



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY  
Directorate D – Food chain: stakeholder and international relations  
**D2 – Multilateral International Relations**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE  
Directorate D – Sustainable Development, Bilateral Trade Relations,  
**D3 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Market Access, Biotechnology**

Brussels, 13.11.2018  
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[Art. 4.1(b)]

**Report of the 73<sup>rd</sup> WTO SPS Committee meeting (30 October-2 November 2018, Geneva)**

EU Delegation:

DG SANTE: [Art. 4.1(b)]  
DG TRADE: [Art. 4.1(b)]

**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]

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***DETAILED REPORT***

[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]

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]

**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]

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]

[Out of Scope]

**Bilateral meetings**

**Twelve** bilateral meetings were held in the margins of the SPS Committee namely with **Argentina, [Out of Scope], Canada, [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, <sup>[Out of Scope]</sup> Canada, <sup>[Out of Scope]</sup> and USA, the EU also responded to their concerns about their exports to the EU.

[Out of Scope]

. Highlights of the offensive issues discussed in these meetings include:

- **Argentina** raised its concerns in relation to the ECJ ruling.

[Out of Scope]

- Canada reiterated its concerns on [Out of Scope], the ECJ ruling and on [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]

The USA reiterated its concerns on [Out of Scope], the ECJ ruling and on [Out of Scope].

[Out of Scope]

**Next meeting**

The next SPS Committee meeting will take place on 21-22 March 2019 and will be preceded by a thematic session on Equivalence and on Fall Armyworm (19 March) and an informal meeting (20 March).

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