

OVERVIEW OF SPS RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, received on 16 March 2011, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

1. In line with Article 9 of the SPS Agreement, the European Union would like to update on the European Commission's assistance activities in the recent years and those foreseen for 2011 and 2012 to support Developing Countries in complying with their rights and obligations under this Agreement.
2. The European Union provides approximately three billion euros a year for Aid for Trade (a line dedicated to multilateral initiatives). The European Union addresses compliance with SPS standards under its numerous trade-related assistance programmes. Furthermore, under the specific Aid for Trade budget line the European Commission has increased its contributions to the three Sisters for the period 2011-2013 in order to facilitate the participation of developing countries in their meetings, for the establishment of the IPPC helpdesk and to help Codex Alimentarius to perform a study on aflatoxins (for a total of 3.5 million euros). In addition, the contributions to the Standards and Trade Development Facility have also been secured.
3. Between 2007 and 2009, 99 projects touching upon SPS standards were funded: 19 in Asia, 29 in European candidate or potential candidate countries, 22 in ACP countries, 6 in European Neighbourhood Countries and 10 in Latin America. The remaining 13 actions were not allocated to a specific region (more details are reflected in Annex 1).
4. The bulk of EU assistance in the SPS area is implemented in the framework of multi-year country assistance programmes, which are aligned with national development plans and priorities. SPS support is usually embedded in a broader trade-related assistance programme (including areas such as SME development, export promotion, customs reform and improvement of the business enabling environment) or as part of a sector-specific support programme (e.g. targeted at specific agricultural value chains). In addition, the European Union also promotes increased regional cooperation in the area of SPS, aimed at (i) facilitating south-south trade through the harmonization of SPS measures within regional trade blocks, (ii) strengthening regional consumer protection e.g. through enhanced cross-border cooperation in the area of disease control and (iii) improving international market access by upgrading regional quality infrastructure and alignment with international standards.
5. In addition to country or regional programmes, the European Union also supports programmes at global, all ACP or continental Africa level, among which:

- "The Strengthening Fisheries Project" (SFP) ended in November 2010 but its activities and recommendations will be continued partly by the new EDES programme.
- "Strengthening Food Safety Systems" through SPS Measures or the "EDES project" has taken off in March 2010 and is coming up to cruising speed. The overall objective of this project is to alleviate poverty in beneficiary ACP countries through improving their food and feed trade. The project purpose is to develop in ACP countries risk-based food and feed safety systems for export products which are in line with regional, international and EU SPS standards. The project is very much demand-driven and the European Union invited the developing countries to spread this information widely within their countries. For more details please find the web link: <http://www.coleacp.org/edes>.
- As requested by the ACP Group and on the basis of the experience gained through previous programmes (PARC, PACE, SPINAP ...) an amount of 30M€ is dedicated to minimizing the socio-economic impact of infectious diseases by strengthening the capacity of national and/or regional African institutions. This new programme is called "African Veterinary Governance Programme" and is implemented jointly by the OIE, the FAO and the AU-IBAR.
- The "PAN-SPSO programme" ended in December 2010 but because of its success the Aid for Trade budget now caters for an extension of the programme for another three years. Again, the continuation of this project will be implemented by the Nairobi based African Union - Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) - and provides for the efficient participation of African countries in the three SPS standard setting organisations through technical support. The project includes a close collaboration with the STDF to implement some capacity building activities.

6. In addition to that, several specific SPS training initiatives are scheduled under the European Commission's "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative:

- A total of five specific training programmes have been set up which cover the whole world and a vast number of subjects: the rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF), TRACES - an electronic certification system - GMO analysis, the EU Food Standards and highly pathogenic and other animal diseases. Also, under the food testing programme two-week laboratory trainings are being provided to developing countries on mycotoxins, microbiology, residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides. An overview of the activities can be found in Annex 2.
- The "Better Training for Safer Food Africa" project has been very successful. It partly consisted of SPS harmonisation activities at the African regional level as well as private sector support activities of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). A pan-African reference document on food hygiene was drawn up, which is now being disseminated and implemented at regional levels. The OIE component of the programme continues until the end of 2011 and will be sustained under the "African Veterinary Governance Programme". Progress is being made to sustain the outcome of this programme.
- Specifically tailored trainings on residue monitoring are also made possible. In 2010, such specific trainings were carried out for the following countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and India. In 2011, similar trainings (or follow-up trainings) are planned for the following countries: Ukraine, Georgia, Malaysia, Egypt and India.

7. The European Union actively supports efforts to increase donor coordination, including in the area of SPS. On a day-to-day level, this process is carried out by the EU delegations which are front of house for the identification and formulation of most assistance programmes. At global level, the

European Union also contributes to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), which promotes coordination among donors in the provision of SPS-related assistance.

8. It goes without saying that individual EU member States also contribute substantially to development aid, be it bilaterally, regionally or at multilateral level (STDF and ISSB's).

9. Moreover, the European Union invites developing countries calling for SPS related Technical Assistance to approach either directly the EU Delegations based in their country or the Directorates of the European Commission involved in technical assistance located in Brussels

ANNEX 1

EU Commitments for Programmes Including SPS Measures (2007-2009)Commitments Year 2007

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
DCI-ASIE/2007/019-153	Laos	Southeast Asia	Trade Capacity Building Programme	1	4,200.00
DCI-ASIE/2007/019-087	Mongolia	Asia	Mongolia Sustainable Livelihoods Programme Phase II	6	10,000.00
DCI-ASIE/2007/018-950	Philippines	Southeast Asia	Trade Related Technical Assistance Project II	1	6,500.00
DCI-ASIE/2006/018-108	South Asia, regional	South Asia	EU-SAARC Programme Of Economic Cooperation (ESPEC)	1	2,587.00
DCI-ASIE/2007/018-800	Thailand	Eastern Asia	Thailand - EU Cooperation Facility	6	3,500.00
DCI-ASIE/2007/019-314	Turkmenistan	Central Asia	Institutional Strengthening And Policy Support Facility	6	2,500.00
DCI-ASIE/2007/018-844	Viet Nam	Southeast Asia	Multilateral Trade Assistance Project (MUTRAP 3)	1	10,000.00
9ACP RPR47	Africa unallocated	All Africa	PAN-SPSO: Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organizations	1	3,350.00
9ACP MOZ36	Mozambique	Southern Africa	BESTF, Business Environment Support and Trade Facilitation	4	5,750.00
9ACP PNG9	Papua New Guinea	Pacific	Trade Related Assistance to Papua New Guinea	1	560.00
9ACP PNG10	Papua New Guinea	Pacific	Trade Related Assistance to Papua New Guinea	1	2,440.00
9ACP RPR199	Regional Cooperation	ACP	Pesticides Initiative Programme - PIP- "Periode Transitoire"	1	5,000.00
9ACP SL23	Sierra Leone	Western Africa	TA for EPA Negotiation/Implementation and Trade Related TA S	1	1,200.00
9ACP SAD13	South of Sahara Unall.	Southern Africa	Capacity Building in Maximum Residue Levels in the SADC regions	1	7,500.00
IPA/2007/019-352	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Europe	Development of Safety/Quality Infrastructure	4	1,700.00
IPA/2007/019-352	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Europe	Strengthening of the Accreditation System in BiH	4	1,000.00

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
IPA/2007/019-352	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Europe	Strengthening of the Metrology System in BiH	4	1,700.00
IPA/2007/019-247	Croatia	Europe	Customs Laboratory Development	1	2,275.00
IPA/2007/019-300	Montenegro	Europe	Animal Identification and Registration in Montenegro	4	1,400.00
IPA/2007/019-300	Montenegro	Europe	Development of Quality Infrastructure in Montenegro	4	2,000.00
IPA/2007/019-298	Serbia	Europe	Annual Programme for Kosovo - Meeting EU Standards Food Safety & Veterinary Services	4	2,000.00
ENPI/2007/019-290	Syria	Mediterranean	Trade Enhancement Programme (TEP)	1	15,000.00
IPA/2007/019-329	Turkey	Europe	IPA/2007/019-329-2007 NP Turkey - Plant Passport System and Registration of Operators	4	1,105.00
IPA/2007/019-329	Turkey	Europe	IPA/2007/019-329-2007 NP Turkey - Capacity Strengthening and Support Implementation of Nitrate Directive in Turkey	4	5,824.00
IPA/2007/019-329	Turkey	Europe	IPA/2007/019-329-2007 NP TURKEY - Introduction of Stock Assessment to the Fisheries Management System of Turkey	4	2,200.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All Africa	Better Training for Safer Food in Africa 2008-2010	1	10,000.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	SPS Related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries – CODEX	1	225.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	SPS Related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries	1	225.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	SPS Related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries Attending IPPC Meeting	1	225.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	SPS Training Programme on Aflatoxins	1	99.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	SPS Training Programme on Microbiology	1	193.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	SPS Training Programme on Residues	1	183.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	5-Day Seminar on SPS Issues	1	180.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	5-Day Seminar on SPS Issues for Developing Countries	1	161.00
	Bilateral Unallocated	All DC	Regional Consultations on SPS-Related Technical Co-operation	4	250.00

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
	Central Asia, regional	Central Asia	Seminar on SPS Issues for Asian Countries	1	299.00
	Costa Rica	Central America	SPS 2 Weeks Training on Residues to Technicians and Officials in Costa Rica	1	16.00
	Ghana	Western Africa	SPS 2 Weeks Training on Residues to Technicians and Officials in Ghana	1	16.00
	Papua New Guinea	Pacific	SPS 2 Weeks Training on Residues to Technicians and Officials in Papua New Guinea	1	16.00
	Philippines	Southeast Asia	SPS 2 Weeks Training on Residues to Technicians and Officials in The Philippines	1	16.00
	Thailand	Southeast Asia	SPS 2 Weeks Training on Residues to Technicians and Officials in Thailand	1	16.00
	Viet Nam	Southeast Asia	SPS 2 Weeks Training on Residues to Technicians and Officials in Vietnam	1	16.00

Commitments Year 2008

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
	Tanzania	East Africa	Trade and Agriculture Support Programme (TASP)	4. BPC	9,400.00
	Croatia	Enlargement	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)	4. BPC	25,500.00
	Macedonia (FYROM)	Enlargement	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)	4. BPC	2,100.00
	Turkey	Enlargement	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)	4. BPC	20,700.00
	Croatia	Enlargement	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)	4. BPC	25,600.00
	Macedonia (FYROM)	Enlargement	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)	4. BPC	6,700.00
	Turkey	Enlargement	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)	4. BPC	53,000.00
	Uganda	East Africa	EPA Related Trade and Private Sector Support Programme	1. TPR	5,000.00
19568	Jordan	Neighbourhood	Trade and Transport Facilitation Programme Jordan	1. TPR	33,000.00
19628	Algeria	Neighbourhood	Programme d'appui à la diversification de l'économie	4. BPC	17,500.00
20216	Tunisia	Neighbourhood	Programme d'appui à la compétitivité des entreprises et à la facilitation de l'accès au marché	4. BPC	23,000.00
6068	Mexico	Latin America	Programme for the Facilitation of the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement	1. TPR	1,500.00
19031	Ecuador	Latin America	Programa de apoyo al sistema económico solidario y sostenible (PASES)	4. BPC	20,000.00
19470	Costa Rica	Latin America	Programa de Apoyo al cumplimiento de las Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias (SFS)	1. TPR	4,500.00
19481	Paraguay	Latin America	Apoyo a la integración económica de Paraguay	1. TPR	6,000.00
19669	South America, Regional	Latin America	INTERCAN - Integración Económica Regional de la CAN (AAP 2008)	1. TPR	6,500.00
19620	Bangladesh	South Asia	Better Work and Standards Programme	1. TPR	15,000.00

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
19792	Pakistan	South Asia	Trade Related Technical Assistance II	1. TPR	9,545.00
20244	Grenada	Caribbean	Establishment of a Spice Research Station and Farming System - Grenada SFA 2008	4. BPC	500.00
19592	South Africa	Southern Africa	Trade Development Cooperation Agreement Facility	1. TPR	5,000.00
	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Enlargement	Capacity Building in Agriculture and Food Safety Policy and Preparation for IPA-RD Programme	4. BPC	4,000.00
	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Enlargement	Control and/or Eradication of Animal Diseases	4. BPC	1,500.00
	Montenegro	Enlargement	Development of the Food Safety Services in Montenegro	OTHER	2,000.00
	Montenegro	Enlargement	Support to the Control and Eradication of Rabies and Classical Swine Fever in Montenegro	4. BPC	1,500.00
	Macedonia (FYROM)	Enlargement	Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy	1. TPR	3,300.00
20116	Albania	Enlargement	Protection Against Zoonotic Diseases	4. BPC	5,700.00
	All Countries	All countries	Aid for Trade — Multilateral Initiatives	1. TPR	225.00
	All Countries	All countries	Aid for trade — Multilateral initiatives	1. TPR	250.00
	All Countries	All countries	Aid for Trade — Multilateral Initiatives	1. TPR	225.00
	Turkey	Enlargement	Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy	1. TPR	34,530.00
	Croatia	Enlargement	Support to Animal Disease Control/Eradication	4. BPC	3,135.38
	Serbia	Enlargement	Consumer and Health Protection	OTHER	7,500.00
	Serbia	Enlargement	Support for the Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the Republic of Serbia	4. BPC	6,300.00

Commitments Year 2009

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
21207	Mali	West Africa	Programme d'appui au secteur privé (PASP)	4. BPC	5,000.00
21309	Cote D'Ivoire	West Africa	Programme d'appui au Commerce et à l'Intégration Régionale (PACIR)	1. TPR	16,000.00
21330	South of Sahara, Regional	South of Sahara	Implementation of a Regional Fisheries Strategy for the ESA-IO	4. BPC	21,000.00
21375	Cameroon	Central Africa	Programme d'appui au Plan de Modernisation des Douanes (PAPMOD)	1. TPR	10,000.00
21388	Ethiopia	East Africa	Improving and Integrating Animal Health Services in the Livestock Value Chain through Public Private Dialogue in Ethiopia (LVC/PPD)	4. BPC	10,000.00
21460	South of Sahara, Regional	South of Sahara	CTA- Budget 2010	4. BPC	16,000.00
21473	South of Sahara, Regional	South of Sahara	Programme SPS 10ième FED: PIP Qualité et conformité Fruits et légumes phase 2 (PIP2) et Contribution au STDF	1. TPR	35,000.00
21572	Rwanda	East Africa	Sector Budget Support for Decentralised Agriculture	4. BPC	20,000.00
21716	South of Sahara, Regional	South of Sahara	RISP 2	1. TPR	50,000.00
	IV.D. Asia, Regional	Asia Regional	Strengthening Veterinary Services in Asia - Regional Vaccine Bank and Capacity Building for Surveillance, Early Detection and Eradication of Highly Pathogenic Emerging and re-Emerging Animal Diseases	4. BPC	7,000.00
	IV.D. ASIA, Regional	Asia Regional	Improvement of Regional Capacities for Prevention, Control and Eradication of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in ASEAN and SAARC Countries	4. BPC	8,000.00

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
	IV.D. Asia, Regional	Asia Regional	Strengthening Surveillance and Response Capacity for Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonoses in ASEAN and SAARC Countries under WHO South-East Asia Region	4. BPC	4,000.00
19031	Ecuador	Latin America	Programa de Apoyo al Sistema Económico Solidario y Sostenible (PASES)	4. BPC	13,400.00
19903	El Salvador	Latin America	Programa de Fortalecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Calidad en El Salvador - PROCALIDAD	1. TPR	12,100.00
20289	Costa Rica	Latin America	PROCALIDAD: Résolution des obstacles techniques au commerce	1. TPR	4,000.00
20397	Guatemala	Latin America	Instrumento de Apoyo a la Participación de Guatemala en el Proceso de Integración Regional y en el Acuerdo de Asociación	1. TPR	6,800.00
20491	Lebanon	Neighbourhood South	Support to Reforms III	1. TPR	8,000.00
20525	Thailand	Asean	Thailand - EC Co-operation Facility Phase II	OTHER	4,500.00
20658	Belarus	Neighbourhood East	Support to Quality Infrastructure in Belarus - Food Safety	4. BPC	8,500.00
21513	N. & C. America, Regional	Latin America	Programa de Apoyo a la Creación de un Sistema Regional de Calidad y a la Aplicación de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias en Centroamérica (PRACAMS)	1. TPR	23,500.00
21531	Nicaragua	Latin America	AAP 2009 - Programa de Fortalecimiento de la Competitividad de las MIPYME Nicaragüenses	4. BPC	15,100.00
21650 - 030111	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Enlargement	Annual National Programme 2009 Bosnia and Herzegovina 2009 Part II	1. TPR	3,900.00
21650 - 031214	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Enlargement	Annual National Programme 2009 Bosnia and Herzegovina 2009 Part II	OTHER	3,200.00
21661 - 031203	Croatia	Enlargement	Upgrading of Four Selected Long-Term Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Posts	1. TPR	6,444.00

Project reference	Country	Region	Short description	AfT Category	Commitments (in thousands of Euros)
21665 - 031214	Macedonia (FYROM)	Enlargement		OTHER	1,744.00
	Indonesia	Asean		1. TPR	22.00
	Malaysia	Asean		1. TPR	37.00

ANNEX 2

Executive Agency for Health and Consumers

BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD

Website: <http://www.btsf.eu>

Overview of trainings for non-EU countries in 2010-2011

- Under the "EU Food Standards" contract: in 2010, 13 workshops were held on a large variety of subjects reaching almost a thousand participants across Peru, China, Ukraine, Malaysia, Brazil, Canada, Uruguay, Cyprus, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. In addition, ten rapid response missions were carried out to provide countries with urgent assistance. Under the BTSF Africa project five regional workshops were organised in Cameroon, Uganda, Morocco, Mali and Malawi and two intensive trainings for the Regional Economic Communities were provided.
 - Further details on these workshops can be obtained at the following link: <http://www.foodinfo-europe.com>
 - Under the "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" contract: Four six-week training missions were carried out to Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Philippines ("<http://www.ai-training.eu/index.php>") including laboratory trainings in Denmark. Trainings in the Near East, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh are to follow in 2011.
 - Under the "Food Testing" contract: Training was provided to analytical staff from developing countries in state-of-the-art laboratory techniques on mycotoxins, microbiology and residues of veterinary medicines and pesticides (<http://www.trainsaferfood.eu/>) (2010-2011)
 - Under the "GMO Analysis" contract, three events were organized in Turkey, Singapore and South Africa. The programme will continue in 2011 in Mexico, European Neighborhood Countries, and Asia.
 - Under the "RASFF/TRACES" contract: Fourteen workshops have been organised reaching 580 participants in Morocco, Argentina, Philippines, Thailand, Guatemala, Mauritania, Algeria, Madagascar, Jordan, Tunisia, Chile, Indonesia, and India. Others will follow in 2011 in Peru, Kenya and Thailand for RASFF and in Peru, Tanzania and South Africa for TRACES (<http://www.foodinfo-europe.com/>)
1. The invitations are directly submitted to the countries invited. Only applicants presented by the relevant authorities replying to the invitation will be taken into account. It is essential to contact the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (<http://www.btsf.eu>) and no longer the European Commission.
 2. The table attached below provides for an overview for 2011/2012.

TRAININGS FOR NON-EU COUNTRIES IN 2011-2012

Date	Location	Subject
May 2011	Peru	RASFF and TRACES
May 2011	ASEAN	Crisis Management
June 2011	Ukraine	EU Legislation on residue monitoring
June 2011	Kenya	RASFF and TRACES
June 2011	Chile	Animal Welfare
July 2011	Tanzania	EU Legislation on Honey
July 2011	Thailand	EU Legislation on plant health
September 2011	Benin	EU Legislation on Fishery products
September 2011	Russia	Codex Alimentarius
November 2011	China	Food Irradiation
December 2011	USA-EU	SPS Issues
January 2012	ASEAN	RASFF
February 2012	Senegal	Food Hygiene
April 2012	Nicaragua	EU Legislation on Fishery Products
May 2012	Ecuador	Plant Protection Products
June 2012	Paraguay	Animal Identification and Traceability
June 2012	South Korea	Animal welfare
September 2012	Ukraine	Salmonella and Other Zonoses
October 2012	India	SPS Issues