

**MEASURES TAKEN BY MOROCCO TO IMPLEMENT THE TRANSPARENCY  
OBLIGATIONS OF THE SPS AGREEMENT (ARTICLE 7)**

Communication from Morocco

The following communication, received on 11 October 2010, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Morocco.

A. IDENTIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITY AND THE NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINT

1. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Annex B, Morocco has designated "a single central government authority" as responsible for the implementation, on the national level, of the provisions concerning transparency. This authority is the *Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires*, ONSSA (National Office for Food Safety), under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Fisheries.

2. In accordance with paragraph 3, prior to January 2010, Morocco had designated two enquiry points to respond to all reasonable questions and to provide the relevant documents on SPS matters. These were the Directorate of Livestock and Veterinary Services in the case of sanitary questions and the Plant Protection, Technical Inspection and Anti-Fraud Directorate for all phytosanitary matters. After January 2010, following the creation of the National Office for Food Safety (see notification G/SPS/GEN/1039 of 6 September 2010), a single enquiry point was designated to be responsible for all SPS questions. The WTO Secretariat has been informed of this change.

3. In order to implement the SPS Agreement, Morocco has set up a national SPS committee to be responsible for implementing the SPS Agreement. The regulatory text establishing this national SPS Committee has been notified to the WTO and was published in Official Journal No. 5862 of 5 August 2010. It can be downloaded from the ONSSA website (<http://www.onssa.gov.ma>).

B. APPLICATION OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF ANNEX B (PREAMBLE) OF THE SPS AGREEMENT

4. Morocco has notified all the regulatory texts it considers could have a significant effect on trade. For example documents G/SPS/N/MAR/29 of 10 May 2010 and G/SPS/GEN/1039 of 6 September 2010.

C. REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS RELATING TO A NOTIFICATION

5. In acknowledging receipt, Morocco provided all the elements needed to reply to the questions raised by Members regarding its notifications. Unfortunately, Morocco was unable to respond to the needs of certain countries for the translation of documents, into English in particular. Moreover,

taking into account time constraints and the need to coordinate replies among the structures concerned, Morocco was not able to reply to the questions within the recommended period (five working days).

D. PUBLICATION OF THE REGULATIONS

6. All legislative texts (laws) and regulations (Decree by the Prime Minister, Orders by Ministers) are published in Morocco's Official Journal in two languages, Arabic and French. These texts enter into force on the date they are published. Once they have been published, they are put on the website (<http://www.onssa.gov.ma>) of the National Office for Food Safety, which is the national authority and enquiry point for SPS-related matters.

---