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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

**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 20 November 2023, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 15-17 November 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 thirteenth 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 stress 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 that pose no food safety risks.
  3. The United States requests that the European Union consider alternative regulatory approaches by third country systems that achieve the EU level of protection. Members require flexibility in how they use veterinary medicines. 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.
  4. The United States again requests scientific evidence that demonstrates that this EU measure will significantly and effectively reduce the occurrence of foodborne antimicrobial resistance.
  5. The World Health Organization and Codex Alimentarius differentiate between medically important and non-medically important antimicrobials. This is an important differentiation as non-medically important antimicrobials have been deemed safe for use as growth promoters. 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. The United States understands that the European Union is contemplating a 30-month transition period, which would be impractical for the implementation of these measures, as it does not take into consideration the lifespan of different animal species or the shelf and storage life of products already in the supply chain.
  7. The United States also seeks clarification as to the date upon which the transition period begins, as it appears as though the 30-month transition period from the European Union's 28 February 2022 application date has already started, which would mean that agricultural producers in the European Union and in third countries must already be transitioning their production practices based on a measure that has not been fully defined or implemented within the European Union.
  8. As we continue to move forward, we expect the European Union to meaningfully engage with Members through bilateral consultations to mitigate any potential trade disruptions, and the United States remains available to further discuss implementation of Article 118.
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