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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**AREAS FREE FROM PIERCE'S DISEASE
(*XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA* SUBSP. *FASTIDIOSA*)**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 5 March 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members that the Decision declaring the grape-producing municipalities of Altar, Caborca, Carbó, Empalme, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Pitiquito and San Miguel de Horcasitas in the State of Sonora to be areas free from Pierce's disease (*Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*) was published in the Mexican Official Journal (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*) on 23 February 2015.

2. The Decision declares the grape-producing municipalities of Altar, Caborca, Carbó, Empalme, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Pitiquito and San Miguel de Horcasitas in the State of Sonora to be areas free from Pierce's disease (*Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*), by virtue of the application of the measures laid down in Mexican Official Standard NOM-069-FITO-1995 on the establishment and recognition of pest-free areas.

3. The Decision was published in order to declare the grape-producing municipalities of Altar, Caborca, Carbó, Empalme, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Pitiquito and San Miguel de Horcasitas in the State of Sonora to be areas free from Pierce's disease (*Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*). This declaration is expected to have a positive impact on the production of grapes, which are one of the most important crops in the north of Mexico and in the State of Sonora, where production covers a surface area of 19,015 hectares and amounts to an average of 210,038 tonnes a year, making Sonora the leading producer of grapes at national level. The table grapes produced are destined for the domestic market and for export.

4. The Decision is available in Spanish at: <http://www.dof.gob.mx>, http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5382976&fecha=23/02/2015, or from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).

5. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to Mexico's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.
