



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate D - Sustainable Development; Economic Partnership Agreements - African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries

**Agriculture, Fisheries, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Market Access, Biotechnology**

# DRAFT Report

## Meeting of the Market Access Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues - SPS MAWG

18 November 2016

*Centre Albert Borschette, Room 2A - Rue Froissart, Brussels*

### Participants:

Member States: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, HU, IR, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.

EU Business associations: AVEC, Corbacan Spanish Cooperations, CEEV Comité vins, CLITRAVI, Danish Agriculture & Food Council, Danish Dairy Board, Dutch farmers' organisation, DVFA, EDA (European Dairy Association), ELC, Eucofel, Eucolait, European Seed Association, Expla (European Platform of Exporters of Bovine Genetics), FEDIAF, FoodDrinkEurope, FRESHFEL, INTERFEL, UECBV (European Livestock and Meat Trading Union), VDF (German meat association).

European Commission (COM): DG TRADE, SANTE, AGRI

Chair: [Art. 4.1(b)] , unit DG TRADE D3

### 1. WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS

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#### **Japan: State of the FTA negotiations and food additives**

EU and Japan had its 17<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations for FTA in Brussels during the last week of September 2016. The next round is planned for 21 November. On SPS, discussions continued on all Articles. The discussions can hopefully be concluded very soon.

In parallel to the text discussions of the SPS Chapter, all pending application and non-tariff issues were discussed: food and feed additives, chemical MRLs, food contact materials, microbiological criteria, sheep meat. On all these applications, incremental progress was made and COM is currently preparing an overview report for Member States. Following the EU practice, Japan agreed to align MRLs with newly adopted CODEX values, unless there is a concern. Listeria standards will be aligned to

CODEX standards and also limit values for coliform contaminants are under consideration with a view to align to international standards. The effective import prohibition for sheep meat was lifted and Member States can now file applications. Customs clearance practices were also revised.

Three feed additives were approved by Japan recently. Already at the last meeting, the COM informed about progress in the approval process for food additives. Three substances<sup>1</sup> were chosen for the pilot project with the assistance of a consultant. The COM explained that the consultant's work helps to understand conditions and procedures of the approval process. In addition, through the FTA negotiations, there is a commitment and also indicative timelines from Japan to evaluate and finalise applications. The timetables vary for different substances, depending on how complete the data package is and how fast industry can provide the documents. Wine industry inquired whether it can be ensured that additives in wine are indeed approved, once the FTA negotiations are finished.

**4. PRESENTATION ON MARKET ACCESS FOR MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS**

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<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED]