

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

Adopted on 28 June 2006

The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures,

Having regard to Articles 3.5 and 12.4 of the SPS Agreement;

Taking into account the provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards adopted by the Committee at its meeting of 15-16 October 1997 and as subsequently revised on 27-28 October 2004 (G/SPS/11/Rev.1); the Committee's decisions of July 1999, July 2001 and of June 2003 to extend this provisional procedure, and to decide by July 2006 whether to continue with the same procedure, amend it or develop another one (G/SPS/25);

Considering that in reviewing the operation of the provisional procedure, it has noted that the procedure provided an effective mechanism for Members to raise specific standards-related issues;

Considering that at the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference, Ministers instructed the Committee to review the operation and implementation of the Agreement, as provided for in Article 12.7 of the Agreement, at least once every four years;

Considering that this procedure to monitor the use of international standards is related to the operation and implementation of the Agreement;

Decides as follows:

1. The provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards, as modified, is extended indefinitely.
 2. The Committee will review the operation of the provisional procedure as an integral part of its periodic Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 12.7, with a view to deciding whether to continue with the same procedure, amend it or develop another one. The next such Review is to be completed in 2009, and every four years subsequently.
 3. The Committee encourages Members to make use of this procedure to address their concerns regarding specific international standards or the need for such standards.
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