

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE
OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

Note by the Secretariat

At the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference, Ministers instructed the Committee to review the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement at least once every four years, pursuant to the provisions of Article 12.7 of the Agreement.¹ The report of the next such review should be prepared for the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference. In order to facilitate an efficient review process, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairperson, is proposing that the Committee agree to the following procedure.

1. The Review will initially be conducted through open-ended informal meetings of the Committee. The informal meetings will normally be scheduled back-to-back with the regular meetings of the Committee. If necessary, further informal and special meetings of the Committee may be scheduled.
2. Members will be invited to identify issues for discussion as part of the Review. On the basis of the issues identified, the Chairperson will propose which issues will be considered at each informal meeting of the Committee. For each meeting, Members will be invited to submit papers on the issues proposed for consideration at least 15 days in advance of the meeting.
3. An item relating to the Review will be included in the agenda of each regular meeting of the Committee during the Review period, at which the Chairperson will present orally a brief factual report on the informal Review process. Upon completion of the informal process, the Chairperson will submit a summary report to the Committee identifying issues discussed and conclusions reached. On the basis of this report, the SPS Committee will consider what further action may be appropriate.
4. The Review process will be conducted on the basis of the following calendar:

30 July 2004

- Submission by Members to the Secretariat of issues they wish to be considered during the Review.
- Submission by Members of any written comments on the background paper prepared by the Secretariat and/or requests for background information on additional specific issues.

¹ Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns, Decision of 14 November 2001, WT/MIN(01)/17, paragraph 3.4.

15 day prior to the meeting of 27-28 October 2004

- Submission by Members of papers on the issues proposed for consideration.
- Identification by Members of any further issues for consideration during the Review.

10 days prior to the meeting of 27-28 October 2004

- Proposal by Chairperson of the order in which issues will be considered, in light of the proposals and submissions received.
- Circulation of updated background document.

Informal meeting of 25 October 2004

- Initial discussions on issues identified.

November - end December 2004

- Submission by Members, in writing, of any further papers on issues proposed for consideration.

Informal meeting of --- March 2005

- Further discussion on issues identified.
- Identification of issues for further work by the Committee.

Mid-April 2005

- Circulation of first draft of report of the Review.

15 days prior to the meeting of --- June 2005

- Submission of written comments by Members on the draft report of the Review.

Informal meeting of --- June 2005

- Consideration and, if possible, finalization of the report on the Review.

Formal meeting of --- June 2005

- Adoption of the report on the Review.
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