

**CHINA'S TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MECHANISM**

Questions to China from the Permanent Mission of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu in the context of the Transitional Review Mechanism under Paragraph 18 of the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China

The following communication, dated 1 October 2003, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, with the request that it be circulated to Members, for the purposes of the Transitional Review to take place at the Committee's meeting on 29-30 October 2003.

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China's *Administrative Regulations on the Review and Permission for Entry of Quarantined Imported Animal and Plant Products* have been in effect since 1 September 2002. It is noted that they stipulate that fresh fruit and vegetable products are allowed for import only after permission is granted. There is concern that this discourages the import of perishable products. Could China therefore please provide us with more detailed information on the content of the appropriate regulation and show how it complies both with China's accession commitments and with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

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