



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

Brussels,
Trade/D3/PL/pds D(2013)

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SPS MARKET ACCESS WORKING GROUP BRUSSELS, 11 APRIL 2013

Participants:

[not relevant]

EU Business associations: Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board - AHDB, AVEC, CLITRAVI, COPA-COGECA, Danish Agriculture and Food Council, Danish Dairy Board, Dutch Flower Auctions Association – VBN, European Dairy Association – EDA, European Potato Trade Association - EUROPATAT, ELC/Federation of European Specialty Ingredients, EUCOLAIT, EX PLA, Novozymes/DSM, European Pet Food Industry - FEDIAF/Nestle, Food Drink Europe, FRESHFEL, PROFEL, spiritsEUROPE, Tessenderlo, Union Fleurs

European Commission: DG TRADE, DG SANCO, DG AGRI, [not relevant]

[not relevant]

Third country	SPS market access issues
USA	<p>a) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA): Enacted in January 2011, the FSMA has been presented as the most extensive change in US food safety legislation since 1938, when the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act was adopted. In 4 January 2013, the FDA announced the first two major implementing rules of the FSMA, which were notified for comments to the WTO SPS Secretariat on 10 January 2013. Additional implementing rules are expected to be published soon. All these regulations might have serious consequences for the EU exports of FDA regulated commodities. Therefore, the COM encourages MS to have a close look at the proposed rules and provide comments as soon as possible and within the deadlines established in the notification made by the US to the WTO SPS Committee; b) pesticides residues of chlorpyrifos-ethyl in olive oil: At the border, the US is stopping consignments of olive oil because this pesticide has been detected and its use is forbidden in olives production (it is allowed in the US for other crops only). In the EU, the MRL is 0.05 ppm. The COM encouraged Member States and businesses to keep the COM informed of any possible problem related to these exports.</p>

4. SYSTEMIC AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PHYTOSANITARY MARKET ACCESS ISSUES IN THE NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The COM reiterated this request for information related to phytosanitary issues and the implementation or ongoing negotiation of Free Trade Agreements between the EU and in particular the **United States, Japan and Colombia/Peru** and requested the following feedback:

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – <i>Exports of plants and plant products</i>	Your feedback
[not relevant]	
Upcoming EU/USA TTIP: The negotiations are due to start in the beginning of the Summer 2013. COM recalled that the preparatory work of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG) had been accompanied by confidence building actions in the SPS field. The same process is to be expected in parallel with actual negotiations, as announced in the HLWG final report. This process also holds the opportunity for the EU to also seek resolution of outstanding specific SPS concerns. Therefore, the Commission calls on Member States and industry to urgently update the current list of SPS market access concerns towards the US. by 24 May 2013 [date corrected after meeting!].	ASAP and by 24 May 2013
[not relevant]	

[not relevant]

10. SYSTEMIC AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SANITARY MARKET ACCESS ISSUES IN THE NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The COM reiterated this request for information related to sanitary issues and the implementation or ongoing negotiation of Free Trade Agreements between the EU and in particular the **United States, Japan and Colombia/Peru** and:

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – <i>Exports of animals and animal products</i>	Your feedback
[not relevant]	
Upcoming EU/USA FTA: COM recalled that the preparatory work of the EU-US High Level Working Group (HLWG) had been accompanied by confidence building actions in the SPS field like the EU approval of lactic acid, or a number of US decisions recognizing EU regionalisation decisions. The same process is to be expected in parallel with actual negotiations, as announced in the HLWG final report. This process also holds the opportunity for the EU to also seek resolution of outstanding specific SPS concerns. Therefore, the Commission calls on Member States and industry to urgently update the current list of SPS market access concerns towards the US. 24 May 2013.	ASAP and by 24 May 2013
[not relevant]	

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SPS Market Access Team of DG TRADE
(Unit DG TRADE.D3)

For more information about trade matters see

- Trade policies, import and export rules and market access work in the EU: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/>
- SPS market access barriers, SPS newsletters, useful links, latest news in the **SPS part of the Market Access Database (MADB)** of the European Commission: <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/indexPubli.htm>
- Agendas/summaries of meetings of the **WTO SPS Committee**: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/spis_e/spis_e.htm