



19 November 2021

(21-8736)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

QATAR'S NEW IMPORT RULES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

SUBMISSION BY QATAR

The following submission, received on 12 November 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Qatar.

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1. Qatar has taken note of the concern of the European Union regarding Qatar's Ministry of Public health circular on shelf life for cheese and thanks them for their interest.
 2. This matter is under consideration by the competent authorities in Doha.
 3. We would like to take this opportunity to reconfirm that these measures have been adopted to ensure the quality of products available in Qatar, and that the protection of consumers is of primary importance to the Government of Qatar with its international obligations under the WTO Agreements, including the SPS Agreement.
 4. Also, we would like to assure Members that the relevant measures apply equally to domestic and imported products and are therefore non-discriminatory in nature. Furthermore, any impact that such regulations may have on trade will not be more than necessary to contribute to the fulfilment of the legitimate objective of protecting consumers. In this respect, we would like to emphasize that product-specific requirements applied in Qatar do not prevent the importation and sale of any products that meet quality standards and thus do not have a significant effect on trade.
 5. This being said, we continue to share the concerns expressed today with our capital and will provide replies to the questions we have received as soon as possible. Also, we remain available to continue our constructive discussion with the interested Members to provide additional explanation where necessary.
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