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Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**FLOOR STATEMENTS
NOVEMBER 2019 WTO SPS COMMITTEE - FORMAL MEETING**

AGENDA ITEM 3(A)(VI): EU REGULATION ON HIGH RISK PLANTS

Communication from the United States of America

The following communication, received on 12 November 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

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1. The United States thanks Israel for bringing this issue to the Committee's attention.
 2. We are concerned that the European Union will stop all existing trade for 36 new plant genera on 14 December 2019, unless it has completed a pest risk assessment (PRA) and agreed upon entry requirements before that date.
 3. The process for a single PRA often takes longer than one year to complete, even after the appropriate data have been gathered and submitted to the regulating authority, and the European Union has asked for an unusually large amount of data for each potentially affected commodity.
 4. The United States and others have traded many of these products for years without any prior problems, so it is not clear if the European Union has considered the proportionality of its actions in relation to the apparent lack of risk.
 5. Stopping imports on the 14 December cut-off date will have an immediate adverse impact on trade, without any clear or measurable improvement to the safety of EU imports.
 6. We request that the European Union explain what steps it took to minimize negative trade effects, and whether or not it considered provisional measures that would allow historically safe trade to continue while it seeks to obtain the information necessary for a more objective pest risk assessment.
 7. Chair, we appreciate the discussions in this Committee on actions to improve transparency and support greater shared understanding of concerns raised in Committee. We will therefore submit this statement to the Secretariat and request its issuance as a GEN document.
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