

**QUESTIONS POSED BY COLOMBIA TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
REGARDING NOTIFICATION G/SPS/N/EEC/247**

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, received on 14 October 2004, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

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The following are the questions posed by Colombia to the European Communities regarding notification G/SPS/N/EEC/247, submitted by the latter to the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, on the draft Regulation governing the levels of Ochratoxin A (OTA) in coffee:

1. Cereals and cereal products are stated to be the main contributor of OTA to the European diet (50 per cent) and the studies cited show that the contribution of coffee to OTA intake is 8 per cent. We would therefore like to know the argument used to maintain, without any scientific justification whatsoever, that the OTA intake from coffee is considered significant enough to justify the levels established in the notified draft measure.
  2. What method was established to determine the maximum OTA levels in roasted and soluble coffee?
  3. If cereals and cereal products are the main sources of OTA exposure in the European diet, why are the maximum levels established for them the same as those for roasted coffee?
  4. If beer is indirectly controlled by means of the maximum OTA limits established for its main input, namely malt, why is soluble coffee controlled by maximum OTA limits when its main input, roasted coffee, is also controlled?
  5. Why is there a need to protect public health in relation to soluble coffee and not in relation to beer?
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