

**PROPOSAL ON THE OPERATION OF ENQUIRY POINTS FOR SANITARY  
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Communication from Mauritania

The following communication is circulated at the request of the delegation of Mauritania.

1. The effective operation and coordination of information on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures would be facilitated by the establishment of a national committee on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in all those countries where that is possible.

2. Such a committee should be established and given official standing by the national authorities. It should include all the institutions directly or indirectly affected by SPS measures. For example, in the case of Mauritania, such a committee would include:

- The Livestock and Agricultural Directorate;
- the Public Health Directorate;
- the Fisheries Directorate;
- the Directorate for the Promotion of Foreign Trade;
- the Food Security Unit;
- the Producers Association;
- the Importers Association;
- the Exporters Association;
- the Consumers Association;
- the three contact points (IPPC, OIE and CODEX);
- non-governmental organizations.

3. The committee would be chaired by the authority responsible for notifications and the secretariat would be provided by the enquiry point. The committee would set the dates for ordinary meetings (twice a year). In order to deal with matters of particular relevance, the committee would convene extraordinary meetings. The committee would have its headquarters at the national authority responsible for notifications. A data bank or a library would be established at the headquarters in

order to store all the national regulations relating to SPS measures, and the notifications of other countries would be classified.

Advantages of the existence of such a committee

- Such an operational committee would induce a feeling among the members that the work is being properly organized and structured; as a result they will become better acquainted with one another and this will create a climate of confidence and better motivation for the work;
- the members will also become aware of SPS measures that do not come within their own field;
- the membership of producers, consumers, exporters and importers in the committee will enable information to be transmitted rapidly and efficiently at the national level so that the national authorities may make the necessary arrangements to apply the measures in force;
- the establishment of such a committee will ensure that correspondence from the WTO will be dealt with more rapidly and consequently replies could be sent reasonably promptly.

Resources necessary for the establishment of such a committee

- A PC connected to the Internet;
- a telephone line;
- a fax machine;
- a web site;
- support for the installation of an office for the notifications bank.

## OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE

