

**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS  
OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION**

Draft Tenth Annual Report<sup>1</sup>

A. INTRODUCTION

1. At its meeting of 15-16 October 1997, the SPS Committee adopted a provisional procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations, as provided for in Articles 3.5 and 12.4 of the SPS Agreement. This procedure was subsequently revised by the Committee in October 2004.<sup>2</sup> The Committee decided to extend the provisional monitoring procedure for a further two-year period in July 1999, and again in July 2001, and in June 2003 the Committee further extended the provisional procedure for 36 months.<sup>3</sup> On 28 June 2006, the Committee agreed to extend the provisional procedure indefinitely, and to review its operation as an integral part of the periodic Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 12.7.<sup>4</sup> The next such Review is to be completed in 2009, and every four years subsequently.

2. The Committee has previously adopted nine annual reports on the monitoring procedure.<sup>5</sup> These reports summarize several standards-related issues that the Committee has considered and the responses received from the relevant standard-setting organizations.

B. NEW ISSUES

3. Since the adoption of the Ninth Annual Report in July 2007, [no] new issue has been raised under this procedure. [Update on basis of June 2008 meeting.]

C. PREVIOUS ISSUES

4. Since the adoption of the Ninth Annual Report, there has been [no] further discussion on any issue previously raised under this procedure. [Update on basis of June 2008 meeting.]

D. RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE RELEVANT STANDARD-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS

5. No further information has been provided by the relevant standard-setting organizations regarding issues previously raised. [Update on the basis of June 2008 meeting.]

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> G/SPS/11/Rev.1.

<sup>3</sup> G/SPS/14, G/SPS/17 and G/SPS/25.

<sup>4</sup> G/SPS/40.

<sup>5</sup> These were circulated as G/SPS/13, G/SPS/16, G/SPS/18, G/SPS/21, G/SPS/28, G/SPS/31, G/SPS/37, G/SPS/42, and G/SPS/45.