

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/SPS/1

4 April 1995

(95-0804)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

WORKING PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE¹

Adopted by the Committee at its Meeting of 29-30 March 1995

Meetings of the Committee

1. The Committee shall meet to carry out the functions necessary to implement the provisions of the Agreement, or such other tasks which it may be required to deal with.
2. Notice of meetings of the Committee and a draft agenda shall be issued at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. It shall be open to any Member to request, in writing to the Secretariat, the inclusion of items under the proposed agenda up to, but not including, the day on which the notice convening the meeting is to be issued.
3. Matters relating to notifications, including notifications considered at previous meetings, can be raised or reverted to in the course of any meeting. A Member which proposes to raise any matter relating to a particular notification in the course of a meeting shall give notice of its intention to the notifying Member concerned and the Secretariat, together with an outline of its concerns, as far as possible in advance of the meeting.
4. The Committee shall hold at least two meetings per year. Each meeting shall provisionally schedule the dates and agenda for the next meeting. Additional meetings of the Committee may be scheduled as appropriate.
5. At the request of a Member, or at his/her own initiative, and where the matter involved is one of significant importance or urgency, the Chairperson may, unless it is considered that resort to other procedures would be more appropriate, convene a special meeting of the Committee.

¹These working procedures are to apply until consideration of this matter by the Committee at its second meeting.

Other Matters

6. With respect to any matter which has been raised under the Agreement, the Chairperson may, at the request of the Members directly concerned, assist them in dealing with the matter in question. The Chairperson shall normally report to the Committee on the general outcome with respect to the matter in question.

7. Representatives of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the Office international des epizooties (OIE) and the FAO Secretariat for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) will be invited to attend meetings as observers, pending the final decision by the General Council. Representatives of other international intergovernmental organizations may be invited by the Committee to attend meetings as observers in accordance with the guidelines to be adopted by the General Council. Notwithstanding the above, the Committee may, as appropriate, decide to hold restricted sessions with participation of Members only.