

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24-25 JUNE 2003

Note by the Secretariat¹

Corrigendum

The following paragraphs to the summary report of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures held on 24-25 June 2003 should read as follows:

51. The representative of Australia replied that Australia had specified the use of internationally accepted measures in its import risk analysis for Thai durian. Destructive fruit cutting was one such internationally accepted phytosanitary measure, which was used by many countries. Australia had already indicated that it was prepared to consider alternative ways to address the quarantine risks associated with Thai durian fruit.

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53. The representative of Australia reported that her country was making good progress in its import risk analysis, and a revised draft report was underway. The IRA is extremely complex as a result of the wide variety of end-uses for prawn products in Australia. The IRA is also incorporating further information on the risks to Australia's aquatic health presented by exotic diseases such as white spot syndrome virus (WSSV).

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64. The representative of Australia reported that the draft import policy for truss tomatoes from the Netherlands had been issued in May 2003 and the documents were now publicly available.

65. The representative of the European Communities expressed disappointment with the information provided by Australia, since the draft policy was still open for comments from stakeholders and therefore far from being finalized. The representative of the Philippines, speaking also on behalf of Indonesia and Thailand, supported the views of the European Communities. The representative of Australia noted that the measure had been circulated as a draft to stakeholders for

* In English and French only

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

comment in accordance with Australia's obligations. A final import policy for Netherlands tomatoes would follow soon.

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68. The representative of Australia stated that the notified measure would affect Australia's alpaca exports to EC member States. Australia's regionalization for bluetongue had been recognized by many countries including the United States, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Japan. Australia had submitted scientific evidence regarding its bluetongue status to the European Communities on several occasions over a lengthy period, and requested an update on this issue.
