

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

Report by the Chairman to the General Council

1. In June 2005, the SPS Committee adopted a report on special and differential treatment (G/SPS/35). The report describes developments in recent years relevant to the concerns that have been raised by developing country Members with regard to the implementation of the SPS Agreement and the need for special and differential treatment. The report notes that the Committee has not been able to develop any clear recommendations for a decision on the proposals referred to it by the General Council. However, the Committee agreed to continue to examine the proposals before it, and any revision of these proposals, with the aim of developing specific recommendations. At the same time, the Committee agreed to undertake discussions on further work to address the concerns underlying the proposals as identified by Members, starting with a number of elements outlined in paragraph 43 of G/SPS/35.
 2. In light of this decision by the Committee, special and differential treatment was among the few agenda items proposed for consideration by the SPS Committee at its abbreviated regular meeting on 24 October (suspended until 1-2 February 2006). Representatives of the African Group reaffirmed their intention to submit revisions of some of the proposals for special and differential treatment. Members were therefore invited to discuss the various elements of other possible actions identified by the Committee in June 2005.
 3. The Committee will continue its consideration of this issue, including any revised proposals on special and differential treatment which may be available, when it reconvenes the regular meeting on 1-2 February 2006. An informal meeting on special and differential treatment will immediately precede the regular meeting.
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