

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Communication from Mauritius

The following communication, dated 24 February 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Mauritius.

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1. Paragraph 1 of G/SPS/11/Rev.1 states that:

"... With the aim of encouraging Members to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations, the underlying purpose of this procedure is to identify where there is a major impact on trade resulting from the non-use of those international standards, guidelines or recommendations and to determine the reasons for the non-use of the standard, guideline or recommendation concerned. ..."

In view of the implementation of the IPPC ISPM 15 Guidelines "For Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade", we would like to raise the issue of problems encountered by certain Members in the implementation of the ISPM 15 Guidelines.

2. Mauritius being a small country, we are actually facing infrastructure problems to comply with the above-mentioned guidelines, namely to set up a heat treatment facility plant for treatment of wood packaging material meant for export. At present, we are using methyl bromide for quarantine treatment of consignments meant for exportation, however our treatment plant has a low throughput capacity volume to cater for treatment of large volumes of wooden materials and pallets. Recognizing the various associated constraints thereof and the increasing pressure from other ISPM compliant countries, there is no doubt that our export market will be jeopardized.

3. In light of the above problems, we are therefore seeking, through the WTO Secretariat, for the IPPC secretariat to grant us a moratorium period of four years in the implementation of the full ISPM 15 Guidelines. We have already initiated a development programme for the setting up of a heat treatment facility plant. In the meantime, we are proposing to use Phosphine fumigation, which is recognized by the IPPC as a possible alternative for quarantine treatment of wooden packaging materials meant for export, pending the approval by IPPC.
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