

**PROPOSAL BY CHILE TO FURTHER THE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6 ON REGIONALIZATION**

Communication by Chile

The following communication, received on 18 February 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Chile.

We understand that while a number of us feel that we should be developing guidelines similar to those developed for the implementation of the principle of equivalence in document G/SPS/19/Rev.2 in order to clarify the interpretation of the articles relating to regionalization, and above all to improve implementation in the face of delays resulting from administrative procedures in the countries concerned, certain Members are not convinced of the need to develop such guidelines on the grounds that there could be problems of duplication with the international scientific reference organizations.

In view of the above, we propose four measures aimed at furthering the discussions while at the same time providing mechanisms to help to implement the principle at issue:

1. Urge the different countries to answer the questionnaire sent out by the Chairman of the Committee on 5 October 2004. This would make it possible, *inter alia*, to reiterate the distinction between the role of the Committee and that of the scientific reference organizations and to clarify the work to be done in each case. The replies will help those who favour guidelines to explain why, and those who are against them to justify their opposition, and this, in turn, will provide a basis for seeking a consensus on the issue;
2. Make use of the results of the discussions on this topic within the IPPC and the OIE as a consequence of the SPS Committee's discussions;
3. Include, as soon as possible, a heading in the notification system under which information would be provided on initiation and termination of processes of recognition, of pest- and disease-free areas, as was done for the equivalence measures and for requests for special and differential treatment;
4. Include in the agenda of the Committee meetings two sub-items:
 - (a) A first part of this agenda item devoted to information from Members regarding requests and recognition of sanitary and phytosanitary conditions;

- (b) a second part of the same agenda item devoted to information from the scientific organizations on their progress and other elements they wish to discuss with respect to the application of the principle.

Implementation of points 3 and 4 above could begin as soon as possible, alongside the continuing discussions on the possible guidelines (directly related to points 1 and 2). Regardless of the final decision in this respect, these mechanisms will also be useful in helping to improve implementation and to monitor the problems encountered in applying the principle.
