

**Committee in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**APPLICANTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS**

Note by the Secretariat<sup>1</sup>

Addendum

1. An application for observer status in the SPS Committee was received on 29 April 2010 from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). Information regarding WAEMU is summarized below.

**1. Membership (8)**

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Guinea Bissau  
Mali  
Niger  
Senegal  
Togo

**2. Mandate, scope and area of work**

2. The Treaty establishing the WAEMU was signed on 10 January 1994 in Dakar, Senegal, and it was the first measure of support for the change in parity of the CFA franc, the common currency of member States of the West African Monetary Union (WAMU). The WAEMU Treaty supplements the Treaty on Monetary Union by dealing with several aspects related to economic integration, in order to provide the common currency with the proper elements needed for its consolidation and stability.

3. The main aim of WAEMU is to "strengthen the competitiveness of economic and financial activities in member States, within an open and competitive market with a rationalized and harmonized legal structure".

4. WAEMU objectives are to:

- Ensure convergence in the economic performance and policies of member States through the establishment of a multilateral supervisory system;
- Create a common market between the member States based on the free movement of persons, goods, services, and capital. This will also ensure the right of establishment of

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

self-employed persons or of employees, a common external tariff, and a common trade policy;

- Coordinate national sectoral policies through the implementation of common actions, in particular in the areas of: human resources, urban and regional planning, transport and telecommunications, the environment, agriculture, energy, industry, and mines;
- Harmonize the legislation of its member States, particularly those related to tax regimes, to the extent necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the common market.

5. Since the launching of its operational activities in January 1995, the WAEMU Commission, on the instructions of the Conference of Heads of State and the Council of Ministers, has defined and implemented various projects, all of which are convergent and designed to accelerate the process of economic integration within the WAEMU area, comprising:

- Establishment of a customs union;
- Multilateral supervision of national macroeconomic policies;
- Harmonization of legislation: domestic indirect tax regimes, legal, accounting and statistical framework of public finance, community investment code, and regional financial markets;
- Formulation and implementation of common sectoral policies.

6. The WAEMU customs union entered into force on 1 January 2000, with a common external tariff (CET) and total exemption from customs duties and other duties and charges of equivalent effect for products originating in the Union.

7. WAEMU has observer status in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development and in the World Organisation for Animal Health.

### **3. Contribution to the work of the SPS Committee**

8. In its effort to facilitate intra-regional commerce, WAEMU has adopted, through the support of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Regional Programmes for Food Security (RPFS), "Regulation n°07/2007/CM/UEMOA regarding sanitary protection of plants, animals, and food in WAEMU". This regulation aims at:

- Ensuring a high level of protection of human, animal, and plant health, as well as a good functioning of the domestic markets of its member States;
- Ensuring the competitiveness of the agricultural products from the region through the achievement of food safety standards;
- Ensuring a common sanitary situation within WAEMU's common market through the implementation of control and inspection services in accordance with international requirements;
- Ensuring a coordinated participation of WAEMU member States in the WTO SPS Committee.

**4. Reciprocity**

9. The WTO Secretariat has not requested observer status in WAEMU.

10. As a regional political entity, the WAEMU cannot put certain high level documents of a sensitive nature in the public domain, but will readily share information concerning all technical and SPS-related matters with the WTO SPS Committee Secretariat and other stakeholders according to its international commitments.

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