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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION G/SPS/N/RUS/8

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

The following communication, received on 8 February 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

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1. In notification G/SPS/N/RUS/8 to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Russian Federation reported the application of urgent measures with regard to Germany. These measures comprise a complete ban on the import of fresh, refrigerated but not deep-frozen pig meat, beef and poultry meat. Russia justifies its action with the assertion that Germany is not complying with the requirements of the Customs Union and Russia. The claim is that there are no proper controls by the German veterinary services for the export of refrigerated meat to Russia.
 2. The European Union strongly disputes the basis for this notification.
 3. All food and food products exported from the European Union must comply with the safety requirements provided for under EU law as well as the additional requirements of importing countries, provided that these are drawn up in accordance with the relevant international and multilateral provisions.
 4. The European Union and its member States have made all reasonable efforts to comply with the requirements of the Customs Union and the Russian Federation. In those cases where difficulties arise, the European Union calls upon the Russian Federation to address these in a proportionate and non-discriminatory manner in accordance with good trading practices.
 5. The European Union is committed to working with all its trade partners on a bilateral basis and, where appropriate, within the WTO/SPS framework to allow trade to continue on a safe basis.
 6. The European Union highlights its disappointment therefore, that the measures announced by the Russian Federation are not justified on technical nor legal grounds, and are disproportionate.
 7. The European Union requests that the measures be lifted with immediate effect.
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