

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**DECISION TO EXTEND THE PROCEDURE TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY OF
SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES**

Draft Decision by the Committee of 1-2 February 2006

1. At its meeting of 27-28 October 2004, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("the Committee") adopted a procedure to enhance transparency of special and differential treatment in favour of developing country Members (G/SPS/33).
 2. Paragraph 4 of the procedure indicates that "Following one year of the adoption of this procedure, the Committee shall review the proposed notification process to evaluate its implementation, and determine whether changes are required and/or its continuance is warranted."
 3. In reviewing the operation of the procedure, the Committee noted that the procedure had only been used in a few instances and that more time was required for Members to gain experience with the procedure before it could be appropriately assessed.
 4. In light of this, the Committee decides to extend the procedure as adopted in October 2004 and to review its implementation no later than at its first regular meeting in 2008, with a view to deciding then whether to continue with the same procedure or introduce modifications.
 5. The Committee recalls that the Committee's regular agenda items on the "Implementation of Special and Differential Treatment" and on the "Operation of Transparency Provisions" provide opportunities, on an on-going basis, for raising concerns or assessing progress with respect to the implementation of this procedure.
 6. The Committee encourages Members to make use of this procedure to identify their concerns and needs for special and differential treatment and/or technical assistance and thereby to also contribute to enhanced transparency with respect to what is being offered or provided upon request.
-