

**REPLIES TO QUESTIONS BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ON MILEX**

Statement by Panama at the Meeting of 10-11 July 2001

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Panama has been receiving imports of milk powder for human consumption from Denmark since 1994. There has been no sanitary problem of any kind as the products imported have complied with the sanitary requirements laid down by the competent Panamanian authorities, and no sanitary restrictions have ever been imposed on imports of dairy products from the European Union.

Having stated the above, we shall reply to the questions posed by the European Union with regard to milk powder imports to Panama.

Question 1

Could Panama indicate if a new or modified regulation concerning the production and placing on the market of the relevant product exists? If so, could Panama indicate why such a measure has not been notified to the WTO/SPS Secretariat as provided for by Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement?

Reply

The Republic of Panama has not established any regulation regarding the importation of milk powder from the European Union.

Question 2

In consideration of Articles 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 and 5 of the SPS Agreement, could Panama indicate what is the scientific justification behind the relevant restriction?

Reply

Not having introduced new sanitary standards for the importation of dairy products from the European Union, the Republic of Panama merely points out that it applies those agreed on in the OIE.

Question 3

Could Panama indicate if similar restrictions apply to other WTO Members?

Reply

The Republic of Panama applies the same sanitary requirements for milk powder imports as those applied to products from countries free from diseases non-endemic to Panama.

Question 4

Could Panama provide the list of countries eligible for export of milk and other dairy products, with specific reference to milk powder for human consumption?

Reply

All countries free from diseases non-endemic to Panama that comply with eligibility procedures and requirements are eligible to export milk powder to the Republic of Panama. The various procedures and requirements for the importation of animals and animal products and by-products can be found on the website of the National Animal Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agricultural Development, at the following address: <http://www.mida-dinasa.gob.pa/>.

Question 5

Could Panama confirm that it applies the same production and processing requirements to both imported and domestic products and that no discrimination is applied whatsoever?

Reply

The Republic of Panama applies the same sanitary standards to both domestic and imported products for human consumption. There is no discrimination, therefore, between domestic and imported products. It does, however, stress that the country has sanitary regulations that must be strictly observed in respect of domestic and foreign products alike.
