

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**DECISION TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONAL PROCEDURE TO MONITOR
THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION**

Decision by the Committee of 8 July 1999

At its meeting of 15-16 October 1997, the Committee adopted a provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards (G/SPS/11). Paragraph 3 of the procedure indicates that "... The Committee also agreed to review the operation of the provisional procedure 18 months after its implementation, with a view to deciding at that time whether to continue with the same procedure, amend it or develop another one."

In reviewing the operation of the provisional procedure, the Committee noted that although initially few Members made use of the procedure, subsequently it was more extensively used and by an increasing number of Members. The First Annual Report on the monitoring procedure (G/SPS/13), adopted by the Committee on 8 July 1999, illustrates the manner in which the current procedure has been used. To date, no Member has suggested a modification of, or alternative to, the provisional procedure.

In light of this, the Committee decides to extend the provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards, as described in G/SPS/11, for a further 24 months. The Committee also agrees to review the operation of the provisional procedure by July 2001, with a view to deciding then whether to continue with the same procedure, amend it or develop another one.
