

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**G/SPS/W/63**

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: Spanish

## COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA

The following communication has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Argentina.

As of 27 April 1996, Argentina has fulfilled the requirements to be recognized as a foot-and-mouth disease-free country practising vaccination in accordance with the standards of the International Office of Epizootics (IOE).

In 1989, pursuant to a firm policy decision by the National Executive, the National Animal Health Service, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, drew up and implemented the 1990-1992 National Plan for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control in agreement with the sectors connected with livestock production.

The achievements made under this Plan provided the foundations for the present National Eradication Plan - 1993-1997 Stage. This Plan covered more than 300,000 producers, who invested 100 million dollars annually, the sectors connected with livestock production, the provincial governments through the Provincial Animal Health Commissions (COPROSAs), the municipalities and 350 Area Animal Health Commissions.

Argentina has not recorded any outbreak over the last 24 months, which confirms that the planned animal health measures, such as strict vaccination, control of movement of livestock, severe emergency action (including sanitary slaughter) and consistency in decision-making were powerful instruments in this Plan to control and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease.

In view of the above-mentioned facts, the present epidemiological situation may be considered highly favourable, Argentina may therefore be classified as a "low risk" country from the sanitary standpoint, as recognized by the United States and the European Union.