

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

PROCEDURE TO REVIEW THE OPERATION
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Decision of the Committee

At its meeting of 15-16 October 1997, the Committee adopted the following procedure for the review of the operation and implementation of the Agreement foreseen in Article 12.7.

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1. Article 12.7 states: "The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement three years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, and thereafter as the need arises. Where appropriate, the Committee may submit to the Council for Trade in Goods proposals to amend the text of this Agreement having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in its implementation."
 2. The SPS Committee agreed in July 1997 that informal consultations on the Review process, as provided for in Article 12:7, would be undertaken in October 1997 to agree on the format and scope of this exercise. Following these consultations, the Committee agrees that initially the Review will be conducted through open-ended informal meetings of the Committee.
 3. In order to facilitate the work of the Committee, Members are invited to identify a preliminary list of issues they wish to be discussed as part of the Review process. Members should submit their proposals informally, but in writing, to the Chairman and the Secretariat, **before 15 January 1998**. On the basis of the submissions received, the Chairman will propose an agenda for the first informal meeting, including consideration of the future work program.
 4. To ensure the timely completion of the Review by [November 1998]¹, the informal meetings will normally be scheduled back-to-back with the regular meetings of the Committee. For each meeting, Members will be invited to submit informal papers on the issues proposed for consideration, at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. Such papers, including any contributions that may be requested from the Secretariat, will remain informal documents and will be available to all Members.
 5. An item relating to the Review process will be included in the agenda of regular meetings of the Committee, during which the Chairman will present orally a brief factual report on the informal Review process. Upon completion of the informal process, the Chairman will submit a summary report to the Committee, reflecting the outcome of the debate and the conclusions reached. On the basis of this report, the SPS Committee may consider what action might be appropriate.

¹At this point in time, the European Communities could not agree to the establishment of a deadline for completion of the review.