
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

APPLICANTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. On 2 April 2012, the Organisation internationale de la vigne et du vin (OIV) reaffirmed its request for observer status in the SPS Committee. Information provided by the OIV is summarized below.

1. Membership

Membership is open to all states. Current membership (45):

Algeria	Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Russia
Argentina	Finland	FYR Macedonia	Serbia
Australia	France	Malta	Slovak Rep.
Austria	Georgia	Moldova, Rep. of	Slovenia
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	South Africa
Bosnia- Herzegovina	Greece	Morocco	Spain
Brazil	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden
Bulgaria	India	New Zealand	Switzerland
Chile	Ireland	Norway	Turkey
Croatia	Israel	Peru	Uruguay
Cyprus	Italy	Portugal	
	Lebanon	Romania	

2. Mandate, Scope and Area of Work

2. The OIV is an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature with recognised competence for its work concerning vines, wine, wine-based beverages, grapes, raisins and other vine products.

3. In the framework of its competence, the objectives of the OIV are as follows:

(a) to inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other players in the vine and wine products sector may be taken into consideration;

(b) to assist other international organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those which carry out standardisation activities;

(c) to contribute to international harmonisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products, and to help ensure that the interests of consumers are taken into account.

3. Contribution to the Work of the SPS Committee

4. The OIV has great experience in the areas of consumer and plant protection as it relates to wine. The OIV sets international standards related to wine, and its autonomous competence in this area is recognized by FAO. Codex standards do not cover wine and alcoholic beverages in general. The OIV wishes to be informed about the work of the SPS Committee, and offer the skills of its expert groups if necessary.

5. The OIV has also requested observer status in the General Council, the Council for TRIPS, and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade.

4. Reciprocity

6. The OIV is offering to grant the SPS Committee Secretariat observer status, which would allow it to participate in the work of the General Assembly, Commissions and Sub-Commissions, and groups of experts dealing with SPS issues.
