



EUROPEAN UNION
 Permanent Mission
 to the World Trade Organization
 The Head of Mission

Geneva, 6 March 2018

NOTE TO:

Ms Anne BUCHER, Director General, DG SANTE
Mr Jean-Luc DEMARTY, Director General, DG TRADE
Mr Jerzy Bogdan PLEWA, Director General, DG AGRI
Ms Lowri EVANS, Director General, DG GROW

Subject: WTO-SPS Committee – Geneva, 30 October-2 November 2018 - Flash Report

Summary

Once again, the EU policies dominated the Committee’s proceedings. Two thirds of the formal meeting were devoted to discussing EU SPS measures. A total of **93 statements** were made by more than thirty Delegations to question, directly or indirectly, EU policies and measures in several areas, notably:

- [Out of Scope]
- [Out of Scope]
- [Out of Scope]
- **Precision Biotechnology** (14 Delegations)
- [Out of Scope]
- [Out of Scope]
- [Out of Scope]
- **ECJ ruling on mutagenesis** (3 Delegations)

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

Detail

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

- [Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

EU defensive interests

Seven STCs were raised against the EU.

Two new concerns were raised namely on [Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope] and on the recent **ECJ opinion on organisms obtained by new mutagenesis techniques** (by the USA, supported by Argentina and Paraguay).

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]. **On the ECJ opinion**, the EU was requested to explain the scientific basis of the decision and to provide clarification on how proper implementation would be insured. Legal uncertainty caused to trade flows was also underlined. [Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

Under a different agenda item, Argentina presented an **international statement on agricultural applications of precision biotechnology** (G/SPS/GEN/1658/Rev 2). 12 other Members (Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Jordan, Dominican Republic, Canada, the USA, Australia, Guatemala, Vietnam, Honduras, Colombia and an observer organisation (ECOWAS) spoke emphasizing the critical role of new mutagenesis techniques in agricultural innovation to address global environmental challenges, food insecurity, antimicrobial resistance, animal and plant health outbreaks and animal welfare issues. Some members expressed their concerns about different domestic rules which create asymmetry in trade. The USA called for a constructive dialogue between trade partners.

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

[Out of Scope]

Bilateral meetings

Twelve bilateral meetings were held in the margins of the SPS Committee namely with **Argentina**, **Canada**, [Out of Scope], [Out of Scope] and **US** [Out of Scope]. The EU strongly encouraged all these countries to process market applications faster, follow international standards and provide real market openings. In the case of Argentina, Canada, [Out of Scope] and USA, the EU also responded to their concerns about their exports to the EU. [Out of Scope]

