



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6
OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Article 6 of the SPS Agreement requires that measures take into account pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence. This concept is frequently referred to as "regionalization". At the 2-3 April 2008 meeting, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures adopted guidelines to further the practical implementation of Article 6.² These guidelines are intended to provide assistance to Members in the implementation of Article 6 by improving transparency, exchange of information, predictability, confidence and credibility between importing and exporting Members.

The guidelines require the Secretariat to prepare an annual report to the Committee on implementation of Article 6 based on the information provided by Members concerning:

1. requests for recognition of pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence;
2. determinations on whether to recognize a pest- or disease-free area or area of low pest or disease prevalence; and/or
3. Members' experiences in the implementation of Article 6 and the provision of relevant background information by Members on their decisions to other interested Members.

The report covers the period from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021, based on information provided by Members through notifications and information presented during SPS Committee meetings. This information was frequently provided under the agenda item "Pest- and or Disease-Free Areas - Article 6". Relevant information provided under other agenda items is also included in the report. A list of notifications related to Article 6 is contained in [section 4](#); and [section 5](#) lists the relevant specific trade concerns.

Within the context of the Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement, the Committee also discussed several recommendations on regionalization.³

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

² [G/SPS/48](#).

³ The recommendations from the Fifth Review, and information on the Committee discussions, are available in Part A of the Report of the Fifth Review ([G/SPS/64](#), see section 9 on regionalization). A factual report on the work of the Committee is contained in document [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#) (see section 14 on regionalization). In addition, an overview of all of the proposals submitted under the Fifth Review, including several on regionalization, is available in document [G/SPS/GEN/1625/Rev.6](#).

1 REQUESTS FOR RECOGNITION OF PEST- OR DISEASE-FREE AREAS OR AREAS OF LOW PEST OR DISEASE PREVALENCE

1.1 June 2020 meeting ([G/SPS/R/99](#) and [G/SPS/R/99/Corr.1](#))

1.1.1 Colombia – Recovery of its status as an FMD-free country with vaccination ([G/SPS/GEN/1768](#))

1.1. Colombia provided the following statement: We would like to briefly mention a communication that we had prepared for the March meeting, which was cancelled for well-known reasons. We wish to inform WTO Members that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has restored the status of Colombia as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone where vaccination is practised. Given Colombia's new health status granted by the OIE in its capacity as an SPS Agreement reference body, we wish to invite WTO Members to inform their health authorities so that the restrictions imposed by some countries may be lifted, thus facilitating ongoing processes to ensure compliance with sanitary requirements. Detailed information can be found in communication [G/SPS/GEN/1768](#) regarding the restoration of Colombia's health status as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone where vaccination is practised.

1.1.2 Mexico – Declaration of an area free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha* and species *Rhagoletis pomonella* ([G/SPS/GEN/1780](#))

1.2. Mexico provided the following statement: Mexico would like to share with Members communication [G/SPS/GEN/1780](#) (19 May 2020), declaring the municipality of San Juan Atenco in the State of Puebla to be an area free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha* and species *Rhagoletis pomonella*. The authority responsible for these self-declarations is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), acting through the National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA). Mexico kindly requests that these self-declarations be used as reference in their commercial dealings.

1.1.3 Mexico - Declaration of area free from large avocado seed weevils (*Heilipus lauri*), small avocado seed weevils (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and avocado seed moths (*Stenomoma catenifer*) ([G/SPS/GEN/1782](#))

1.3. Mexico provided the following statement: Mexico would like share with Members communication [G/SPS/GEN/1782](#) (25 May 2020), declaring the municipality of Taxco de Alarcón in the State of Guerrero to be an area free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenomoma catenifer*). The authority responsible for these self-declarations is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), acting through the National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA). Mexico kindly requests that these self-declarations be used as reference in their commercial dealings.

1.1.4 Peru - Self-declarations as a country free from diseases caused by the yellow head virus (genotype 1) and the infectious myonecrosis virus ([G/SPS/GEN/1793](#))

1.4. Peru submitted document [G/SPS/GEN/1793](#) and provided the following statement: Peru would like to highlight to WTO Members the ongoing work being done by its fisheries and aquaculture health authority, the National Fisheries Health Authority (SANIPES), with regard to improving health conditions in the country. This work has resulted in two self-declarations, also published by the OIE, regarding the yellow head virus (genotype 1) and the infectious myonecrosis virus. Peru wishes to invite Members to take account of these self-declarations in subsequent trade/health formalities. Members can find further details in document [G/SPS/GEN/1793](#) and in notifications [G/SPS/N/PER/873](#) and [G/SPS/N/PER/874](#).

1.1.5 Chinese Taipei - OIE official recognition of foot and mouth disease-free zone

1.5. Chinese Taipei submitted document [G/SPS/GEN/1813](#)⁴ and provided the following statement: We are pleased to inform Members of our recently gained foot and mouth disease-free status.

⁴ Chinese Taipei submitted a corrigendum on 29 July 2020, document [G/SPS/GEN/1813/Corr.1](#).

On 13 June 2020, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) officially recognized the health status of the Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas of our customs territory as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone, where vaccination is not practiced. Over the last 23 years, we have implemented a series of measures to eradicate FMD. So, for us it is an important milestone on our journey since the first occurrence of the disease in 1997. In the interest of transparency and in accordance with Article 6 of the SPS Agreement, we would encourage all Members to kindly take note of this recognition.

1.6. We also invite Members to inform their health and veterinary authorities at the earliest opportunity so that restrictions previously imposed by some may now be lifted. We look forward to cooperating closely with our trading partners, and to discussing the resumption of trade in relevant animals and animal products. This should be of some benefit to global food security during these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe outbreaks of African swine fever experienced around the world.

1.1.6 Russian Federation - OIE official recognition of zones free from certain animal diseases

1.7. The Russian Federation announced that, following OIE procedures, it had gained official status of freedom from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. It explained that extensive studies, analysis and sampling had taken place in all its regions.

1.1.7 Ukraine - Update on its avian influenza-free status

1.8. Ukraine provided the following statement: With regards to the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, animal health, welfare and veterinary public health must be improved worldwide to ensure safe international trade, Ukraine is pleased to support the fundamental principle of WTO of transparency in international trade. Ukraine would like to provide a brief update to Members with regard to the disease-free status of Ukraine for avian influenza (AI).

1.9. In Ukraine, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) are diseases subject to mandatory notifications in accordance with the Law of Ukraine on Veterinary Medicine. The system for AI surveillance in Ukraine is based on active and passive surveillance that is fully in compliance with OIE recommendations. Ukraine had notified to OIE one single outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) among domestic poultry that was registered on 19 January 2020. All measures were taken in a timely manner due to the current National Control Programme on avian influenza developed in accordance with the provision of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Control measures included a stamping out policy, monitoring, movement and certification restrictions in place, etc. All measures were effectively implemented by the competent authority of Ukraine. This case has been localized and eradicated without further spreading of disease.

1.10. Ukraine has notified to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) the outbreak of HPAI and submitted a follow up; surveillance has been carried out in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code; and a three-month period was applied following completion of the stamping out policy and cleansing and disinfection without any new outbreaks. The final report was submitted to the OIE on 12 May 2020. Therefore, Ukraine declares that the whole country is free from avian influenza as of 12 May 2020 in accordance with its national legislation and Article 10.4.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Ukraine appreciates the adequate feedback from Members on this case.

1.2 November 2020 meeting ([G/SPS/R/100](#), [G/SPS/R/100/Corr.1](#), [G/SPS/R/100/Corr.2](#) and [G/SPS/R/100/Corr.3](#))

1.2.1 Colombia - Self-declaration of a zone free of Aujeszky's disease in 15 departments

1.11. Colombia referred to [G/SPS/GEN/1856](#), notifying the self-declaration of a zone free of Aujeszky's disease in Colombia in line with OIE guidelines. Colombia specified that this area accounts for 95% of the country's industrialized swine production and is home to the main genetic centers and slaughterhouses for the export of pigs.

1.2.2 Mexico - Declarations of areas free from large avocado seed weevils, small avocado seed weevils and avocado seed moths ([G/SPS/GEN/1824](#), [G/SPS/GEN/1825](#))

1.12. Mexico reported on documents [G/SPS/GEN/1824](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1825](#) regarding the declaration of several areas located in the states of Guerrero, Michoacán de Ocampo, and Mexico as areas free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*), and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*). Mexico indicated that phytosanitary measures had been taken to maintain and protect these areas.

1.3 March 2021 meeting ([G/SPS/R/101](#))

1.3.1 Mexico – Declaration of an area free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha* ([G/SPS/GEN/1875](#))

1.13. Mexico reported on document [G/SPS/GEN/1875](#) regarding the declaration of several areas located in the states of Guerrero, Aguascalientes, Durango and Tamaulipas as areas free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha*. Mexico indicated that phytosanitary measures had been taken to maintain and protect these areas.

1.3.2 Mexico – Declaration of areas free from large avocado seed weevils, small avocado seed weevils and avocado seed moths ([G/SPS/GEN/1869](#))

1.14. Mexico reported on document [G/SPS/GEN/1869](#) regarding the declaration of several areas located in the states of Michoacán de Ocampo, Jalisco, Nayarit, Puebla, Guerrero and the State of Mexico as areas free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*). Mexico indicated that phytosanitary measures had been taken to maintain and protect these areas.

1.3.3 Colombia – Declaration of foot and mouth disease-free status ([G/SPS/GEN/1768](#))

1.15. Colombia recalled that, in February 2020, the OIE had restored Colombia's health status as a FMD-free zone where vaccination was practiced, and referred to document [G/SPS/GEN/1768](#). Colombia thanked the Members that had recognized this status and reiterated its invitation to Members to inform their health authorities so that the restrictions imposed by some countries could be lifted, thus facilitating ongoing processes to ensure compliance with sanitary requirements.

2 DETERMINATION ON WHETHER TO RECOGNIZE A PEST- OR DISEASE-FREE AREA OR AREA OF LOW PEST OR DISEASE PREVALENCE

2.1. No Member reported on experiences in recognizing a pest- or disease-free area during the period covered by this report.

3 MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

3.1 June 2020 meeting ([G/SPS/R/99](#) and [G/SPS/R/99/Corr.1](#))

3.1.1 European Union – ASF restrictions not consistent with the OIE international standard

3.1. The European Union submitted the following statement: Once again, the European Union must draw the attention of WTO Members to inconsistencies in the application of OIE international standards related to African swine fever. The OIE Terrestrial Code contains clear guidance for the identification, treatment and certification of tradable products. Yet, several WTO Members chose to ignore these recommendations that were developed, consolidated and adopted in the OIE with the support of these same Members.

3.2. Through the European Union's strict regionalisation policy, the European Union demonstrates every day in its single market that African swine fever can be managed effectively to make sure that legitimate and safe trade is not the cause of any outbreak. The European Union is highly transparent on its disease control measures and provides information through the websites of the

EU Commission, of the member States, of the OIE and through bilateral contacts with trade partners. For example, weekly synthesis reports are published by the EU Commission.

3.3. The European Union would like to insist that WTO Members apply import measures that are consistent with the SPS Agreement and with international standards. The European Union continues to give high priority to this issue and stands ready to work with WTO Members to remove country-wide and scientifically unjustified bans. Given the large number of WTO Members affected by the disease, from EU member States to China, from Belarus to Malaysia, the European Union has suggested to organise a thematic session on the subject of African swine fever ([G/SPS/W/322](#)).

3.1.2 European Union – HPAI restrictions not consistent with OIE international standards

3.4. The European Union submitted the following statement: The European Union appreciates the cooperation with those WTO Members that recognise the principle of zoning and accept the regionalisation measures put in place in the European Union. Many Members trust the European Union's effective and transparent system of control and eradication of animal diseases like Avian influenza for many years now (and vice versa) and we do not experience any incident that would put this trust in question. On the other hand, there is still a significant number of WTO Members that disregard their obligations under Article 6 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement, in particular China, Korea and South Africa.

3.5. Country-wide bans after a disease outbreak are not scientifically justified. There is also no justification for WTO and OIE Members to wait one year or more to restore the disease-free status - instead of the three months defined by the OIE Code. The European Union successfully manages regionalisation measures in its entire territory, namely the single market of its member States. The veterinary services of all EU member States work in full transparency. Trade partners of the European Union can be reassured that it is at all times fully aware of the animal health situation in all member States.

3.6. The European Union reiterates its call to all WTO Members to respect their obligations on regionalisation under the WTO SPS Agreement; allow trade of all safe products from non-affected zones; lift all bans after regaining freedom 3 months after the application of stamping-out, cleaning and disinfection of all affected premises; refrain from imposing trade restriction in case of HPAI in wild or captive birds; refrain from imposing trade restriction in case of LPAI detected. The European Union has repeatedly explained the disease control and regionalisation measures taken in the event of an outbreak and offered bilateral structured dialogues to come to a solution with WTO Members. Unfortunately, these offers have not yielded concrete results so far.

3.7. The European Union appeals to WTO Members to respect the recommendations of international standard setting bodies. These recommendations were developed and adopted with their support.

3.2 November 2020 meeting ([G/SPS/R/100](#), [G/SPS/R/100/Corr.1](#), [G/SPS/R/100/Corr.2](#) and [G/SPS/R/100/Corr.3](#))

3.2.1 European Union - Update on the African swine fever situation

3.8. The European Union thanked the Members that had supported its proposal for a thematic session on African swine fever (ASF) to be held in March 2021.⁵ The European Union shared information on recent ASF cases affecting feral pigs in Germany, which had been immediately notified to the OIE and trading partners. Intensive surveillance was ongoing in all high-risk areas, and regionalization and movement restrictions had been put in place. The European Union stressed that it aimed at guaranteeing a swift, efficient, and coherent response to ASF outbreaks in line with OIE standards and guidelines, and that its measures ensured that pigs, pork, and pork products from areas not under trade restrictive measures could be placed safely on the EU market and exported. The European Union highlighted its transparent approach and the effective management of its regionalization policy.

⁵ A Thematic Session on African Swine Fever was held on 23 March 2021, on the margins of the SPS Committee meeting. The presentations and the programme can be found in the SPS Gateway: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_thematic_session_230321_e.htm. The Chairperson's summary of the Thematic Session is contained in Annex A of the March 2021 summary report, [G/SPS/R/101](#).

3.2.2 European Union - ASF restrictions not consistent with the OIE international standard

3.9. The European Union drew Members' attention to inconsistencies in the application of OIE international standards related to ASF. The European Union noted that several Members did not follow the OIE Terrestrial Code recommendations that had been developed and adopted with their support. The European Union had demonstrated in its single market that the disease could be managed effectively to ensure that legitimate trade was not the cause of any outbreak. The European Union was transparent on its disease control measures and provided information through many channels. ASF was a disease affecting many EU and non-EU countries.

3.10. The European Union welcomed the decision to organize a thematic session on ASF in March 2021. The objective would be to build confidence among Members to apply trade conditions consistent with the SPS Agreement and international standards. The European Union invited Members to work together to prepare the thematic session and work on the removal of country-wide and scientifically unjustified trade bans.

3.2.3 European Union - HPAI restrictions not consistent with the OIE international standard

3.11. The European Union praised those Members that trusted the EU effective and transparent system of control and eradication of animal diseases such as AI. The European Union regretted that some Members disregarded their obligations under Article 6 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement. Country-wide bans after a disease outbreak were not scientifically justified, and there was no justification to wait one year or more to restore the disease-free status, instead of the three months defined by the OIE Terrestrial Code. The European Union reiterated its call to all Members to respect their regionalization obligations; allow trade of all safe products from non-affected zones; lift all bans after regaining freedom three months after eradication and re-instate trade conditions applicable to disease-free countries without delay; refrain from imposing trade restrictions in case of HPAI in wild birds; and refrain from imposing trade restrictions in case of detected LPAI. The European Union appealed to Members to respect the recommendations of ISSBs that had been developed and adopted with their support.

3.3 March 2021 meeting ([G/SPS/R/101](#))

3.3.1 European Union - ASF restrictions not consistent with the OIE international standard

3.12. The European Union drew the Committee's attention to inconsistencies in the application of OIE international standards related to ASF. The European Union considered that many Members did not follow the OIE Terrestrial Code guidance for the identification, treatment and certification of tradable products. The European Union highlighted that it had, as well as other Members, demonstrated that ASF could be managed effectively to ensure that legitimate trade was not the cause of any outbreak. The European Union added that ASF was a disease affecting many EU and non-EU countries. The European Union invited Members to work on the removal of country-wide and scientifically unjustified trade bans.

3.3.2 European Union - HPAI restrictions not consistent with the OIE international standard

3.13. The European Union praised those Members trusting the EU effective and transparent system of surveillance, regionalization and eradication of animal diseases such as avian influenza. The European Union regretted, however, that some Members disregarded their obligations under Article 6 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement. Country-wide bans after a disease outbreak were not scientifically justified where effective movement controls were in place, and there was no justification to wait one year or more to restore the disease-free status, instead of the three months in the OIE Terrestrial Code. The European Union reiterated its call to Members to respect their regionalization obligations; allow trade from non-affected zones; lift bans three months after eradication and reinstate trade conditions applicable to disease-free countries without delay; refrain from imposing trade restrictions in case of HPAI in wild birds; and refrain from imposing trade restrictions in case of detected low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI). The European Union called

on Members to respect the recommendations of ISSBs, which had been developed and adopted with their support.

3.14. The OIE provided an update regarding the relevant chapter of the OIE Terrestrial Code (Chapter 10.4), which had undergone extensive revisions to be proposed for adoption at its May 2021 General Session. The OIE highlighted some of the revisions, including a change to the title of the chapter (to refer to infection with HPAI viruses), a modification to the list of disease names in Chapter 1.3, and impacts on notification and surveillance requirements notably for LPAI, a new article on safe commodities, and a revision of the definition of poultry. The OIE pointed to the Terrestrial Code Commission Report of February 2021 (Part A) on its website, detailing the amendments.

4 NOTIFICATIONS RELATED TO ARTICLE 6

4.1. From April 2020 through March 2021, 159 notifications (33 regular and 126 emergency) related to Article 6. Eleven of those notifications, all regular notifications, indicated that the notified measure was trade facilitating; these notifications mainly inform of measures that will simplify the requirements for the import of products originating from certain regions, as well as the recognition of pest-free or disease-free areas ([Table 4.1](#)).

Table 4.1: Trade Facilitating Notifications Related to Article 6

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
G/SPS/N/ARG/239	Argentina	The notified text contains the phytosanitary requirements, agreed with the Spanish National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), governing the importation of plant propagation material (plants and cuttings) of the species <i>Dianthus</i> spp., <i>Gerbera</i> spp. and <i>Limonium</i> spp. from Spain.
G/SPS/N/BRA/1680	Brazil	Phytosanitary requirements for grain imports (Category 3, Class 9) of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) produced in Lithuania and the products must be free of soil material and plant residues.
G/SPS/N/CHL/633	Chile	<p>Following the completion of the relevant pest risk analyses, which made it possible to establish the appropriate phytosanitary requirements, Exempt Resolution No. 1.410 of 2001 has been amended as follows:</p> <p>Article 1 has been replaced by the following:</p> <p>Shipments must include an official phytosanitary certificate issued by the phytosanitary authority of the country of origin, declaring that:</p> <p>1.1. The shipment is free of <i>Platynota stultana</i> (Lep. Tortricidae) and <i>Argyrotaenia franciscana</i> (= <i>A. citrana</i>) (Lep. Tortricidae).</p> <p>1.2. In the case of <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>:</p> <p>1.2.1. The shipment originates from an area not regulated for <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> and is free of <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>.</p> <p>or</p> <p>1.2.2. The shipment originates from an area regulated for <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> and has undergone phytosanitary treatment for the control of <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> (Lep. Tortricidae), indicating the product, dose, temperature and exposure time.</p> <p>Article 2 has been replaced by the following:</p> <p>2. The following will be accepted as quarantine treatment for the control of <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> (Lep. Tortricidae) and must be carried out at the place of origin or destination. The specifications concerning the treatment carried out must be indicated in the relevant section of the phytosanitary certificate, specifying the product, dose, temperature and</p>

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
		<p>exposure time.</p> <p>2.1. Once the treatment is completed, the shipment must remain protected at all times until its arrival in Chile in order to maintain its phytosanitary status.</p> <p>2.2. The shipment must be free of soil and other plant remains.</p> <p>2.3. Packaging must be new (repackaging is not permitted), closed and resistant to handling. It must indicate the region of origin of the fruit and the name of the packaging establishment where it was processed.</p> <p>2.4. The packaging materials used must allow for potential phytosanitary treatments to be carried out at points of entry.</p> <p>2.5. All containers must use official NPPO seals or fastenings and, in the case of air exports, pallets transported must be protected using plastic or mosquito-type nets and each unit sealed or fastened.</p> <p>2.6. The wood used for packaging, pallets and packing materials must comply with quarantine regulations when entering the country.</p> <p>Agriculture and Livestock Service Resolution No. 9.338 of 2019 should be repealed.</p> <p>See document attached to this notification for details.</p>
G/SPS/N/CHL/652	Chile	<p>The notified text establishes the phytosanitary requirements and regulations governing the importation of reproductive material for the indicated species.</p> <p>Further details can be found in the document attached to this notification.</p>
G/SPS/N/CHL/656	Chile	<p>The notified text establishes the provisional measure affecting the monitoring carried out throughout the process of exporting Hass avocado pears (<i>Persea americana</i>), grown in the municipalities of Uruapan, Salvador Escalante, Peribán de Ramos, Tancítaro, Nuevo Parangaricutiro (San Juan), Ario de Rosales and Taretan in the state of Michoacán, Mexico, to Chile. The measure establishes that monitoring may only be carried out at specific times determined by SAG, depending on the quantity of exports and any breaches that occur.</p> <p>Further details can be found in the document attached to this notification.</p>
G/SPS/N/CRI/235	Costa Rica	<p>The notified draft Resolution establishes the mandatory phytosanitary measures for the importation of unrooted cuttings, rooted cuttings and plants with roots of purslane (<i>Portulaca</i> spp., <i>Portulaca</i> hybrid, <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> and <i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>), for sowing, originating from the state of Texas, United States of America.</p>
G/SPS/N/ECU/229	Ecuador	<p>Resolution No. 0243 of 19 November 2019 provided for the immediate entry into force of the mandatory phytosanitary requirements governing the importation into Ecuador of predatory mites (<i>Neoseiulus cucumeris</i>) for biological control from the Netherlands.</p>
G/SPS/N/ECU/230	Ecuador	<p>Resolution No. 0258 of 3 December 2019 provided for the immediate entry into force of the mandatory phytosanitary requirements governing the importation into Ecuador of the biological control agent <i>Steinernema carpocapsae</i> from the Netherlands.</p>

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
G/SPS/N/ECU/231	Ecuador	Resolution No. 0256 of 2 December 2019 provided for the immediate entry into force of the mandatory phytosanitary requirements governing the importation into Ecuador of the biological control agent <i>Heterorhabditis bacteriophora</i> from the Netherlands.
G/SPS/N/MEX/381	Mexico	In accordance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Mexico advises that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality Service have established the draft phytosanitary requirements governing the importation into Mexico of fresh truffle (<i>Tuber</i> spp.) ascocarps originating in and coming from France.
G/SPS/N/MEX/382	Mexico	In accordance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Mexico advises that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality Service have established the draft phytosanitary requirements governing the importation into Mexico of fresh apples (<i>Malus domestica</i>) originating in and coming from Belgium.

5 SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS AND REGIONALIZATION

5.1. Specific trade concerns (STCs) can be raised due to issues pertaining to regionalization. From April 2020 through March 2021, five STCs that related to regionalization were raised for the first time ([Table 5.1](#)).

Table 5.1: New STCs Related to Regionalization (April 2020 – March 2021)

STC ID	Title	Member raising the concern	Member responding to the concern	Date first raised (subsequently raised)
505	China's recognition of equivalence for third parties introduced as part of Phase 1 of the Economic and Trade Agreement between the United States and China	Australia	China	05/11/2020 (0 times)
494	HPAI-related restrictions by China, the European Union and Kazakhstan	Ukraine	China; European Union; Kazakhstan	05/11/2020 (0 times)
489*	Mexico's import restrictions on pork	Brazil	Mexico	05/11/2020 (1 time)
484*	India's approval procedures for animal products	Russian Federation	India	25/06/2020 (1 time)
471*	US non-recognition of the pest-free status in the European Union for Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle	European Union	United States	25/06/2020 (2 times)

* These STCs were subsequently raised again in the same reporting period.

5.2. For the same period, seven⁶ previously raised STCs that related to regionalization were brought again to the attention of the Committee ([Table 5.2](#)).

⁶ In addition, three of the new STCs, as indicated in Table 5.1, were subsequently raised again in the same reporting period.

Table 5.2: Previously Raised STCs Related to Regionalization (April 2020 – March 2021)

STC ID	Title	Member raising the concern	Member responding to the concern	Date first raised (subsequently raised)
466	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	European Union	Philippines	7/11/2019 (3 times)
463	Ukraine's restrictions on swine products	Brazil	Ukraine	18/07/2019 (3 times)
456	Korea's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union	Korea, Republic of	21/03/2019 (2 times)
431	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union	South Africa	2/11/2019 (8 times)
406	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union; United States of America	China	16/03/2016 (12 times)
393	Korea's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union	Korea, Republic of	15/07/2015 (10 times)
392	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union	China	15/07/2015 (10 times)

5.3. In addition, panel proceedings in the context of the WTO dispute settlement resolution procedures continued with respect to three previously raised STCs:

- India's restrictions due to avian influenza ([STC 185](#) raised by the United States, March 2004). At its meeting on 19 June 2015, the DSB adopted the Appellate Body report and the panel report, as modified by the Appellate Body report ([DS430](#)). Thereafter, on 19 April 2016, the matter was referred to arbitration under Article 22.6 of the DSU. The arbitration panel was composed with the original panelists. On 6 April 2017, India requested the establishment of a compliance panel (Article 21.5). At its meeting on 19 April 2017, the DSB deferred the establishment of a compliance panel. At its meeting on 22 May 2017, the DSB agreed, pursuant to Article 21.5 of the DSU, to refer to the original panel, if possible. The compliance panel was composed by the original panellists. The arbitration and compliance proceedings are currently ongoing.⁷
- The Russian Federation's measures on live pigs and pork products due to African swine fever ([STC 369](#) raised by the European Union, March 2013). At its meeting on 21 March 2017, the DSB adopted the Appellate Body report and the panel report ([DS475](#)), as modified by the Appellate Body report. Thereafter, on 3 January 2018, the matter was referred to arbitration under Article 22.6 of the DSU. On 25 January 2018, the Russian Federation requested consultations under Article 21.5 (compliance proceedings) of the DSU, and on 2 February 2018, the European Union also requested consultations under Article 21.5 of the DSU. At its meeting on 29 October 2018, the DSB deferred the establishment of a compliance panel. At its meeting on 21 November 2018, the DSB agreed, pursuant to Article 21.5 of the DSU, to refer to the original panel, if possible. The compliance proceedings commenced with a compliance panel composed by the original panellists. Pursuant to a request from the European Union for the panel to suspend its proceedings in accordance with Article 12.12 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the panel informed the DSB of its decision of 28 January 2020 to suspend its work ([WT/DS475/24](#)).⁸ As the compliance panel had not been requested to resume its work,

⁷ The compliance panel has received several joint requests from the parties to postpone the issuance of its final report. In its most recent communication, dated 12 April 2021, the compliance panel informed the DSB that it had accepted an additional joint request from the parties to postpone the issuance of its report until the end of September 2021.

⁸ In its communication, the panel noted that its authority would lapse on 28 January 2021 unless the European Union indicated that it wished the panel to recommence its work.

pursuant to Article 12.12 of the DSU, the authority for establishment of the panel lapsed as of 28 January 2021.

- Costa Rica's measures on fresh avocados due to avocado sunblotch viroid ([STC 394](#) raised by Mexico, July 2015). On 8 March 2017, Mexico requested consultations with Costa Rica ([DS524](#)). On 22 November 2018, Mexico requested the establishment of a panel. At its meeting on 4 December 2018, the DSB deferred the establishment of a panel. At its meeting on 18 December 2018, the DSB established a panel. Thereafter, the panel was composed on 16 May 2019. The panel proceedings are currently ongoing.
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