

**Working Party on the
Accession of China**

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COMMUNICATION FROM CHINA

In preparation for the Working Party meetings on 28 June-4 July 2001, the Chinese delegation has submitted the following Action Plan for the Implementation of the SPS Agreement in China.¹

**Groupe de travail de
l'accession de la Chine**

COMMUNICATION DE LA CHINE

En vue des réunions du Groupe de travail qui auront lieu du 28 juin au 4 juillet 2001, la délégation chinoise a communiqué le Plan d'action ci-après pour la mise en œuvre de l'Accord SPS en Chine.¹

**Grupo de Trabajo sobre la
Adhesión de China**

COMUNICACIÓN DE CHINA

Para preparar las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo que se celebrarán del 28 de junio al 4 de julio de 2001, la delegación de China ha presentado el siguiente Plan de Acción para la aplicación en China del Acuerdo MSF.¹

¹ In English only./En anglais seulement./En inglés solamente.

Action Plan for the Implementation of the SPS Agreement in China

28 June 2001

The Chinese Government committed that upon its accession to the WTO, it will implement all the agreements of the WTO, including the SPS Agreement. It will fulfill on a comprehensive way all the rights and obligations specified in the SPS Agreement. For this purpose, the action plan on the implementation of the SPS Agreement in China is as follows:

1. China will set up a special agency for SPS affairs to effectively coordinate and monitor the implementation of SPS Measures by relevant Chinese government authorities so as to ensure the Chinese SPS measures comply with the principles of the SPS Agreement.

2. In order to ensure that China's SPS measures comply with the principles of the SPS Agreement, China has begun and will continue to review or amend SPS-related laws and regulations.

3. China has been carrying out SPS work in accordance with the standards established and recommended by relevant international organizations and has taken an active part in the drafting of relevant international standards and guides on plant quarantine and food safety. After China's accession to the WTO, it will continue to carry out SPS work in accordance with the relevant international standards so as to ensure that newly-developed SPS measures comply as far as possible with international standards, guidelines and recommendations. As a member of CAC, China will continue to actively participate in the activities to CAC, OIE and IPPC.

4. China recognized the importance of equivalence in trade liberalization trade facilitation. In the past decade, China has signed more than 200 SPS-related agreements and protocols with more than 40 countries. Recognizing that different measures comply with international standards can achieve same level of protection, China has lifted bans on the importation of agricultural products from many countries. After its accession to the WTO, China will continue to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation and exchanges in the SPS field in order to promote international trade.

5. The Chinese Government always attaches great importance to the application of risk analysis in SPS field and takes it as the important scientific basis for China's SPS measures. China is among the first group of countries to start risk analysis of plant quarantine and food safety and has actively participated in the drafting of international standards. In 1995, working groups for animal risk analysis and plant risk analysis were set up and different procedures of risk analysis were developed. So far, more than 40 PRA reports have been completed. Based on the PRA results, China has successively lifted bans on animal and plant products and foodstuff from the countries concerned.

6. To further strengthen the development of PRA in China, the Committee of Risk Analysis of China will be established. The Committee will consist of three working groups covering animal health, plant health and food safety. The Committee will improve PRA procedures and methods, which will serve as the important scientific basis for developing and adjusting SPS measures.

7. China is now reviewing the existing SPS-related laws, regulations and standards as well as trade-related standards and risk analysis procedures. These informations either have been made available or will be available on publications and the Internet. The English version will be available on the Internet in the near future. Publications for publishing SPS-related laws, standards and risk analysis procedures are as follows:

- Bulletin of the State Council
- MOFTEC Gazette
- China Inspection and Quarantine Times

Websites of relevant government authorities are as follows:

- State General Administration of the People's Republic of China for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ): <http://www.ciq.gov.cn>
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of the People's Republic of China (MOFTEC): <http://www.moftec.gov.cn>
- Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China: <http://www.agri.gov.cn>
- Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China: <http://www.moh.gov.cn>

China has established the SPS Notification Authority at MOFTEC and the SPS Enquiry Point at Research Center for International Regulations and Standards under AQSIQ (the former CIQ SA).

8. China has done a lot of work in trade liberalization, especially in the field of trade facilitation. China will continue to standardize the inspection and quarantine procedures so as to improve efficiency and provide quality service for the facilitation for foreign trade.

9. China attaches great importance to the study of the SPS Agreement in order to have a better understanding of the Agreement. As a leading facilitator of ASEM in SPS field of Asia, China actively participated in the First ASEM/SPS Seminar in Thailand. It hosted the Second Seminar in China and played an important role in the Third Seminar held in Netherlands in 2000. Another similar seminar was jointly held by Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao and a coordination mechanism has been set up in order to strengthen the coordination on the SPS issues in the three regions. Experts from OIE, Australia and the Netherlands were invited to give lectures or to attend the seminars. In addition, Sino-US Seminar on Inspection and Quarantine will be held to have bilateral discussions on issues of mutual interests, including the implementation of the SPS Agreement and the TBT Agreement.

10. China will strictly fulfill the obligations specified in SPS-related bilateral agreements concluded with WTO Members during China's WTO accession negotiations.
