



5 July 2022

(22-5169)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**QATAR - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCULAR REGARDING SHELF LIFE FOR CHEESE
– SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERN 529**

SUBMISSION BY QATAR

The following submission, received on 4 July 2022, is the statement made by Qatar at the 22-24 June 2022 WTO SPS Committee, and is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Qatar.

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1. Qatar has taken note of the continued concern of the European Union, regarding Qatar's Ministry of Public health circular on quality standards for certain dairy products and thanks the European Union for its interest in this matter.
 2. Qatar has been holding discussions on this matter with the European Union where many issues have been clarified and would continue these constructive discussions.
 3. We would again take this opportunity to reiterate that these measures have been adopted in accordance with our international obligations and with a view to ensuring the quality of products available in Qatar. The protection of consumers is of primary importance to the Government of Qatar.
 4. 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 have listened carefully to the concerns expressed by the European Union today and will again share them with our capital. Also, we remain available to continue our constructive discussion with the European Union and any other interested Members to provide additional explanation where necessary.
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