishments situated in the territory of the exporting country and does not allow for the exclusion of Member States nor does it make reference to systems approval, and Canada agreed to explore with the EU the opportunity to discuss how additional facilities approval could apply to the recent rendering audit carried out in seven Member States. Canada and the EU agreed that this issue will need further clarification and discussion.

Action: Canada and the EU to further discuss and clarify these issues by June 2018.

Annex 5-E, Section B – Phytosanitary Measures

The EU noted that this section is empty, and this section could be used to explore issues such as ash wood, mini-tubers and seed potatoes. The EU and Canada agreed to begin exploring principles surrounding phytosanitary measures.

Action: Canada and the EU to explore this section by October 2018.

Annex 5-H, Annex 5-J:

Canada and the EU agreed that work on these annexes is not necessary at this time and can be considered at a future date.

5.0 Specific Issue Management

Plant Issues

5.1 Exports of fresh tomato with vines, stems, and calyces

The EU raised this issue on behalf of Italy, indicating that is an issue that has been ongoing for several years. The EU believes that this issue could be very quickly resolved. In addition, there are other Member States that are interested, and are looking closely at the progress being made by Italy. The EU is requesting an update regarding timelines, potential audit, and next steps.

Canada acknowledged the letter received from Italy in February 2018, indicating that there is some scientific information missing. Canada will be responding to Italy in writing in early April. The EU would like to know if the mitigating measures that are being proposed are sufficient. The EU asked if Canada allows imports of tomatoes with stems and Canada responded that Canada does allow imports of tomatoes with stems if the product has been fumigated prior to entry into Canada.

	<p>The EU asked the possibility to combine the files if other Member States express interest in exporting tomatoes under a systems approach. Canada indicated that it had been working with Spain on a systems approach for tomatoes without stems, and that if other Member States request a system approach, Canada will work with them to evaluate their systems. Canada mentioned that the requirements for tomatoes from countries where <i>Tuta absoluta</i> is known to occur can be found in CFIA Directive D-10-01.</p> <p><i>Action: Canada will respond to Italy on this issue in writing in April 2018 with a copy to the European Commission. Canada will provide information on the process for a systems approach to the EU and Italy.</i></p>
5.2	<p>Exports of potato mini-tubers to Canada</p> <p>The EU is requesting clarity on next steps for progress on the issue of allowing the import of mini-tubers by interested Member States, such as the Netherlands. Canada indicated that it had requested information from the Netherlands in February 2017, which has not yet been received. In addition, Canada has been working with the United States and Mexico, within NAPPO. Canada indicated that a pest risk assessment has been started for the Netherlands, and that it will assess the information provided by the Netherlands.</p> <p><i>Action: The Netherlands to provide the information requested in the February 2017 letter. Canada will provide feedback on the information submitted within six months after receipt.</i></p>
5.3	<p>Alternatives to use of methyl bromide, ongoing project work</p> <p>The EU provided information on this project. There will be a call for proposals out shortly. Proposed workshops are intended to take place in spring and fall of 2019, with the development of the guide in the summer of 2019. The EU suggested that Canada consider inviting officials from the United States to attend the workshops, if possible. Canada is committed to working on this project and considers this project to be valuable.</p> <p><i>Action: The EU and Canada committed to continuing to work closely together as this project moves forward.</i></p>
5.4	<p>Hazard-based cut-off and the impact on import tolerances</p> <p>Canada expressed concern with the EU's approach towards requirements for non-approval of pesticides and how maximum residue limits (MRLs) and import tolerances will be set once hazard-based cut-off criteria have been met. Canada requested feedback from the EU on where the EU is going with regulations 1107/2009 and 396/2005. Canada requested assurance from the EU that decisions on setting MRLs and import tolerances will continue to be made on the basis of complete risk assessments, as set out in Regulation 396/2005. The EU is developing guidelines for the implementation of the regulation 1107/2009. The EU stated that it has been transparent with trading partners and that the regulations are consistent with international standards and regulations. Import tolerance requests for substances falling under the cut-off criteria will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis, considering the objectives of consumer protection of the EU pesticide legislation, but also the EU's international obligations arising from the SPS Agreement. Canada specifically</p>

	<p>requested information on how the EU is planning to make import tolerances comply with Regulation 396/2005 on risk assessment procedures and the WTO SPS Agreement.</p> <p><i>Action: The EU will provide Canada with the requested information on how the EU is planning to make import tolerances comply with Regulation 396/2005 on risk assessment procedures if a decision has been made to de-authorize a pesticide on the basis of a hazard-based cut-off.</i></p>
5.5	<p>Non-renewal of picoxystrobin</p> <p>Canada noted its understanding that this product is not being renewed in the EU due to lack of data, not due to an identified risk. Canada requested an update on the status of discussions in the EU related to MRLs for imports and whether the MRL will be notified through the WTO. The EU noted that a number of critical issues related to health and environment were identified by EFSA. When additional relevant data is available, the EU will review and consider it. The EU stated that any decision taken on a new MRL for picoxystrobin will be notified through the WTO. The EU indicated that the MRL would likely be set at the limit of detection.</p>
5.6	<p>Member States' measures that differ from EU-level measures (e.g. dimethoate, glyphosate)</p> <p>Canada expressed its serious concerns regarding recent and potential future Member State measures that are inconsistent with EU-level decisions; in particular, France's ban (based on France's national scientific advice) on imports of cherries from countries that have approved the use of dimethoate, and Italy and France's stated intention to ban the use of glyphosate despite being authorized for use by the EU. Canada noted that the EU responded strongly on two occasions, but trade was still affected. Canada asked the EU what steps the EU will take to ensure that Member States' international trade commitments are met.</p> <p>The EU explained the legal procedure in place in case measures are taken at national level which go beyond the existing harmonized rules. This documented procedure provides Member States to notify national measure to be discussed at the regulatory committee level. For this case, EFSA is reviewing data, and will be providing an official opinion, which will be useful for discussions of dimethoate in the future.</p> <p><i>Action: The EU will provide information on this legal procedure referred to above. The EU will send information to Canada relating to measures imposed by British Columbia relating to apple tree root stocks for Canada to review and to provide a response.</i></p>
Animal Issues	
5.7	<p>PCR test on bovine semen for Schmallenberg Virus</p> <p>The EU requested an update on this file. Canada indicated that more samples have been requested from the EU and the Canada's labs are preparing for the next panel. The import permits have been received and Canada's understanding is that the sample is anticipated to arrive next month. Following a successful completion of this second trial, a PCR test could be validated. Canada stated that PCR validation is only the one step for considering the</p>

	<p>import of semen from seropositive bulls. Canada requires a transmission study to be designed and conducted by the EU and requested an update on the status of the transmission study. The EU indicated that they are not working on a transmission study. Canada committed to resending the risk assessment. The EU indicated that the EU exports semen world-wide without testing. The EU stated that current measures are not justified by the equivalence agreement, and Canada disagreed. Canada requested export data on semen from sero-positive bulls.</p> <p><i>Action: The EU and Canada will reconvene on this issue after the panel testing is completed to discuss next steps. Canada will resend the risk assessment to the EU. The EU will send information on a validated ELISA test as a possible alternative to the current VNT test. The EU will provide relevant export data, at Canada's request, for Canada to make a determination on the need for a transmission study.</i></p>
5.8	<p>Revised testing protocols due to epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV)</p> <p>Canada indicated that CFIA had sent a request to the EU for Canada to be recognized as seasonally free for EHDV and requested an update. The EU indicated that this file will need to go through the same process as bluetongue, and the EU requested additional information on the program, which will be assessed.</p> <p><i>Action: Canada will send the revised program to the EU by end of April 2018. Once the information is received by the EU, the EU will assess the seasonally-free period and testing request and come back if additional information is needed without undue delay. If no further information is needed, a proposal will be prepared to discuss with the Member States.</i></p>
5.9	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
5.10	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
5.11	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
5.12	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
Food Safety	
	<p>Recognition of EU Member State meat inspection systems</p> <p>The EU mentioned that this file has an ongoing history, and that the most recent work to progress the file relates to the audit on recognition of EU Member States meat inspection system, conducted in four Member States in 2015. The EU indicated that action plans were submitted that addressed Canada's concerns and recommendations, and that Member States have expressed concern that progress has been slow and difficult to reconcile with the provisional application of the CETA Agreement and its recognition of equivalence in the meat area. Canada indicated that not all recommendations identified in the draft audit report had been addressed, and determined that import conditions would be required where the response was incomplete. The EU is requesting a concrete path forward to conclude the audit and to make progress on market access for all Member States to Canada. The EU wants to find a pragmatic solution to move forward and emphasized that this is a very important issue for the EU and their stakeholders.</p> <p>Canada agreed that this is a high-priority issue. Canada was not able to extrapolate a positive result to the whole system as a result of the findings of the audit; however, Canada</p>

	<p>also wants to find a path forward to work with the EU and Member States to move towards eventual full access by all Member States. The EU's view that all findings and recommendations were satisfactorily addressed by the EU was stressed and stated that Canada acknowledged this in writing and also recognized that technical discussions were ongoing on additional import requirements as proposed by Canada. Canada disagrees that all the recommendations were met, and noted in the audit report that, as a result, additional import requirements will be necessary. Canada summarized the recent technical call that took place between DG SANTE and CFIA where ideas on a path forward were discussed. Canada proposed to develop a joint work plan that allows the EU and Canada to move forward in a way that meets Canadian requirements.</p> <p>The EU asked about the mechanism to reactivate Member States listed as inactive for shipping status on CFIA's website. Canada responded that Member States are considered inactive when no trade has occurred in at least five years. The normal procedure to reactivate a Member State would be to conduct an audit to confirm that the inspection system still complies with Canadian requirements. However, Canada indicated that it is open to consider an alternative mechanism, such as an assurance by DG SANTE. Canada indicated that it would be possible to move relatively quickly on some items (such as the poultry harmonized certificate, and updates to beef and pork certificates for blood products) with the EU's cooperation.</p> <p>Canada proposed to establish a technical working group to continue a dialogue that will demonstrably advance work on this file. The EU is very concerned that some Member States will not have immediate access due to not have systems approval or due to their inactive status, and would like to make progress on this file. Canada underscored the importance of ensuring that imported products meet Canadian requirements for the health and safety of Canadians.</p> <p>Given the political agreement made in 2014 and reiterated on several occasions, the EU will report back to the Commissioner on next steps.</p> <p><i>Action: No action items identified.</i></p>
5.14	<p>EU harmonised export certificates for fresh meat (poultry, sheep/goat) and processed meat (beef, pork, poultry, others)</p> <p>See discussion on agenda item 5.13</p>
5.15	<p>Simplified certificates for Canadian meat and meat products (meat derived from bovine, porcine, solipeds, ovine and caprine, poultry, farmed ratites, farmed rabbit, farmed cervids, farmed</p> <p>Canada indicated interest in finalizing technical discussions on simplified certificates and is requested a contact to reinitialize work on this. The EU took the view that work on this issue could proceed where movement on items 5.13 and 5.14 were advanced concurrently. Canada expressed disappointment in this response and indicated that Canada is not prepared to link these issues. Canada noted that there are 1397 meat establishment approved to export to Canada and only 25 meat establishments approved for export to the EU. While Canada is open to working concurrently, these issues have different priorities</p>

	<p>and Canada is not prepared to link these issues. Canada encourages the EU to engage meaningfully to items 5.13 and 5.14. The EU referred to its detailed response in its letter of March 8, 2018.</p> <p><i>Action: No action items identified.</i></p>
5.16	<p>Export of EU egg products to Canada</p> <p>The EU indicated that there is no interest at this time and could be discussed at the next SPS JMC.</p> <p><i>Action: no action at this time.</i></p>
5.17	Withdrawn at the request of Canada due to time constraints.
5.18	Withdrawn at the request of Canada due to time constraints.
5.19	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
5.20	<p>Certification of fish landed in Canada by EU-approved vessels</p> <p>DG SANTE has requested that the CFIA certify fish processed at sea by EU vessels and stored in Canada, prior to re-export to the EU. In order to address the issues of fish caught by EU vessels and landed on Canadian territory for re-export to the EU, and the requirements in the existing certificate to certify on hygienic conditions of the vessels, which is not under the control of Canadian authorities, the EU amended the certificate and passed regulation 2017/1973 in October 2017 and enters into force on July 1, 2018. Canada stated that it had provided comments to the WTO notification in April 2017. The EU received information that there may be still some outstanding issues with the certificate as reported by a Member State.</p> <p><i>Action: No action identified.</i></p>
5.21	<p>Timelines for listing of approved Canadian establishments</p> <p>Canada noted that there has not been a decrease in the time it takes to list Canadian establishments from before the implementation of CETA and after September 2017 (approximately 50 days). The EU indicated that Canada and the EU had worked on an exchange of letters, but for technical reasons, Canada had been unable to sign the letter. The EU stated that additional conditions relating to having the option to reject a recommended establishment will need to be formalized. Canada indicated that it would be open to discussing the conditions under which a rejection would happen, and that any agreed conditions would be reciprocal. Canada requested that the timelines negotiated (i.e. without undue delay) in the Annex be respected in the meantime. The EU indicated that they would send a letter to clarify the parameters for rejections.</p> <p><i>Action: No action identified</i></p>
Audit	
5.22	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
5.23	Postponed to a next meeting at the request of the EU due to time constraints.
6.0 Specific Work on Recognition of Equivalence	

7.0 Opportunities for Enhanced Co-operation on SPS Initiatives	
7.1	<p>Antimicrobial resistance</p> <p>The EU proposed to establish a working group to collaborate on this issue. Canada agreed on the importance of working collaboratively on this issue within CETA and internationally. Canada indicated that the SPS JMC finalize its own rules of procedure before establishing a working group, and suggested that Canadian and the EU experts be put in contact in order to share information and identify areas for co-operation.</p> <p><i>Action: Canada and the EU will exchange contact information of their respective experts on antimicrobial resistance by the end of June 2018.</i></p>
8.0 Other business	
8.1	<p>Animal Welfare</p> <p>The EU indicated that work on animal welfare had taken place under the Veterinary Agreement, and it would like to continue to work on these issues under CETA. Canada acknowledged that animal welfare discussions had taken place under the Vet Agreement, and the Chairs of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum are aware that animal welfare is of importance to the EU and are identifying the Canadian lead for animal welfare cooperation. The EU suggested that the animal welfare cooperation also report to the SPS JMC. Canada noted that animal welfare is not considered by Canada to be within the scope of the SPS JMC and it was decided during the CETA negotiations that cooperation on animal welfare would fall under the Regulatory Cooperation chapter. The Regulatory Cooperation Forum may refer any SPS-related questions back to the SPS JMC, if needed. The call between Regulatory Cooperation Forum Chairs is planned for April 2018 and a Canadian contact on animal welfare cooperation will be communicated to the EU.</p>
9.0 Closing	
9.1	<p>Work Programme for 2018-2019</p> <p>The work programme was adopted on April 6, 2018.</p>
9.2	<p>Adoption of the Meeting Report and Action Item List</p> <p>The meeting report and action item list were adopted on April 6, 2018.</p>
9.3	<p>Next Meeting of the CETA SPS JMC</p> <p>The co-chairs agreed to meet in six months via a conference call or video conference to check in on progress.</p> <p>The EU indicated that the next meeting would likely take place in Brussels in March or April 2019, and both Chairs committed to considering expanding the meeting by another day, depending on the size of the agenda, as time constraints limited the number of agenda items discussed.</p>
9.4	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>In conclusion, both sides acknowledged the hard work on both sides and closed the</p>

meeting.

ACTION ITEMS IDENTIFIED AT CETA SPS JMC MARCH 26-27, 2018:

Agenda Item	Proposed Action	Proposed Timeline
3.1	Safe Food for Canadians Regulations – Information Canada committed to holding a videoconference with the European Commission and Member States on the SFCR by the end of April 2018.	End of April 2018
3.3	Transparency on new disease outbreaks – Information DG SANTE and CFIA to hold a technical call to provide an overview of animal disease outbreaks by the end of June 2018.	June 2018
3.4	e-Certification – Information Canada and the EU will share relevant contacts for e-certification by the end of April 2018.	April 2018
3.5	New Animal Health Law DG SANTE and CFIA will arrange a time for a presentation on this issue by October 2018.	October 2018
3.6	New Plant Health Law DG SANTE and CFIA will arrange a time for a presentation on this issue by October 2018.	October 2018
3.7	New Regulation for Official Controls DG SANTE and CFIA will arrange a time for a presentation on this issue by October 2018.	October 2018
4.0	Annex 5-C: Process of recognition of regional conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU to explore reducing time required for recognition of Canadian regionalization decisions. • EU and Canadian plant health experts will share this information (on recognition of pest-free areas) by October 2018. Annex 5-F, Approval of establishments Canada and the EU to further discuss and clarify these issues (rendering facility approvals) by June 2018. Annex 5-E, Section B -- Phytosanitary Measures Canada and the EU to explore this section (Phytosanitary Measures) by October 2018.	Update at mid-year Co-chair call October 2018 June 2018 October 2018
5.1	Exports of fresh tomato with vines, stems, and calyces Canada will respond to Italy on this issue in writing in April 2018 and copy the European Commission. Canada will provide information on the process for a systems approach to the EU and Italy.	April 2018 Update at mid-year Co-chair call
5.2	Exports of potato mini-tubers	Update at mid-

	The Netherlands to provide the information requested in the February 2017 letter. Canada will provide feedback on the information submitted within six months after receipt.	year Co-chair call
5.3	Alternatives to use of methyl bromide, ongoing project work The EU and Canada committed to continuing to work closely together as this project moves forward.	Update at mid-year Co-chair call
5.4	Hazard-based cut-off and the impact on import tolerances The EU will provide Canada with the requested information on how the EU is planning to make import tolerances comply with Regulation 396/2005 on risk assessment procedures if a decision has been made to de-authorize a pesticide on the basis of a hazard-based cut-off.	Update at mid-year Co-chair call
5.6	Member States' measures that differ from EU-level measures (e.g. dimethoate, glyphosate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU will provide information on this legal procedure referred to above. The EU will send information to Canada relating to measures imposed by British Columbia relating to apple tree root stocks for Canada to review and to provide a response. 	Update at mid-year Co-chair call At EU's convenience
5.7	PCR test on bovine semen for Schmallenberg Virus The EU and Canada will reconvene on this issue after the panel testing is completed to discuss next steps.	Update at mid-year Co-chair call
	Canada will resend the risk assessment to the EU.	May 2018
	The EU will send information on a validated ELISA test as a possible alternative to the current VNT test.	Update at mid-year Co-chair call
	The EU will provide relevant export data, at Canada's request, for Canada to make a determination on the need for a transmission study.	Update at mid-year Co-chair call
5.8	Revised testing protocols due to epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada will send the revised program to the EU by end of April 2018. Once the information is received by the EU, the EU will assess the seasonally-free period and testing request and come back if additional information is needed without undue delay. If no further information is needed, a proposal will be prepared to discuss with the Member States. 	April 2018 Update at mid-year Co-chair call
7.1	Antimicrobial resistance Canada and the EU will exchange contact information of their respective experts on antimicrobial resistance by the end of June 2018.	June 2018
9.1 9.2	Preparing for the Joint Committee Canada and the EU will finalize the work programme for 2018-2019 Canada and the EU will finalize the minutes	Week of April 3 Week of April 3