

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING CERTAIN  
PROTECTIVE MEASURES WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN  
PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN MADAGASCAR**

Communication from Madagascar

The following communication, received on 19 September 2011, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Madagascar.

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1. With effect from September 1997, Madagascar was made subject to a measure prohibiting the export of products of animal origin to the European Union. This sanction was imposed after a mission by the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office in June 1997 revealed non-compliance with the European regulations in force.
  2. Given the importance to the national economy of exports of products of animal origin, especially fishery and aquaculture products, the Government and the private sector, with the assistance of financial partners, deployed the necessary resources in order to satisfy the European requirements. At the beginning of 1998 this ban was lifted for fishery and aquaculture products originating in Madagascar.
  3. Where livestock production for export is concerned, the Government's endeavours to date have not resulted in the lifting of the ban. This situation has severely hampered the development of stockbreeding in Madagascar.
  4. With technical assistance from the World Trade Organization under the capacity-building programme for developing countries, in December 2007 Madagascar resumed the negotiation with the European Union with a view to obtaining an exemption to export honey to the European market. In February 2008 the European Union, through the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO), agreed to consider Madagascar's request in respect of three products - preserved snails, guano (organic fertilizer) and honey.
  5. Thus, following official requests by Madagascar, exemptions were granted in 2008 for the import of preserved snails originating in Madagascar, and in 2010 for guano. With regard to honey, the residue monitoring plan was validated by DG SANCO in February 2011. Finally, on 1 July 2011 the European Parliament adopted Decision No. 2011/395/EU repealing Decision 2006/241/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to certain products of animal origin, excluding fishery products, originating in Madagascar.
  6. Access to the European market is now authorized for products of animal origin originating in Madagascar, provided that they comply with current European health regulation requirements.
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