

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION

### Addendum

The following communication, dated 5 December 2003, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

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Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for food or feed use, products that contain or comprise genetically modified organisms and food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms

In notice G/SPS/N/EEC/149/Add.3 (19 November 2003) the European Communities informed of the adoption of *Regulation EC (No) 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed*; this regulation is applicable as from 18 April 2004 although for its full legal operability, is dependent upon the provisions of *Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC*" notified in G/SPS/N/EEC/150/Add.3 (19 November 2003). Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 requires that, prior to its application, the Commission shall establish a system for development and assignment of "unique identifiers" to GMOs and adapt it taking into account developments in international *fora*.

In fulfilment of this obligation, the Commission notifies hereby a "*Draft Commission Regulation establishing a system for the development and assignment of unique identifiers for genetically modified organisms*" (Document ENV/03/19, 9 pages); that lays down an harmonized format to be used for unique identifiers of genetically modified organisms authorized for their placing on the market under Community legislation and the system under which they are to be assigned. These implementing measures follow OECD guidelines series on "Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology": *OECD Guidance for the Designation of a Unique Identifier for Transgenic Plants* No. 23, 2002, ENV/JM/MONO(2002)7. They also conform to the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity; in particular those of the Biosafety Clearing House, as regard specification of the identify of GMOs.

Although no commenting period applies to these implementing measures, the Commission will examine any comment submitted within 30 days from the date of notification.

The notified document can be obtained from the EC Enquiry Point.

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