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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**AMENDMENT OF EUROPEAN UNION REGULATION NO. 258/97
CONCERNING NOVEL FOODS**

COMMUNICATION FROM PERU

The following communication, dated 13 March 2014, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

1. Peru once again wishes to raise before the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures its trade concern regarding Regulation No. 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning novel foods, the application of which continues to restrict access to the European market for traditional products derived from biodiversity that were not marketed in Europe before 15 May 1997.
2. Since 2006, Peru has submitted a number of communications to this Committee expressing its concern regarding the application of Regulation No. 258/97. (The communications submitted by Peru over the past two years include: G/SPS/GEN/1087, G/SPS/GEN/1117, G/SPS/GEN/1137, and G/SPS/GEN/1194 and G/SPS/GEN/1218.) In these communications, Peru spoke of the impact of the application of the Regulation on the export potential for products such as yacón (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*) syrup, camu camu (*Myrciaria dubia*) pulp and juice, sachá inchi (*Plukenetia volubilis*) vinegar, and algarrobo (*Prosopis pallida*).
3. At the meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in October 2013, the European Union stated its intention to submit a new legislative proposal on the subject by end 2013, providing specific measures for traditional foods from third countries, intended to ease their access to the European market for the benefit of consumers whilst ensuring their safety. The European Union also indicated that the general purpose of the proposal was to streamline the approval process for such products. Peru's specific trade concern in this regard (specific trade concern No. 238) is outlined under point 3.2.12 of document G/SPS/R/73 of 15 January 2014.
4. Peru reiterates that the European Union's initiative of preparing an amendment to Regulation No. 258/97 should address the preoccupations and concerns expressed in this Committee about the issue of novel foods in recent years. Peru accordingly asks the European Union for information on the status of the new legislative proposal that would amend Regulation No. 258/97 with a view to facilitating the process of entry into the European market for biodiversity-based products from developing countries.
5. Peru stands ready to continue working in this Committee with the European Union and other Members to reach a prompt solution to the issue of real and effective access for these products to the European market.