

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF NOTIFICATIONS TO
NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINTS**

Note by the Secretariat

Following informal consultations with all interested Members, the Secretariat has decided to undertake the following actions so as to further the implementation of paragraph 9 of Annex B of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and especially to draw the attention of developing country Members to any notifications relating to products of particular interest to them.

1. The Secretariat will circulate, initially on a monthly basis, a document identifying all notifications which it has received with a brief summary of the products covered by the notification, the country or regions identified as likely to be affected by the notified measure (where provided), the nature of the measure notified, and the deadline for the submission of comments on the notification. The Secretariat will consider more frequent circulation of such a document, if warranted. This document will be issued as an unrestricted document in the G/SPS/GEN/- series.

2. The Secretariat will transmit all notifications received, in the original language in which it has received them, by electronic mail to a Member's National Enquiry Point(s). The summary document described above will also be transmitted electronically to the National Enquiry Points.

Members are requested to verify that the electronic mail addresses provided for their National Enquiry Point(s) are correct (see G/SPS/ENQ/8). Any corrections or additional mail addresses should be provided as soon as possible to the Secretariat (Ms. Christiane Wolff, fax: 41 22 739 5760, e-mail: christiane.wolff@wto.org).

Should a developing country Member consider it beneficial that one or two addresses other than the National Enquiry Point(s) receive the notifications electronically, they should so inform the Secretariat, providing the necessary names and electronic mail addresses.

3. Circulation of the summary of notifications and the electronic provision of notifications to National Enquiry Points is foreseen to commence before the end of September 1999.

4. The current procedure for the circulation of all SPS documents, including notifications, will not be affected by the electronic transmission to National Enquiry Points. Members' permanent missions to the WTO will continue to receive paper copies of all SPS documents, including the new summary of notifications. SPS documents are normally circulated to all Members in English, and subsequently in any other WTO working language of their choice.

5. Members are also reminded that SPS notifications are also available electronically through the WTO home page (www.wto.org). The "documents on-line" feature provides access to all unrestricted documents, including SPS notifications, in all WTO working languages.