

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

PROGRAMME FOR WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY

Note by the Secretariat¹

Revision

1. The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a special workshop on the transparency provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 15 October 2012 and in the morning of Tuesday, 16 October 2012. The workshop will be followed by informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, lasting until Friday, 19 October 2012. Representatives of Members, Observers and Observer Organizations are all invited to participate in the transparency workshop as well as the subsequent meeting of the Committee.
2. The workshop is intended to be a highly interactive, "hands-on" training event focussing in particular on the use of the SPS Information Management System (SPS-IMS) and on the system for the on-line submission of SPS notifications (SPS-NSS).
3. Representatives from the Codex Alimentarius, the World Organization for Animal Health and the International Plant Protection Convention will provide information on their online tools that can be helpful to Members. The workshop will also benefit from the presentation by government officials from Morocco and Costa Rica on their national experience with regards to the submission of SPS notifications through the SPS NSS.
4. The programme of the workshop is below.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY

PROGRAMME

Monday, 15 October 2012 (Council Room)

- 10.00 – 10.15** **Opening remarks**
- 10.15 – 10.45** **Session I: Introduction**
- Speakers: Gretchen Stanton, Javier Ocampo, WTO Secretariat
- *Overview of transparency provisions in the SPS Agreement and of relevant Committee/Ministerial Decisions*
 - *How does the SPS IMS work? (presentation)*
- 11.00 – 13.00** **Session II: Practical session on the use of the SPS IMS**
- Participants will break into three groups (i) English speakers, (ii) French speakers and (iii) Spanish speakers.
- *Who could/should track incoming notifications?*
 - *How could notifications of interest be identified and shared with stakeholders?*
 - *How could comments on incoming notifications be collected and shared with notifying Member?*
 - *The SPS IMS and resolving trade concerns*
 - *SPS IMS exercises*
- 13.00 – 15.00 Lunch break
- 15.00 – 17.00** **Session III: Codex, OIE and IPPC online tools**
- 15.00 – 15.30 Access to current OIE standards, and supporting information available via WAHIS on the OIE website
- Speaker: Derek Belton, Head International Trade Department, OIE
- 15.30 – 15.50 Access to current Codex standards and related information
- Speaker: Selman Doyran, Secretary, Codex
- 15.50 – 16.30 Information available under the IPPC framework
- Speaker: Yukio Yokoi, Secretary, IPPC
- 16.30 – 17.00 Q&A
- 17.00 – 17.30** **Session IV: The integrated Trade Intelligence Portal (I-TIP)**
- What is I-TIP and its relationship with the SPS IMS
- Speaker: Jurgen Richtering, WTO Secretariat
- 17.30 – 18.00** **Wrap up session first day**

Tuesday, 16 October 2012 (Council Room)

10.00 – 10.15

Session V: Overview of the SPS NSS

- *Presentation of Members' level of implementation of transparency provisions and decisions (G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.5)*
- *How does the on-line submission facility work?*

10.30 – 12.00

Session VI: Practical session on how to prepare notifications (SPS NSS)

Participants will break into three groups (i) English speakers, (ii) French speakers and (iii) Spanish speakers.

- *What should be notified and when?*
- *Who should notify?*
- *What format should be used?*
- *Who could be consulted with questions during preparations?*
- *To whom should notifications be sent?*
- *SPS NSS hands-on exercises*

12.00 – 12.30

Session VII: Sharing of national experiences in the use of WTO online tools

Speakers:

- Hamid Lachhab, Director, Regulatory and Standardization Division, National Office for Food Safety, Morocco
- Virginia Salazar Losilla, Officer in charge of SPS Notifications, SPS NNA, Ministry of Agriculture and livestock, Costa Rica

12.30 – 12.45

Session VIII: Identification of follow-up actions and evaluation of workshop

Facilitators: Gretchen Stanton, Javier Ocampo, WTO Secretariat

12.45 – 13.00

Closing remarks
