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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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**EUROPEAN UNION IMPORT TOLERANCES FOR CERTAIN PESTICIDES TO ACHIEVE  
ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES IN THIRD COUNTRIES – [SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERN 534](#)**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following submission, received on 24 June 2022, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 22-24 June 2022 WTO SPS Committee, and is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

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1. The United States appreciates Australia for raising this concern. The United States shares the European Commission's goals for food systems transformation, and we continue to pursue more sustainable and resilient food systems in the United States and globally. However, we also recognize that there are economic, social, and environmental dimensions to sustainability, and therefore approaches to strengthen sustainability should not focus on one dimension and should consider the other dimensions as well.
  2. Further, we recognize that countries have unique sustainability objectives and challenges that requires the use of diverse approaches, tools, and technologies to sustainably meet the world's growing demand for food, feed, fuel, and fiber. We recognize that the best mix of tools and techniques to achieve more sustainable production will vary by location and scale.
  3. The United States supports transparent, science- and risk-based decision making driven by the best available data to enhance sustainability in agriculture and urges the European Union to ensure consistency with its WTO obligations.
  4. We remain concerned that the proposed application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agriculture and agri-food products from third countries will fail to recognize the regulatory frameworks and competence of EU trading partners' national authorities that have established the measures necessary for the protection of human, animal, or plant life or health within their own territories.
  5. We are also concerned that the EU requirements may unnecessarily restrict trade of safe agricultural products, disrupt production, and negatively affect the livelihoods of small and rural producers.
  6. Indeed, any EU measure should allow flexibility to trading partners to use a mix of tools and techniques to meet the EU level of protection, in a manner that is appropriate to the needs of farmers and producers in the exporting countries' own domestic context.
  7. In April 2022, the United States, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand jointly sent a letter to the European Commission, expressing concerns regarding the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products. We urge the Commission to consider and address these concerns, and we look forward to receiving the Commission's response.
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