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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**UNDUE DELAYS IN THE AUTHORIZATION OF PLANTS
OF DAIRY PRODUCT ENTERPRISES**

COMMUNICATION FROM PERU

The following communication, received on 10 November 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

1. Peru wishes to respond to Panama regarding the inclusion of the specific trade concern entitled "Undue delays in the authorization of dairy product enterprises".
2. On this matter, Peru wishes to emphasize that it is respectful of the provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and that it has avoided generating undue delays or any other unnecessary barrier to trade throughout the process.
3. Peru has communicated, through official letters and at bilateral meetings, the procedures that must be followed to import dairy products, which are established in the "Guidelines for the importation of industrially processed food of animal origin".¹ These guidelines state that the health authorities from both parties must agree on an official sanitary export certificate in order to assess the exporting party's sanitary system and thus ensure compliance with Peru's sanitary requirements and the appropriate level of protection. Once such a certificate has been agreed, Panamanian enterprises may send their products to Peru.
4. However, to date, Panama has sent a number of communications containing partial information through various channels, despite being informed of the procedure mentioned above. In spite of this, and in accordance with Article 8 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement, particularly with regard to paragraph (b), including the lack of information on the products that are of interest to Panama, we have proceeded as much as was feasibly possible in terms of management.
5. It should also be noted that Peru has proposed holding a technical meeting in order to continue discussing the outstanding sanitary issues between the two countries and reach mutually satisfactory consensuses, but has yet to receive a reply from Panama.
6. In light of the above, Peru has acted in accordance with the provisions of the SPS Agreement and once again requests holding a technical meeting with Panama in order to reach consensuses on the outstanding sanitary issues.²

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¹ http://www.digesa.minsa.gob.pe/Orientacion/Importacion_Alimentos.asp.

² Peru's references: [G/SPS/GEN/1936](#), [G/SPS/GEN/1904](#), [G/SPS/GEN/1938](#), [G/SPS/GEN/1905](#).