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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**EUROPEAN UNION REVIEW OF LEGISLATION ON VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS
– [SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERN 446](#)**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 14 July 2023, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 12-14 July 2023 WTO SPS Committee, and is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

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1. This is the twelfth time the United States has raised its concerns in this Committee on the implementation of Article 118 of EU Regulation 2019/6.
 2. The United States continues to be concerned that the EU regulation will unnecessarily limit access to animal production practices that are necessary and appropriate for farmers and producers within their own countries and pose no food safety risks.
 3. The EU regulation does not allow for alternative regulatory approaches by third country systems that achieve the same level of protection. Members require flexibility in how they use veterinary medicines because animal species, specific pathogen-causing diseases, health management practices, antimicrobial access, availability of alternative treatments, and antimicrobial susceptibility profiles continue to vary by region, country, and even regions within countries.
 4. The European Union has yet to provide scientific evidence that demonstrates that its measures are justified, will significantly and effectively reduce the occurrence of foodborne antimicrobial resistance, and are the least restrictive to achieve the EU member States' appropriate level of protection.
 5. As such, the United States remains concerned that the unilateral restriction by the European Union on the use of specific production practices in other countries unnecessarily hinders the ability of producers in those countries to raise animals in the most efficient and sustainable manner for their local conditions. Growth promoters safely and efficiently increase yield; through their use, feed and other inputs may be optimized for animals to reach market weight more quickly, which can result in production systems that are more environmentally and economically sustainable than other approaches.
 6. Further, the United States understands that the European Union is contemplating a 24-month transition period, which is impractical for the implementation of these measures, as this time period does not accurately consider the lifespan of different animal species and the shelf and storage life of products already in the supply chain.
 7. We appreciate the European Union for recently hosting a second virtual meeting to keep third countries informed on the draft Implementing Regulations. However, given the extent that these measures will uniquely impact trading partners, we expect the European Union to meaningfully engage with Members through bilateral consultations in order to mitigate any potential trade disruptions.
 8. As such, the United States remains available for bilateral engagement to further discuss implementation of Article 118.
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