



**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 28 March 2022, is the statement made by the United States of America at the 23-25 March 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 raising this concern. The United States shares the European Commission's goals for food systems transformation, and we are committed to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation by continuing to pursue more sustainable and resilient food systems in the United States and globally.
 2. At the same time, we recognize that countries have unique sustainability objectives and challenges. Addressing these opportunities requires the use of diverse approaches, tools, and technologies to sustainably meet the world's growing demand for food, feed, fuel, and fiber in the face of climate change. In consideration of our shared interest to promote more sustainable agricultural and food systems, we emphasize that the best mix of tools and techniques to achieve more sustainable production will vary by location and scale.
 3. The United States is concerned that the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agriculture and agri-food products from third countries will undermine the competency of national authorities of the European Union's trading partners to establish measures necessary for the protection of human, animal, or plant life or health within their own territories.
 4. We are also concerned that these requirements may unnecessarily restrict trade of safe agricultural products, disrupt production, and negatively affect the livelihoods of small and rural producers.
 5. 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.
 6. The United States requests that any EU measure allows flexibility to trading partners to meet the EU level of protection by imposing requirements in their own jurisdictions that are appropriate for the circumstances in the Member. Members' competent authorities should have the flexibility to implement their own context-specific measures to enhance agriculture and food systems sustainability.
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