



**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON PEST-FREE AREAS  
TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2018  
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

The SPS Committee agreed, at its November 2017 meeting, to hold a thematic session on pest-free areas immediately preceding its March 2018 meeting, based on a proposal submitted by the United States.<sup>1</sup> The session will provide an opportunity for WTO Members to increase their awareness of IPPC standards on pest-free areas, and share experiences about the challenges, as well as the benefits, of implementing pest-free areas in practice. This, in turn, should contribute to building confidence among trading partners when recognizing or seeking recognition of their pest-free areas.

The session will focus on plant pests and allow for the discussion of the implementation of the pest-free area concept from the perspective of an importing, as well as an exporting party.

The thematic session will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday, 27 February 2018, beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing in the afternoon at 3 p.m., as necessary.

This draft programme includes suggested speakers submitted by Members. Members are invited to provide further inputs on this programme by Friday, 2 February 2018.

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**Chairperson:** Mr Marcial Espinola

**1 INTERNATIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES**

Provisions of the SPS Agreement on pest-free areas (Article 6) and relevant guidelines (G/SPS/48)

**Speaker:** WTO Secretariat

Relevant jurisprudence on pest-free areas (Article 6)

**Speaker:** WTO Secretariat

IPPC standards on pest-free areas

**Speaker:** IPPC

*Followed by Q&A session*

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<sup>1</sup> G/SPS/GEN/1593.

## 2 SHARING OF REGIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCES

### Part 1: Regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs)

**Speakers:**

- TBC

*Followed by Q&A session*

### Part 2: Relevant tools and technologies for establishing or maintaining pest-free areas

**Speakers:**

- Dr Walther R. Enkerlin, Entomologist, Insect Pest Control Section, Joint FAO/IAEA Division, **International Atomic Energy Agency (TBC)**  
*Sterile insect technologies*
- Speaker (TBC)  
*Self-limiting insect technologies (TBC)*

*Followed by Q&A session*

### Part 3: Members' experiences

**Speakers:**

- Mr Gonzalo Ríos, Head, International Negotiations Department, Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG), Ministry of Agriculture, **Chile**  
*Title of presentation (TBC)*
- Mr Harry Arijs, Deputy Head of Unit G1 – Plant Health, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission, **European Union**  
*Regionalization for plant health within the EU*

*Followed by Q&A session*

## 3 GENERAL DISCUSSION

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