



**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**ANNUAL OVERVIEW – IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS AND  
SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

*Revision*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. At its meeting on 15-16 March 2000, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Committee) requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper summarizing the specific trade concerns (STCs) that had been brought to the Committee's attention since 1995.<sup>2</sup> Since then, the Secretariat has revised document [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) annually to include new information provided by Members.

1.2. Similarly, at the October [2007 Workshop on Transparency](#), the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual overview of the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.<sup>3</sup> Since then, the Secretariat has revised document [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) annually to provide an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency obligations contained in the SPS Agreement (Article 7 and Annex B) and of the Committee's Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement ([G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#)).

1.3. Since 2021<sup>4</sup>, the information previously contained in [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) and revisions has been merged into a single document, in an effort to improve the reports, to provide a more comprehensive view of both the implementation of transparency provisions and the STCs raised in the Committee, and to align the periods of time covered (i.e. from January to December), and with the aim of harmonizing reporting practices with those of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

1.4. As such, [Part A](#) of the present document provides an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency obligations found in the SPS Agreement (previously contained in the [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) document series) and [Part B](#) contains information on STCs (previously contained in the [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) document series). Additionally, [Part C](#) of the document covers other transparency-related aspects, including the [transparency recommendations of the Fifth Review](#) of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement adopted in 2020<sup>5</sup>, detailed information on [improved SPS IT tools](#) and the [transparency-related work](#) of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

1.5. In preparing this document, the Secretariat has largely relied on the [SPS Information Management System \(SPS IMS\)](#). The SPS IMS is a specialized and detailed information source on SPS notifications, STCs, national notification authorities (NNAs) and national enquiry points (NEPs) contact information, and other SPS documents. It allows for advanced searches according to specific

<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

<sup>2</sup> [G/SPS/R/18](#), para. 20.

<sup>3</sup> See [G/SPS/R/47](#), para. 44, for the recommendations arising from the 2007 Workshop on Transparency. See also footnote 4 of [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#) requesting the Secretariat to provide an annual report on the level of implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement and of the recommended transparency procedures.

<sup>4</sup> As announced the SPS Committee informal consultations held on 16 September 2020, [JOB/SPS/10](#).

<sup>5</sup> See [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

criteria and also facilitates the creation of custom reports and graphs, which can be shared with interested stakeholders. Most of the underlying data for the analysis contained in this document is publicly available and searchable through the SPS IMS.

1.6. While some historical data on notifications dating back to 1995 has been retrieved from various internal sources and incorporated into the SPS IMS, some of the more detailed analyses have only been possible as of July 2007, when the SPS IMS became operational. An improved version of the SPS IMS was launched at the end of March 2017, which, combined with streamlined internal processes in the Secretariat, has enabled data analysis to become more automatic. The Secretariat is currently working on unifying all SPS online tools under one platform integrating SPS and TBT tools. Further information on these and other IT tools, as well as on other transparency resources, is available in [Part C](#) of the present document.

1.7. In 2021, the [Members' transparency toolkit](#) webpage was updated to streamline the information available. A new publication, [SPS Agreement: 10 key results from 2020](#), was made available on the transparency toolkit page, highlighting 10 transparency-related results from the previous revision of this document, including on notifications and STCs. Likewise, a [new quiz](#) was also made available on the Members' transparency toolkit page, allowing users to test their knowledge on SPS transparency-related matters.

1.8. Some key conclusions extracted from the present document are the following:

- a. Overall, there is a **high level of implementation of the SPS Agreement transparency obligations** by WTO Members. Since 1995: 129 Members (79% of membership) have submitted at least one notification; 161 (98%) and 163 Members (99%) have provided contact information for their SPS NNAs and NEPs, respectively. Additionally, 14 Members have updated their contact details during 2021.
- b. In 2021, 63 Members submitted 1,825 **notifications** of new or modified SPS measures, including addenda and corrigenda to both regular and emergency notifications.
- c. A record number of addenda to emergency notifications (100) was submitted in 2021, mostly to inform on the **modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation**.
- d. The share of regular and emergency notifications submitted by developing Members is higher than the share submitted by developed Members since 2008 and 2002, respectively.
- e. **Asia** (33%), followed by South and Central America and the Caribbean (26%) and North America (11%) are the regions that have submitted the highest share of notifications since 1995.
- f. **Tanzania**, a least-developed Member (LDC), is among the top 10 notifiers of regular notifications in 2021.
- g. In 2021, as in previous years, the highest share (65%) of regular notifications submitted refer to **food safety**; 90% of the emergency notifications submitted refer to **animal health**.
- h. The share of **trade facilitating** measures notified in 2021 is more than twice as high as in 2017.
- i. In 2021, Members have submitted 23 notifications and 7 communications informing of **COVID-19** related SPS measures.
- j. A total of 59% of the 268 emergency notifications submitted in 2021 referred to **avian influenza**.
- k. The number of new STCs raised does not follow an increasing trend over time, despite the overall increasing trend in the number of notifications. There is no apparent correlation between the number of notifications submitted per year and the number of new STCs raised.
- l. A total of 532 STCs have been raised since 1995. In 2021, Members discussed **64 STCs**, including 27 new concerns. The number of 50 previously raised STCs discussed again in 2021 represents a historical maximum since 1995.
- m. In 2021, STCs related to "Other concerns", such as approval procedures, represented 48% of the new concerns raised. Concerns relative to food safety represented 30% of the new STCs raised, and concerns related to animal health and plant health each represented 11% of the new STCs discussed in 2021.
- n. Since 1995, 65 Members (40%) have raised at least one STC in the SPS Committee. In 2021, **25 Members (15%)** raised at least one STC.
- o. The average number of times that STCs have been raised is 2.8.
- p. Participation of developing Members raising and supporting STCs, as well as responding to STCs, is higher than that of developed Members.

- q. In 2021, STC [515](#) on the authorization of Federal Inspection Type establishments was reported as resolved. Details on the partial resolution of STC [193](#) were provided. A total of 197 (37%) of STCs have been reported as resolved, and 74 (14%) as partially resolved since 1995.
- r. The number of Members using the **SPS Notification Submission System (SPS NSS)** to submit notifications increased in 2021. Of all SPS notifications, 90% were submitted using the SPS NSS, up from 84% in 2020.
- s. The use of **ePing** is also increasing. The number of subscribers grew to 15,443 from 184 countries at the end of 2021, up from 12,360 from 182 countries at the end of 2020.
- t. In 2021, the SPS Committee regularly used the **eAgenda** platform to add agenda items and to raise concerns. More than 300 users from 77 Members have requested access and added interventions, raised STCs and uploaded statements before the meetings, significantly enhancing transparency before and during Committee meetings.
- u. The new **ePing SPS&TBT Platform**, integrating SPS and TBT IT tools, will be pilot tested by Members in the first quarter of 2022 and launched during the year.

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## 2 PART A - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

2.1. Part A of the present document provides an overview regarding the level of implementation of the transparency provisions contained in the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures in document [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#) (see previous revisions of the [G/SPS/GEN/804 document series](#)), with a focus on 2021. It does not include information on areas where the Secretariat is not directly involved (such as publication of a notice of a regulation at an early stage, Members' response to requests for documents or other information, provision of comments to notifications, and of the response to these comments by the notifying Member, among others).

### 2.1 DESIGNATION OF NOTIFICATION AUTHORITIES AND ENQUIRY POINTS

2.2. Annex B, paragraph 10 of the SPS Agreement requires Members to designate a single central government authority as responsible for the implementation of notification procedures. This agency is referred to as the SPS national notification authority (NNA). As of 31 December 2021, 161 (98%) WTO Members out of 164 had designated such an agency, two more than in the previous reporting period. The Members that have not designated NNAs are all LDCs.<sup>6</sup>

2.3. Annex B, paragraph 3 of the SPS Agreement requires that each Member establish a national enquiry point (NEP) responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions and of relevant documents. As of 31 December 2021, 163 (99%) WTO Members out of 164 had provided the WTO with the contact information of their NEP, one more than last year. One LDC has not yet established an NEP. Thirty-two Members have identified more than one SPS NEP. A total of 32 Members have indicated that their NNA and NEP are the same institution.

2.4. During the reporting period, 14 Members updated their contact details, in some cases following technical assistance delivered by the Secretariat. The most up-to-date information on Members' NNAs and NEPs can be accessed through the [SPS IMS](#), and it is also available through [ePing](#). It can be useful to have at least two staff members trained in NNA/NEP operations as this allows for absences and commitments of staff to other duties, as recommended in the [Practical Manual for SPS National Notification Authorities and National Enquiry Points](#). Whenever possible, Members are encouraged to use an institutional email address rather than a personal one.<sup>7</sup>

### 2.2 SUBMISSION OF NOTIFICATIONS

2.5. Under the SPS Agreement, notifications are used to inform other Members about new or modified regulations that may significantly affect trade. Annex B, paragraphs 5 to 8, as well as the Recommended Transparency Procedures, elaborate on the notification procedures Members are to follow. For ease of reference, the specific sub-topics highlighted below follow the order of items that are contained in the regular and emergency notification formats. The submission of notifications through the SPS NSS further improves the quality of the information provided, increasing efficiency and allowing for better searches in the SPS IMS.

#### 2.2.1 Types of notifications

2.6. The two main types of notifications are regular notifications and emergency notifications. In addition, addenda, corrigenda, revisions or supplements can be issued subsequent to an original regular or emergency notification.<sup>8</sup> An addendum is used to provide additional information or changes to an original notification, for example if the products covered by the proposed regulation have been modified, if the comment period has been extended, or if a notified measure has entered into force. A corrigendum is used to correct an error in an original notification such as an incorrect address detail. A revision is used to replace an existing notification, for example if a notified draft regulation was substantially redrafted or if a notification contained a large number of errors. All types of notifications can be directly filled in and submitted through the SPS NSS (see [Section 4.2.1.4](#)).

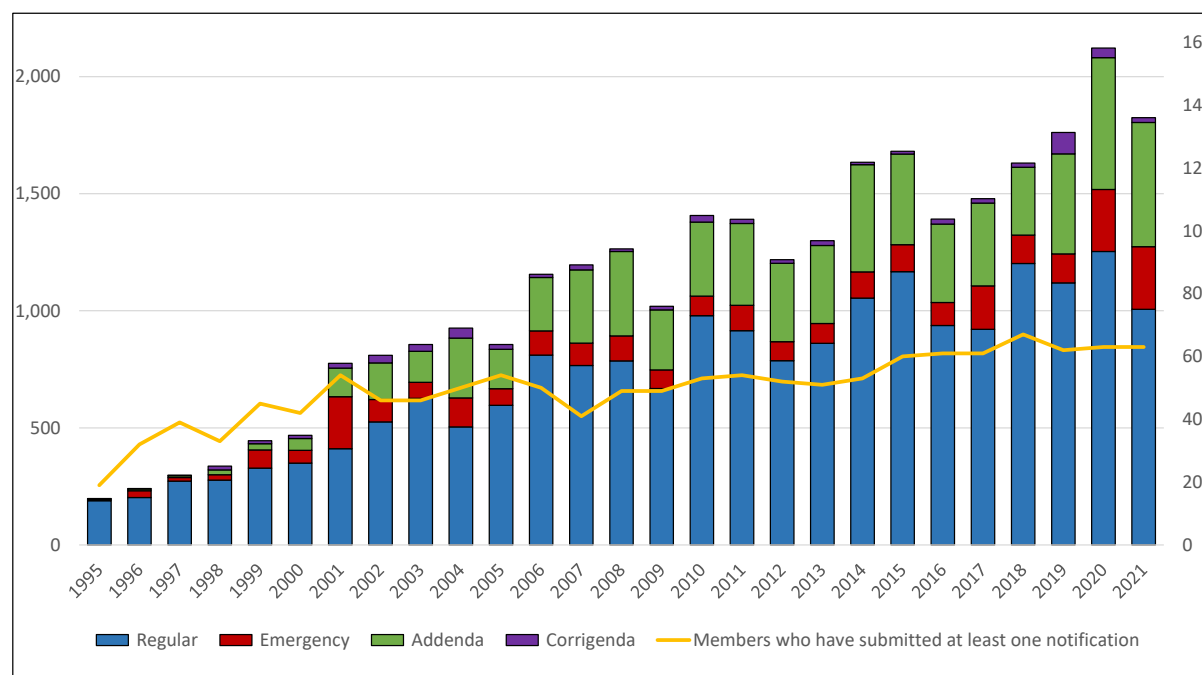
<sup>6</sup> The categories of level of development rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO's Integrated Database (IDB) for analytical purposes ([ldb@wto.org](mailto:ldb@wto.org)). They can be consulted through the SPS IMS by clicking on "definitions of groups" on the top menu bar.

<sup>7</sup> Further recommendations can be found in the [Practical Manual for SPS NNAs and NEPs](#).

<sup>8</sup> See [Members' transparency toolkit](#) and the Recommended Transparency Procedures ([G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#)) for further elaboration on the different types of notifications.

2.7. [Chart A.1](#) show the number of regular and emergency notifications (including addenda and corrigenda) submitted per year since 1995. As of 31 December 2021, Members had submitted<sup>9</sup> 19,521 regular notifications, 2,798 emergency notifications, 6,764 addenda and 577 corrigenda, reaching a grand total of 29,660 notifications. Despite punctual decreases in some years, the global trend shows an upward trend in the total number of notifications submitted per year. A historical record number of 2,122 notifications was reached in 2020, despite the global trade challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic (see [Section 2.5](#)). In 2021, a slight decrease in the number of notifications was observed compared to the previous year. A total of 1,825 notifications were circulated in 2021, including 1,006 regular notifications, 268 emergency notifications, 530 addenda and 21 corrigenda. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease in the number of regular notifications submitted, from 1,253 in 2020 to 1,006 in 2021 (21% decrease), and a similar number of emergency notifications, from 265 in 2020 to 268 in 2021 (1% increase). The overall number of addenda submitted slightly decreased from 563 in 2020 to 530 in 2021 (6% decrease). However, while the number of addenda to regular notifications decreased from 502 in 2020 to 430 in 2021 (14% decrease), the number of addenda to emergency notifications showed a sharp increase, also reaching a historical maximum of 100 emergency addenda (compared to 61 in 2020) (36% increase) (see [Section 2.3.10](#)). These data are summarized in [Table A.1](#). The monthly average of notifications submitted decreased from 181 in 2020 to 152 in 2021.

**Chart A.1 – Regular and emergency notifications, addenda and corrigenda for both types, submitted, and number of Members who have submitted at least one notification, per year**



**Table A.1 – SPS notifications submitted by WTO Members**

Type of notification	Since 1995	In 2021	Variation since 2020
Regular	19,512	1,006	-21%
Emergency	2,798	268	+1%
Addenda to regular	6,108	430	-14%
Addenda to emergency	656	100	+36%
Corrigenda to regular	510	17	-37%
Corrigenda to emergency	67	4	-71%
Total	29,660	1,825	

2.8. In June 2002, the SPS Committee adopted a special format and recommended procedures for the notification of determination of the recognition of equivalence of sanitary or phytosanitary measures. As of 31 December 2021, there have been [seven equivalence notifications](#) circulated by

<sup>9</sup> For this Note, submission refers to the date of distribution of the notification by the Secretariat.

Panama (one, in 2007), the Dominican Republic (one, in 2008), and the United States (five, in 2019). These more recent notifications were submitted following the two-part Thematic Session on Equivalence held in October 2018 and March 2019 within the framework of the Fifth Review.<sup>10</sup>

2.9. In April 2004, the Secretariat established a mechanism for Members to inform each other of the availability of unofficial translations of notified SPS measures into one of the working languages of the WTO. These are submitted in the form of supplements to the original notification. As of 31 December 2021, [19 supplement notifications](#) had been circulated. None have been submitted since 2015. The availability of translations has periodically been discussed in the SPS Committee under transparency-related matters.<sup>11</sup> Interestingly, the same mechanism for sharing translations of notified TBT regulations, launched in January 2008, has resulted in 251 supplement notifications, although, similarly to SPS, it has not been used since 2016. In this context, it is worth highlighting that Members can also share unofficial translations through the [ePing alert system](#), although it has not been used for that purpose yet (see [Section 4.2.1.3](#) in Part C).

2.10. In October 2004, the SPS Committee adopted a procedure to enhance transparency of special and differential treatment (S&D) in favour of developing Members, which included an addendum notification format to inform the Committee of a Member's decision on whether and how S&D may be provided in reference to a specific request. The procedure and addendum notification format were subsequently revised in December 2009 ([G/SPS/33/Rev.1](#)) and, as mentioned earlier, the notification format was incorporated in [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#) for ease of reference. No S&D notifications have been circulated by WTO Members since 2004.

### 2.2.2 Notifying Members

2.11. As of 31 December 2021, 129 Members out of 164 (79%) had submitted at least one notification to the WTO. Several EU member States have not submitted notifications; however, most SPS measures are notified by the European Union on behalf of all its member States.<sup>12,13</sup> In addition, 15 developing Members and 11 LDCs have not yet submitted any notification. In 2021, 63 Members submitted at least one notification. The number of Members submitting notifications each year has considerably increased since 1995 and has remained relatively stable over the last few years ([Chart A.1](#)).

2.12. Charts A.2 and A.3 show the number of regular and emergency notifications, respectively, and the percentage of notifications by Members' development status. [Chart A.2](#) shows that the share of regular notifications submitted by developing Members has been rising since 2000 and, since 2008, is higher than that of regular notifications submitted by developed Members. The share of notifications from LDCs is overall very low, but has been increasing over the last few years, reaching 6.9% in 2021, mainly due to the high number of notifications submitted by Tanzania (60, [Chart A.9](#)) and by Uganda (30). [Chart A.3](#) shows that the percentage of emergency notifications submitted by developing Members has been greater than 50% since 2002. The difference in percentage of emergency notifications between developed and developing Members is much larger than in the case of regular notifications.

2.13. In 2021, for regular notifications we can observe a slight increase in the percentage submitted by developed Members and a decrease in the case of developing Members. The figures in 2021 are similar to those in 2019. On the contrary, the opposite pattern is observed in the case of emergency notifications, where the decrease in the share submitted by developed Members and the increase in the share submitted by developing Members continue the trend observed in 2020.

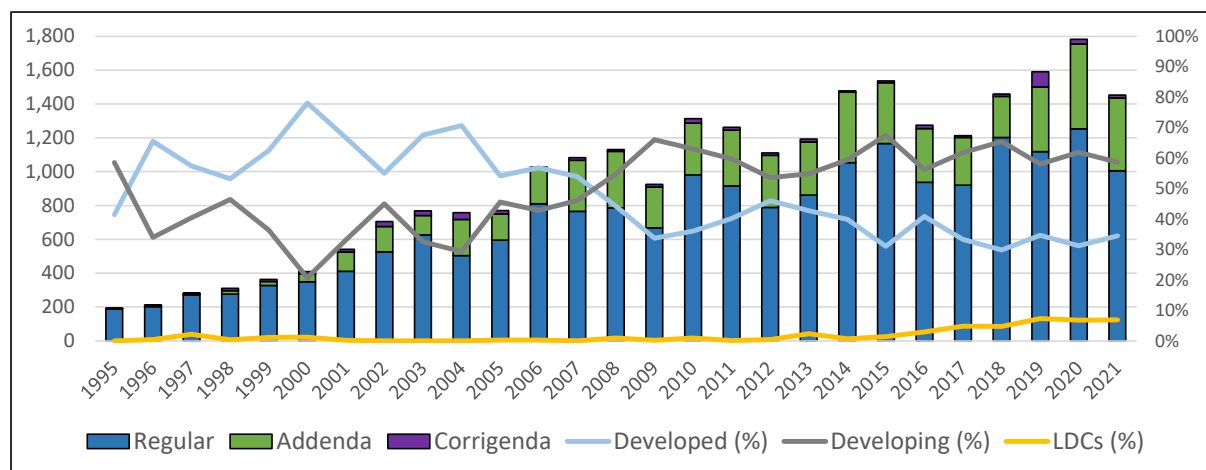
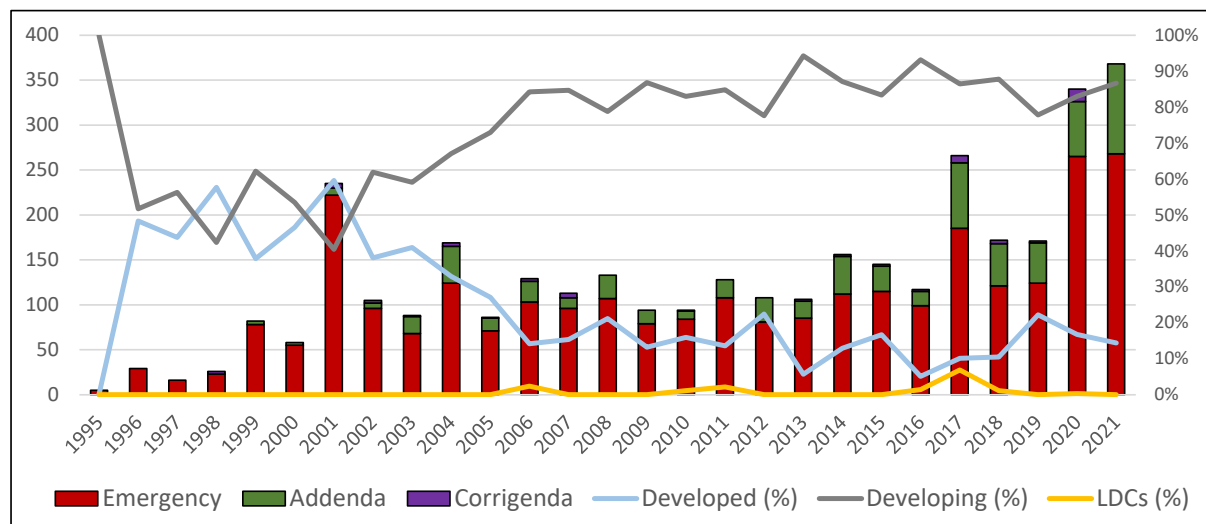
<sup>10</sup> The programmes of parts 1 and 2 of the Thematic Session are contained in [G/SPS/GEN/1640/Rev.1](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1675/Rev.1](#), respectively, and the reports in [G/SPS/R/93](#) and [G/SPS/R/94](#). Presentations of both sessions are available at: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/events\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/events_e.htm).

<sup>11</sup> See for example the reports of the Fourth Review and the [2017 Workshop on Transparency](#) in [G/SPS/62](#) and [G/SPS/R/89](#), respectively.

<sup>12</sup> See [G/SPS/GEN/456](#) for notification procedures for the European Union and its member States.

<sup>13</sup> The information provided by the European Union covers its 28 member States from 1 July 2013 until 31 January 2020. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. The European Union and the United Kingdom communicated that during the transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020, the European Union SPS regime continued to apply in the United Kingdom. See documents [WT/GC/206](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1767](#).

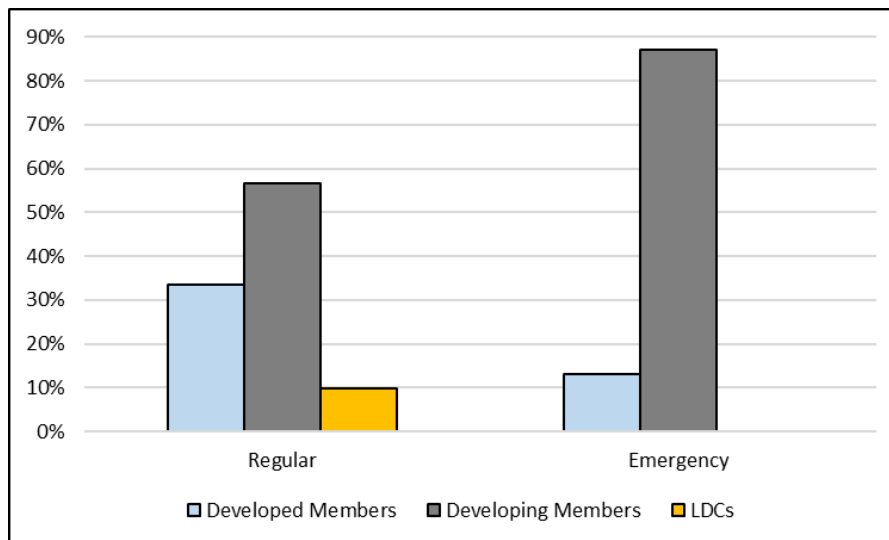


**Chart A.2 – Number of regular notifications and percentage by development status****Chart A.3 – Number of emergency notifications and percentage by development status**

2.14. Taking a closer look at notifications in 2021, it is interesting to note that, while notifications by developing Members represent 59% of regular notifications, plus 7% submitted by LDCs (the remaining 34% being submitted by developed Members), the difference is most striking in the case of emergency notifications, where 87% were submitted by developing Members compared to 13% by developed Members (none were submitted by LDCs) ([Chart A.4](#)). Further analysis shows that of the 233 emergency notifications submitted by developing Members, 217 (93%) indicate animal health as an objective (see [Chart A.17](#)).

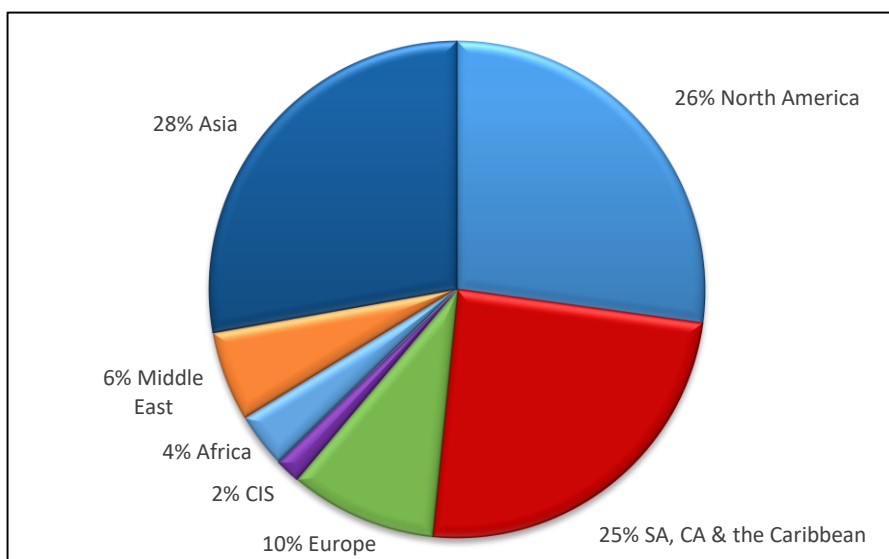


**Chart A.4 – Percentage of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by development status in 2021**



2.15. Looking at the geographic regions from which the notifications submitted since the year 1995 originate, [Chart A.5](#) shows that the largest share of notifications come from Asia (28%), followed by the North America region (26%) and then by South and Central America and the Caribbean (25%).<sup>14</sup>

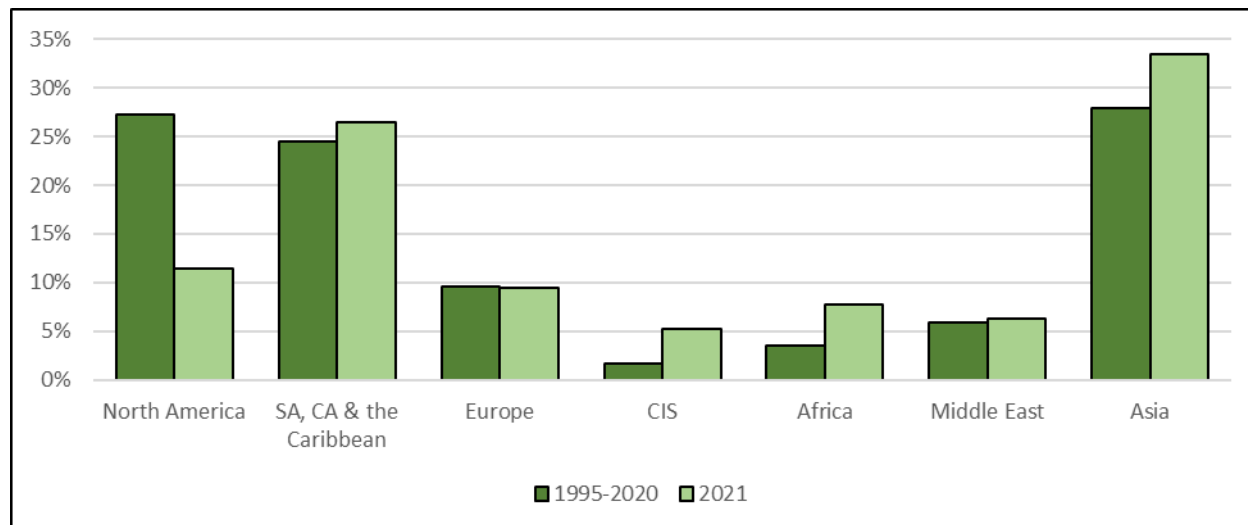
**Chart A.5 – Notifications by geographical region since 1995**



2.16. When comparing the percentage of notifications submitted in 2021 to the average submitted by the different regions between 1995 and 2020, we can observe a striking reduction in the case of North America (from 27% until the end of 2020 to 11% in 2021). On the contrary, an increase was observed in the case of Asia (from 28% to 33%) and South America, Central America and the Caribbean (from 24% to 26%). On average, African Members doubled the percentage of notifications (from 4% to 8%) and Members from the CIS region increased from 2% to 5% ([Chart A.6](#)). As mentioned before, in the case of Africa, Tanzania (60) and Uganda (30) are the Members that have most contributed to the higher percentage of notifications in 2021. In the case of CIS countries, the Russian Federation (52) and Kazakhstan (26) have most contributed to the higher percentage.

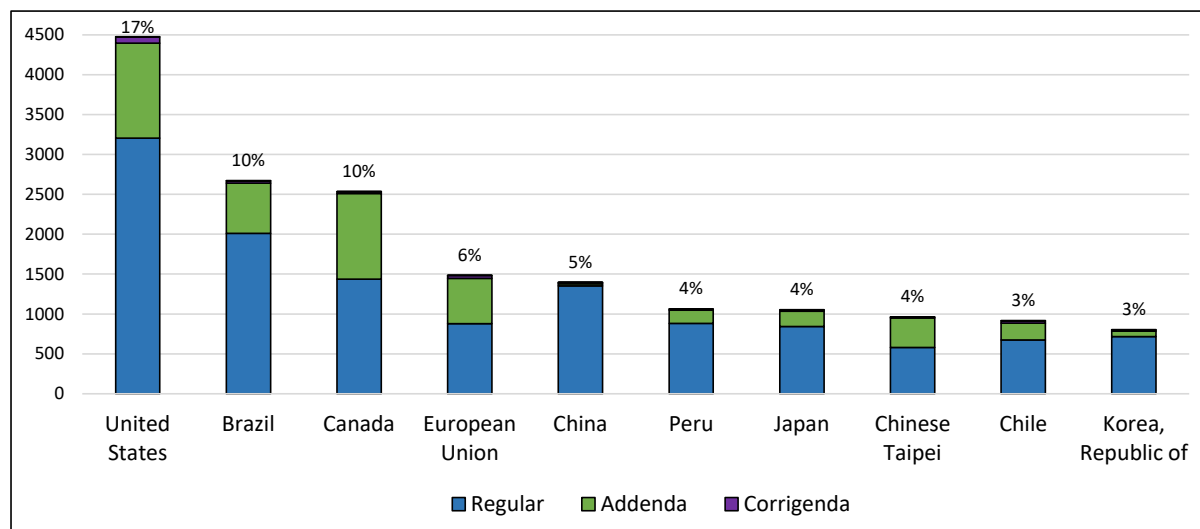
<sup>14</sup> The geographical groupings used rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the Integrated Database (IDB) for analytical purposes ([ldb@wto.org](mailto:ldb@wto.org)). The same groupings are used in the WTO Annual Reports. They can be consulted through the SPS IMS by clicking on "definitions of groups" on the top menu bar.

**Chart A.6 – Comparison between notifications submitted by geographical region in the period 1995-2020 and in 2021**

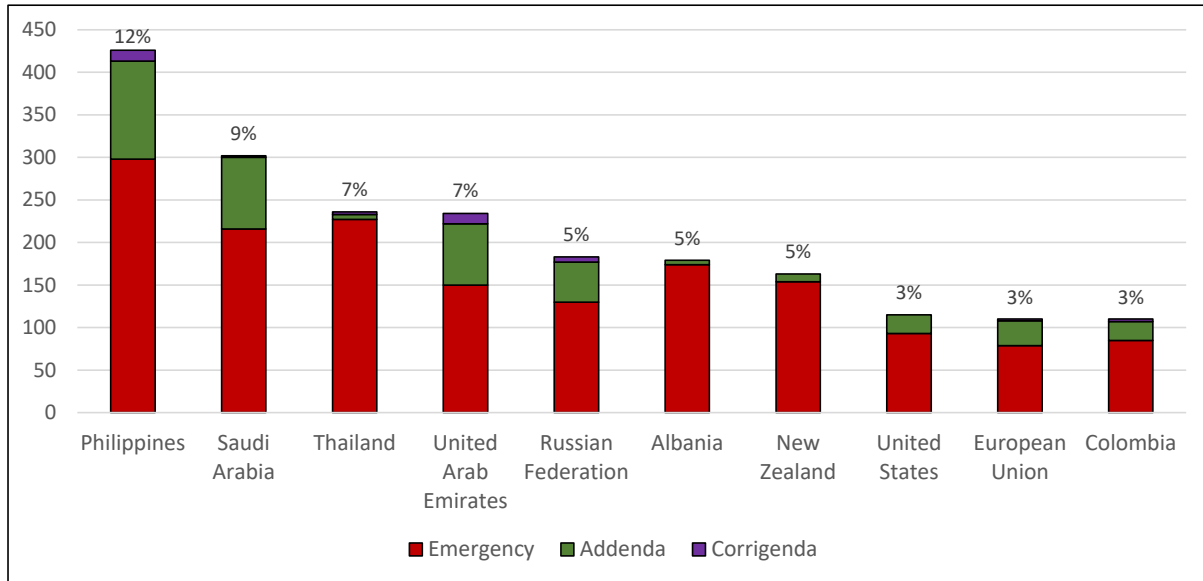


2.17. The Members who have submitted the greatest number of notifications (regular and emergency) since 1995 are listed in Charts [A.7](#) and [A.8](#), while the Members that have submitted the greatest number of notifications in 2021 are listed in Charts [A.9](#) and [A.10](#). In all four charts, bars show the number of notifications by type and values above the bars represent the corresponding percentage with respect to the total number of notifications (regular, Charts [A.7](#) and [A.9](#), and emergency, Charts [A.8](#) and [A.10](#)) submitted.

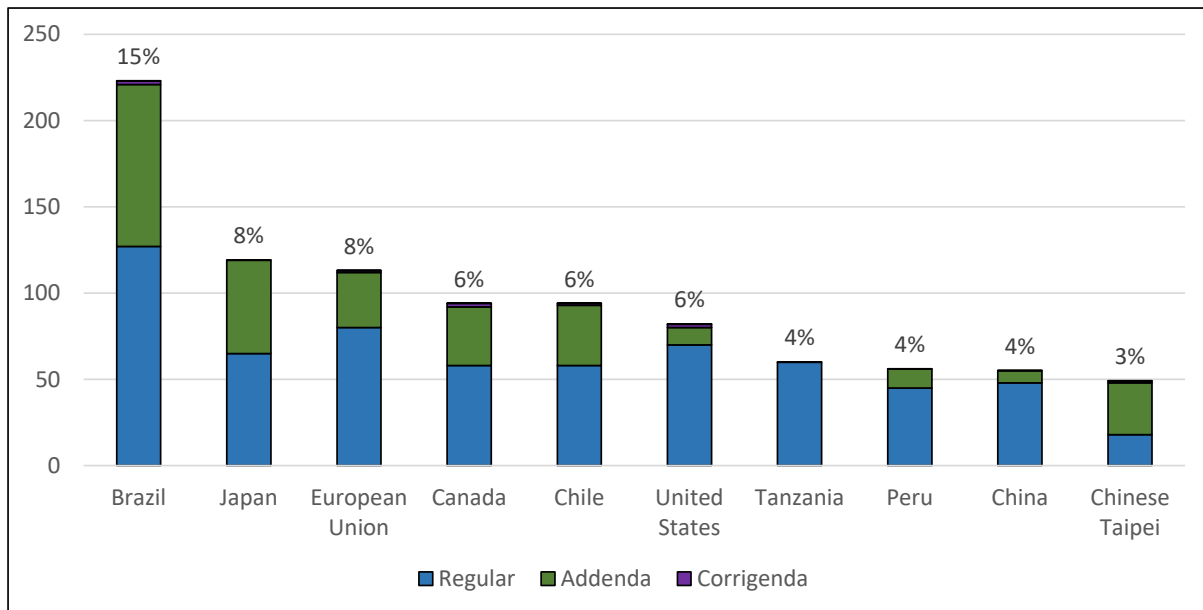
**Chart A.7 - Ten Members who have submitted the most regular notifications since 1995 (percentage with respect to total of regular notifications)**



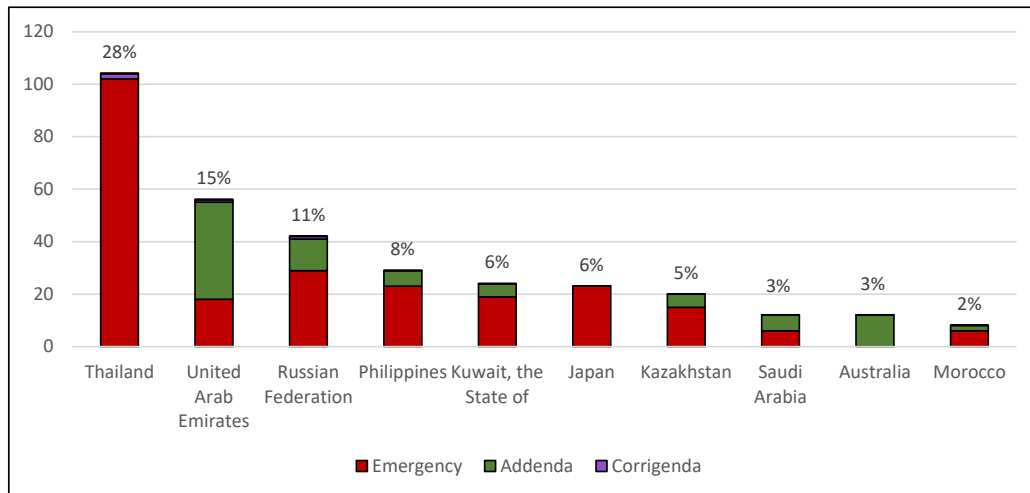
**Chart A.8 - Ten Members who have submitted the most emergency notifications since 1995 (percentage with respect to total of emergency notifications)**



**Chart A.9 - Members which have submitted the most regular notifications in 2021 (percentage with respect to total of regular notifications)**



**Chart A.10 - Members which have submitted the most emergency notifications in 2021 (percentage with respect to total of emergency notifications)**



2.18. In 2021 ([Chart A.9](#)), Brazil submitted 15% of all regular notifications circulated. In addition, one LDC (Tanzania) is among the top 10 notifying Members for the second consecutive year. Until 31 December 2019, Tanzania had submitted a total of 29 notifications. In 2020 and 2021, Tanzania submitted 72 and 60 notifications, respectively, suggesting that it is notifying at a level above their historical trend. For emergency notifications ([Chart A.10](#)), nine of the top 10 notifying Members remain the same as in 2020. In 2021, Thailand submitted 102 of the 268 (38%) emergency notifications circulated (excluding addenda and corrigenda).

2.19. When looking at the break-down according to the type of notification, the data show that some of the top 10 notifiers submit large numbers of addenda to notifications, e.g. to provide information on the modification of the content of a previously notified regulation. Others submit high numbers of notifications but fewer follow-up addenda. The overall data on the use of addenda are shown in [Section 2.3.10](#).

### 2.2.3 Products covered

2.20. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B of the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are required to identify the products to be covered by a new or changed SPS measure and should provide the relevant HS codes. Most Members have indicated they would welcome the provision of these codes by their trading partners.<sup>15</sup> However, identifying relevant HS codes is one of the main difficulties encountered by Members when filling in a notification according to the more recent questionnaire on transparency.<sup>16</sup>

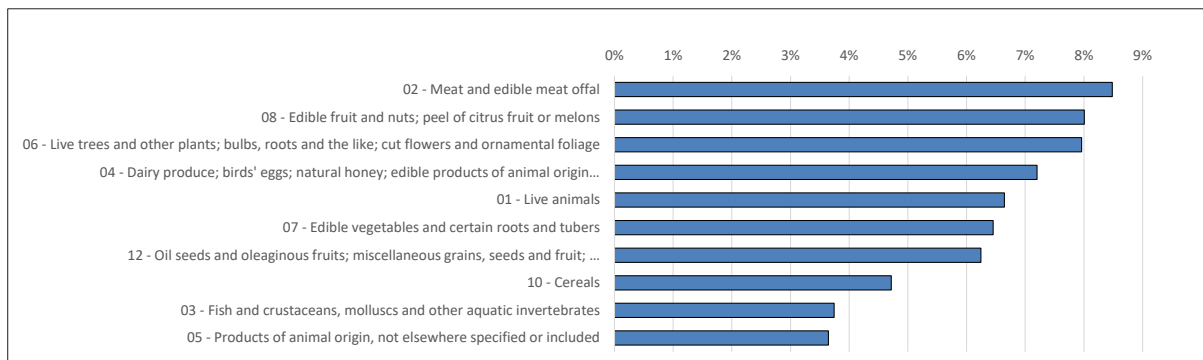
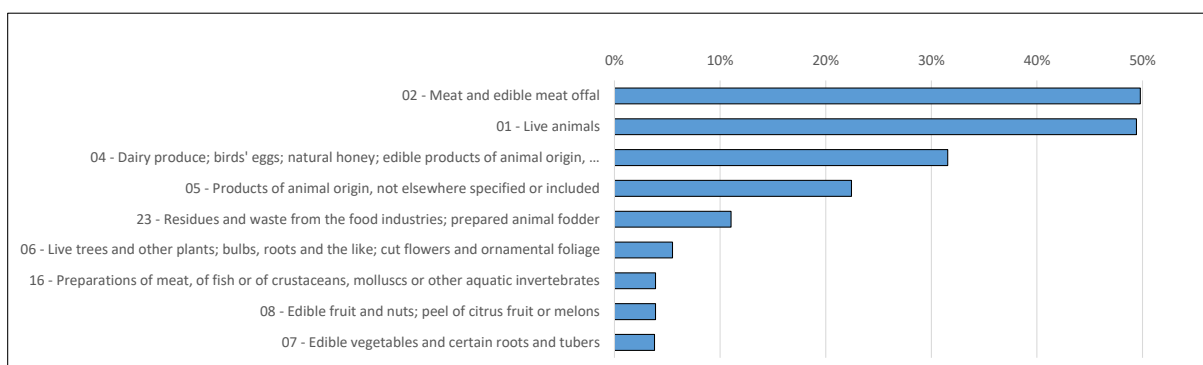
2.21. Since 1995, the WTO's Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) has been assigning, to the extent possible, the relevant HS codes for all notifications where these are not provided by Members.<sup>17</sup> The SPS NSS facilitates the inclusion of HS (and ICS) codes by submitting Members through a built-in search function, providing more accurate information. In September 2020, the SPS NSS (and the TBT NSS) was improved to include all HS versions available from a drop-down list (see [Section 4.2.1.4](#)). This update was aimed at increasing accuracy in the products covered and facilitating the retrieval of the relevant HS codes, further improving the quality of notifications.

2.22. While only indicative, Charts [A.11](#) and [A.12](#) show the products at the two-digit HS codes level that are most often covered by regular and emergency notifications since 1995. Note that only HS codes referred to in more than 3% of notifications are represented and that some code descriptions have been shortened for graphic reasons.

<sup>15</sup> See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on the Operation of Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities, ([G/SPS/GEN/751/Rev.1](#), paras. 11 and 18) for further elaboration on this point.

<sup>16</sup> See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on Transparency under the SPS Agreement, ([G/SPS/GEN/1402](#), para. 2.1) for further elaboration on this point.

<sup>17</sup> This information is available in the [SPS IMS](#) for tracking purposes only.

**Chart A.11 - HS codes most frequently assigned to regular notifications since 1995****Chart A.12 - HS codes most frequently assigned to emergency notifications since 1995**

2.23. It is interesting to note that regular notifications refer to a larger variety of HS codes in similarly high percentages (10 different codes are referred to in more than 3% of notifications, the highest percentage of 8% corresponding to HS code 02 - Meat and edible meat offal). On the contrary, emergency notifications mainly refer to animal-related HS codes, and these represent higher percentages of emergency notifications (9 different codes are referred to in more than 3% of notifications and three of these are above 30%; the highest percentages corresponding to HS code 02 - Meat and edible meat offal, referred to in 50% of notifications, and to HS code 01 - Live animals, referred to in 49% of notifications). These data are consistent with results shown in [Chart A.14](#) related to the objective of notifications.

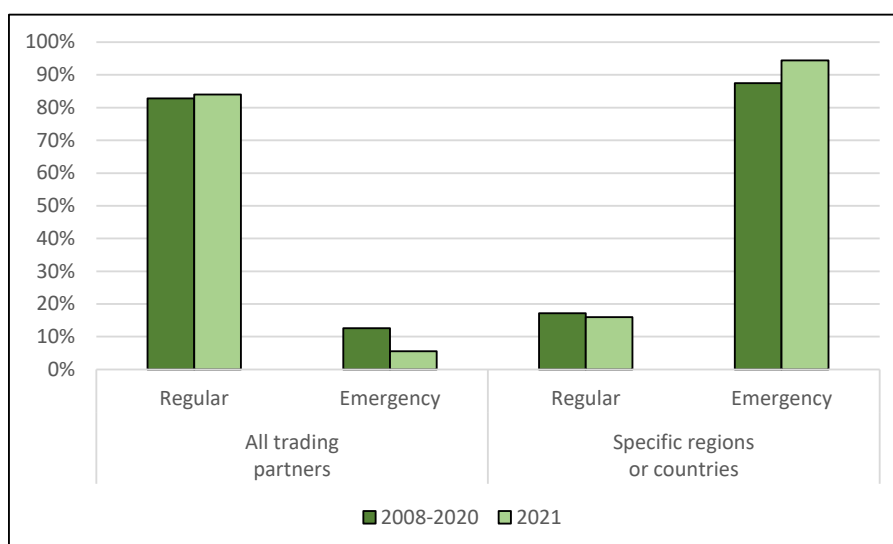
## 2.2.4 Regions/countries affected

2.24. The Recommended Transparency Procedures call on Members to identify the regions or countries which are most likely to be affected by the measure being notified. Since December 2008, the notification templates include a data entry option for this item whereby Members are invited to either select the checkbox for "all trading partners" or provide information on specific regions or countries likely to be affected.

2.25. Since 2008, the vast majority of notifications affecting all trading partners are regular notifications and only a small percentage are emergency notifications. Interestingly, [Chart A.13](#) shows a marked shift of pattern between 2008 to 2020 and 2021. An assessment of notifications submitted in 2021 indicates that 161 regular notifications (16%, slightly above the 15% in 2020) identified a specific group of countries or a region, while in 844 regular notifications (84% which represents 1% less than in 2020), the "all trading partners" checkbox was selected. In contrast, 253 emergency notifications (94%, an increase of 8% with respect to 2020) identified a specific group of countries or a region, and only 15 emergency notifications (6%, less than half than last year) identified "all trading partners". In other words, regarding notifications affecting specific regions or countries, 59% are regular notifications and 41% are emergency notifications (opposite to the trend observed last year, where 45% were regular notifications and 55% were emergency notifications). While the overall pattern is maintained, [Chart A.13](#) shows a share of emergency notifications affecting specific regions or countries 7% higher than the average in 2008-2020.

2.26. Interestingly, of the notifications submitted in 2021 affecting specific regions or countries, 27 (17%) of the 161 regular notifications and 116 (46%) of the 253 emergency notifications include the keyword regionalization. This reflects the fact that emergency actions are frequently taken in response to disease or pest outbreaks in specific countries, territories, or regions. A total of 111 (96%) of these 116 emergency notifications had the objective of protecting animal health. More detailed information on the objective of measures in relation to the affected partners is available in [Chart A.17](#).

**Chart A.13 - Percentage of regular and emergency notifications affecting all trading partners or specific regions or countries**

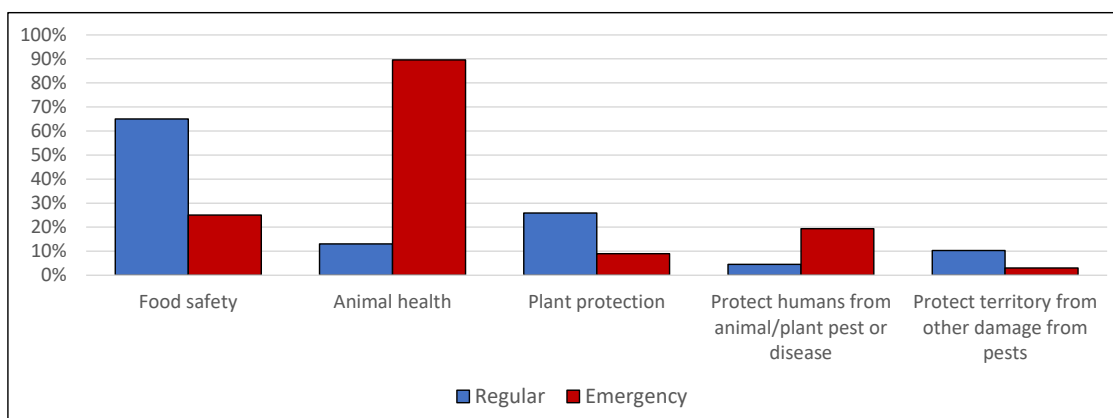


## 2.2.5 Objective and rationale

2.27. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B of the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are also required to state the objective and rationale of proposed regulations by selecting one of the following five options: food safety, animal health, plant protection, protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, and protect territory from other damage from pests. These objectives correspond to the definition of an SPS measure in Annex A, paragraph 1 of the SPS Agreement.

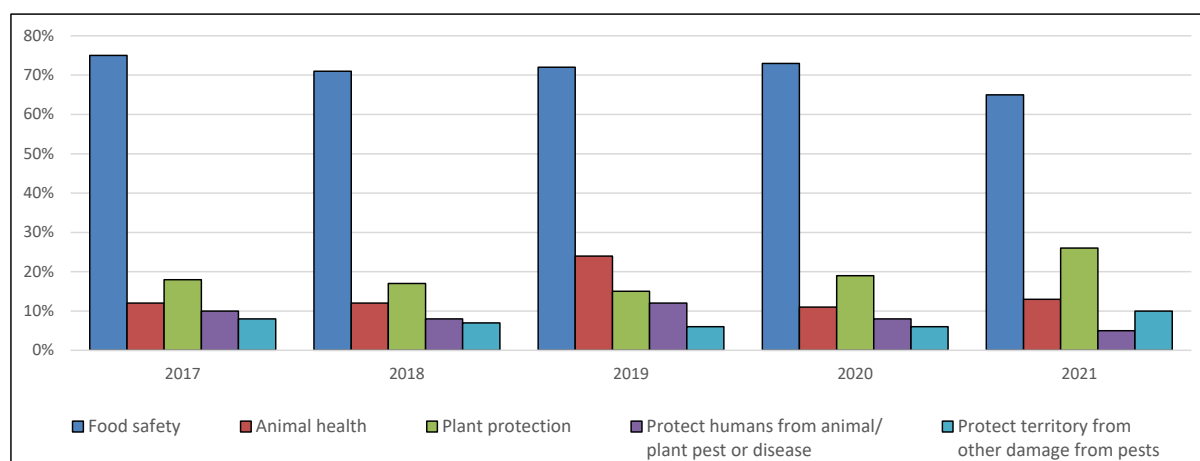
2.28. [Chart A.14](#) indicates the share of each objective as cited in regular and emergency notifications. It must be noted, however, that many notifications identify more than one objective. Therefore, Chart A.14 refers to the percentage of times a specific objective was assigned regardless of whether the notifications identified multiple objectives.

**Chart A.14 - Objectives of notified SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) in 2021**

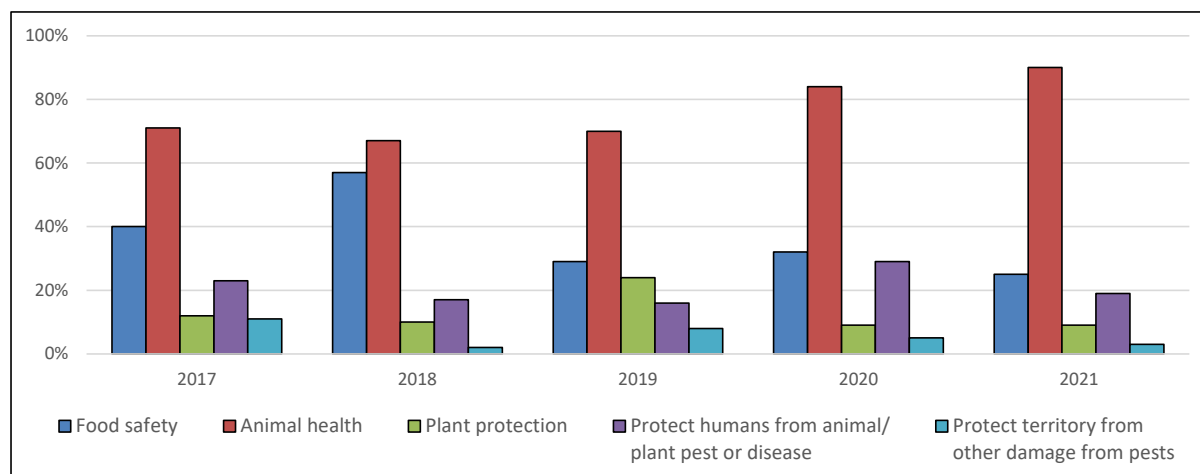


2.29. For regular notifications, the most frequently cited objective is food safety (65%), followed by plant protection (26%) and animal health (13%), while for emergency notifications it is animal health (90%), followed by food safety (25%) and protection of humans from animal/plant pest or disease (19%). The overall patterns have not fluctuated much since 1995. However, some differences are remarkable between 2020 and 2021: concerning regular notifications, a decrease of 8% in the number of notifications related to food safety can be observed, together with an increase of 7% in the number of notifications related to plant health ([Chart A.15](#)); regarding emergency notifications, a decrease of 10% in the number of notifications on protection of humans from animal/plant pest or disease, a 7% decrease in food safety related notifications, and a 6% increase in the number of notifications on animal health are the most striking differences ([Chart A.16](#)).

**Chart A.15 - Objectives of regular SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) notified in the last five years**



**Chart A.16 - Objectives of emergency SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) notified in the last five years**



## 2.2.6 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the regions/countries affected

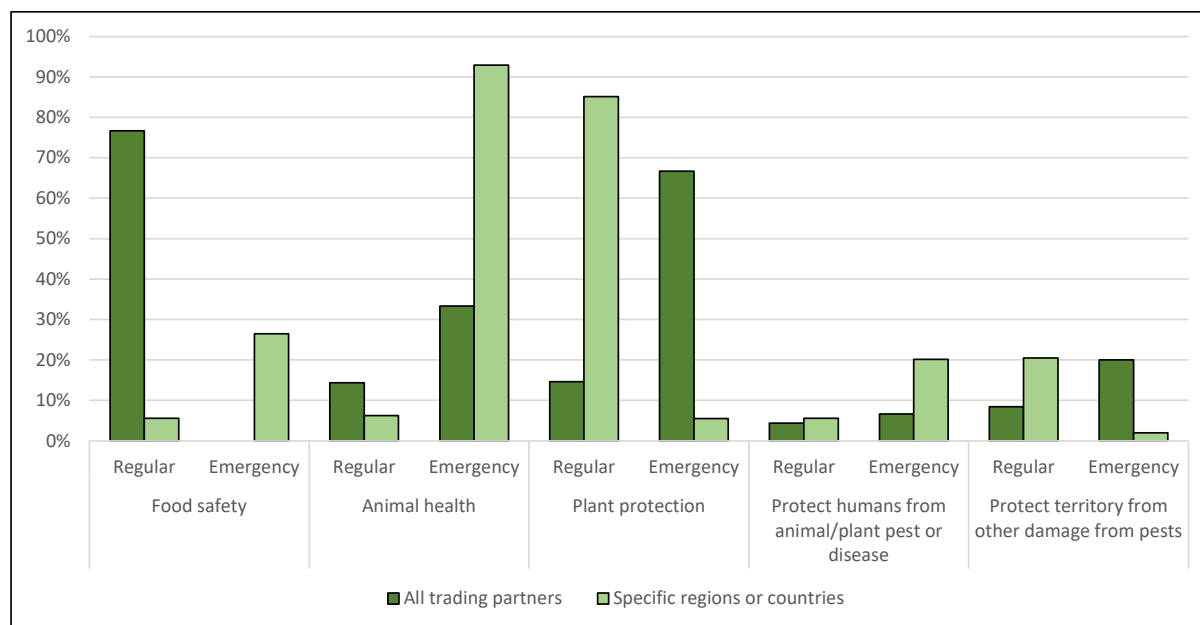
2.30. [Chart A.17](#) represents the objectives of regular and emergency notifications in relation to trading partners likely to be affected (i.e., all trading partners vs specific regions/countries), since 2008, when revised notification formats were adopted, making these data available.

2.31. In the case of notifications affecting all trading partners since 2008, food safety is the objective most frequently identified in regular notifications (77%), while plant protection is the most frequent objective in emergency notifications (33%). In the case of notifications likely to affect



specific regions/countries since 2008, plant protection is the objective most frequently identified in regular notifications (85%), while animal health is the most frequent objective in emergency notifications (93%).

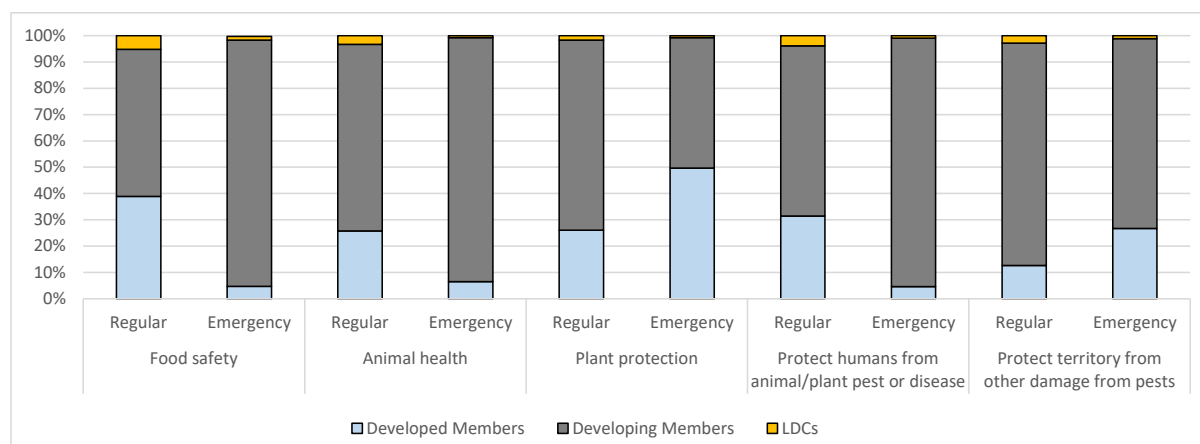
**Chart A.17 - Objectives of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by affected Members since 2008**



#### 2.2.6.1 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the development status of the notifying Member

2.32. [Chart A.18](#) shows a detailed analysis of the objective of the measures and the development status of the notifying Members. In the case of developed Members, the most striking result refers to plant protection measures, which represent 50% of the emergency measures notified since 1995, followed by 27% of emergency notifications of measures to protect the territory from other damage from pests. Developing Members submit over 93% of the emergency notifications of measures aiming to protect animal health, and humans from animal/plant pests or diseases.

**Chart A.18 - Objectives of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by development status since 1995**

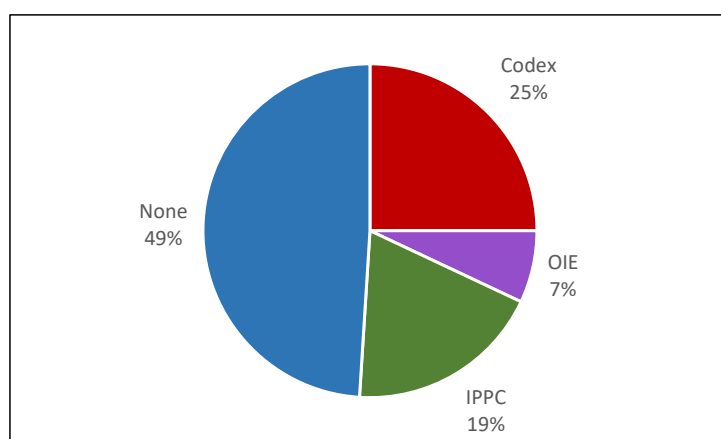


### 2.2.7 International standards, guidelines or recommendations

2.33. The SPS Agreement does not require Members to notify a measure if its content is substantially the same as that of an international standard adopted by Codex, OIE or IPPC. Nonetheless, the Recommended Transparency Procedures encourage Members to notify all regulations that are based on, conform to, or are substantially the same as an international standard, guideline or recommendation, if they are expected to have a significant impact on trade of other Members. The notification formats also seek more precision from Members regarding relevant standards and the conformity of the notified measure with these.

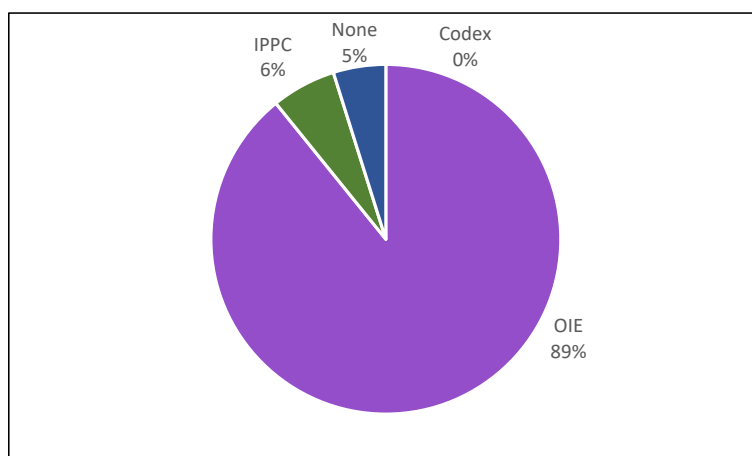
2.34. [Chart A.19](#) shows that relevant international standards identified were Codex (246, representing 25%), IPPC (193, representing 19%) and OIE (71, representing 7%) standards. This information seems consistent with the objectives identified for regular notifications ([Chart A.14](#)). Compared to 2020, the percentage of regular notifications on food safety referring to a relevant international standard has decreased from 35% to 25%, while the percentage of those referring to plant protection has increased from 13% to 19%. Regarding OIE standards, the percentage remained stable (8% in 2020 compared to 7% in 2021).

**Chart A.19 - Regular notifications (excluding addenda) referring to a relevant international standard in 2021**



2.35. When it comes to emergency notifications circulated in 2021, [Chart A.20](#) shows that the relevant international standards referred to during in 2021 were OIE (239, 89%, higher than the 83% reached in the previous year) and IPPC (16, 6%, less than the 8% observed in 2020). No emergency notifications referred to relevant Codex standards. This is consistent with the information provided in [Chart A.14](#), showing that animal health is the most frequently identified objective in emergency notifications.

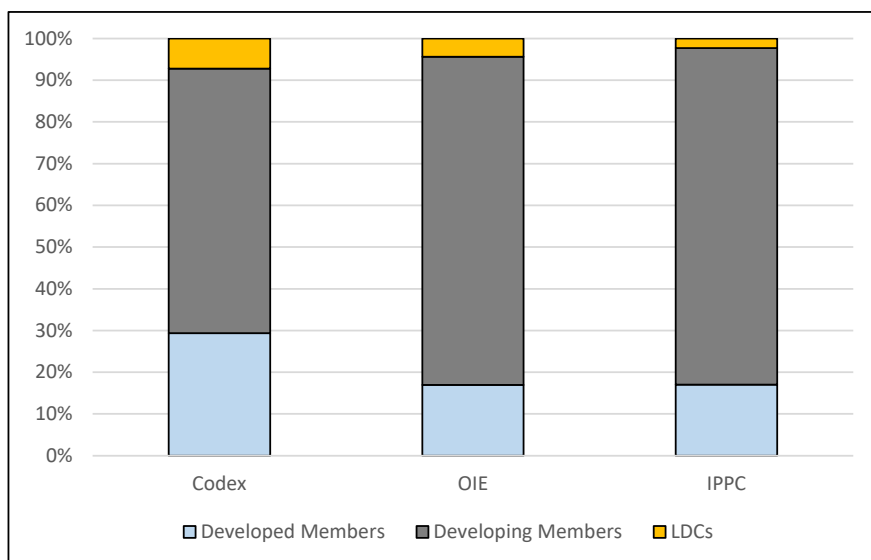
**Chart A.20 - Emergency notifications (excluding addenda) referring to a relevant international standard in 2021**



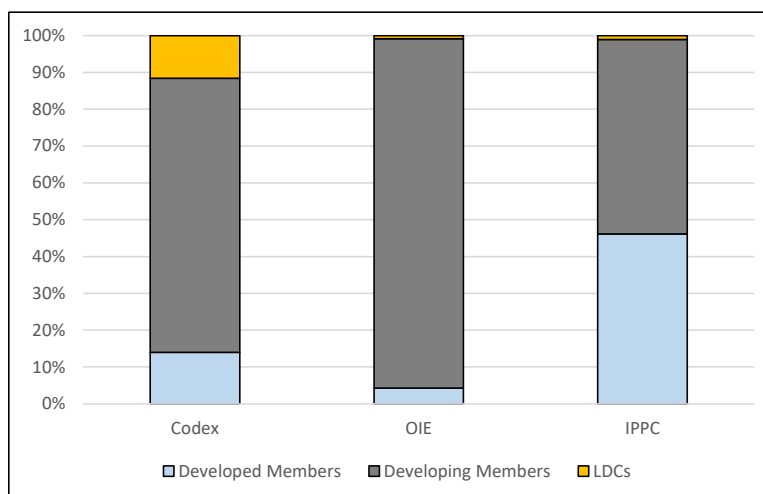
2.36. It is important to keep in mind that, even if a notification refers to an international standard, the notified measure might not conform to it. Therefore, in the notification formats Members are required to identify whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard. In 2021, of the 51% of regular notifications identifying a relevant international standard for the measure, 75% indicated that the proposed regulation conformed to that relevant international standard. Out of the regular notifications that indicated that the notified regulation did not conform to a relevant international standard, all but two referred to Codex Alimentarius standards. For the same period, all emergency notifications identifying a relevant international standard indicated that the proposed regulation conformed to the relevant international standard. This further confirms the relevance of the standards set by the three international standard-setting bodies recognized by the SPS Agreement when addressing emergency situations.

2.37. It is interesting to note that both for regular and emergency notifications, measures notified by developing Members are those that most frequently indicate conformity with the relevant international standards. In the case of regular notifications ([Chart A.21](#)), developing Members' measures are reported to conform to international standards in 63% (for Codex), 79% (for OIE) and 81% (for IPPC) of the cases. In the case of emergency notifications ([Chart A.22](#)), developing Members' measures indicate conformity with international standards in 74% (for Codex), 95% (for OIE) and 53% (for IPPC) of the cases. Up to 46% of emergency notifications indicating conformity to a relevant international standard were notified by developed Members, which is compatible with results shown in [Chart A.18](#).

**Chart A.21 – Conformity of notified regular measures (excluding addenda) with international standards since 2008, by development status**



**Chart A.22 – Conformity of notified emergency measures (excluding addenda) with international standards since 2008, by development status**



### 2.2.8 Proposed date of adoption/publication/entry into force

2.38. In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex B of the SPS Agreement, Members must ensure that all SPS regulations which have been adopted are published promptly. Except in urgent circumstances, Members are also obliged to allow a reasonable interval between the publication of a measure and its entry into force. Paragraph 3.2 of the Doha Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns states that this interval "shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than 6 months".<sup>18</sup>

2.39. The regular notification format contained in the Recommended Transparency Procedures includes separate fields for entering the "proposed date of publication", the "proposed date of adoption" and the "proposed date of entry into force". In addition, it includes a default checkbox for a six-month interval between the publication and entry into force of a new measure. For each of these items, the SPS NSS provides a calendar so that Members can easily enter dates, allowing for a more accurate analysis.

2.40. For 2021, about 55% of the regular notifications identified either a specific date or a wider period (months or quarters, mainly) for adoption (a 5% increase relative to 2020), while in the remaining 45%, the date of adoption was still to be determined. This illustrates that, at the time of notification, Members are not always able to foresee the exact date of adoption of a regulation.

2.41. During the reporting period, 313 regular notifications (31%, 7% more than in the previous reporting period) indicated a specific date of publication. Of these, 92 (29%) had been published on the day, or prior to the date of distribution of the notification, and 29 (32%) of these concerned measures identified as trade facilitating. Regarding the interval between publication of the measure and its entry into force, 135 regular notifications (13%) had selected the checkbox for a six-month interval provided in the notification format. A total of 264 (26%) notifications provided a specific date of entry into force. Of these, only four provided a period of six months or more and, of the remaining, 91 provided one day or more. A total of 742 notifications (73%) did not specify the proposed date of entry into force. It should be noted that, in some cases, such dates are not yet determined at the time of the notification, as the nature and extent of comments received on the proposed measure may affect the dates of adoption, publication and entry into force.

2.42. As provided for in the Recommended Transparency Procedures, notifying Members sometimes follow up on their original notification with an addendum to alert Members to the adoption, publication, or entry into force of a previously notified proposed measure. About 77% of the addenda submitted in 2021 indicated the adoption, publication or entry into force of regulations as shown in [Chart A.25](#) (see [Section 2.3.10](#)).

<sup>18</sup> [WT/MIN\(01\)/17](#); see also para. 4.3 of [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#).

### 2.2.9 Final date for comments

2.43. Annex B, paragraph 5 of the SPS Agreement provides that notifications should take place at an early stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments be taken into account. The Recommended Transparency Procedures state that the comment period provided for regular notifications should last at least 60 days. Where domestic regulatory mechanisms allow, the 60-day comment period should normally begin with the circulation of the notification by the WTO Secretariat. The notification formats also offer a checkbox option for such a 60-day comment period to encourage Members to follow this recommendation.<sup>19</sup> The SPS NSS provides a calendar so that Members can easily click on the final date for comments. A total of 499 (49%) regular notifications submitted in 2021 used the checkbox to provide a 60-day comment period.

2.44. An analysis of the notifications issued during 2021 shows that 742 (74%) provided a comment period, ranging from a minimum of 1 day to a maximum of 98 days, with an average of 56 days (calculated as the difference between the date of circulation of the notification and the final date for comments; see [Table A.2](#)). More specifically, 562 regular notifications (56%) provided a comment period of 60 or more days. On average, developed Members provided 57 days for comments and developing Members (including LDCs) 55 days.

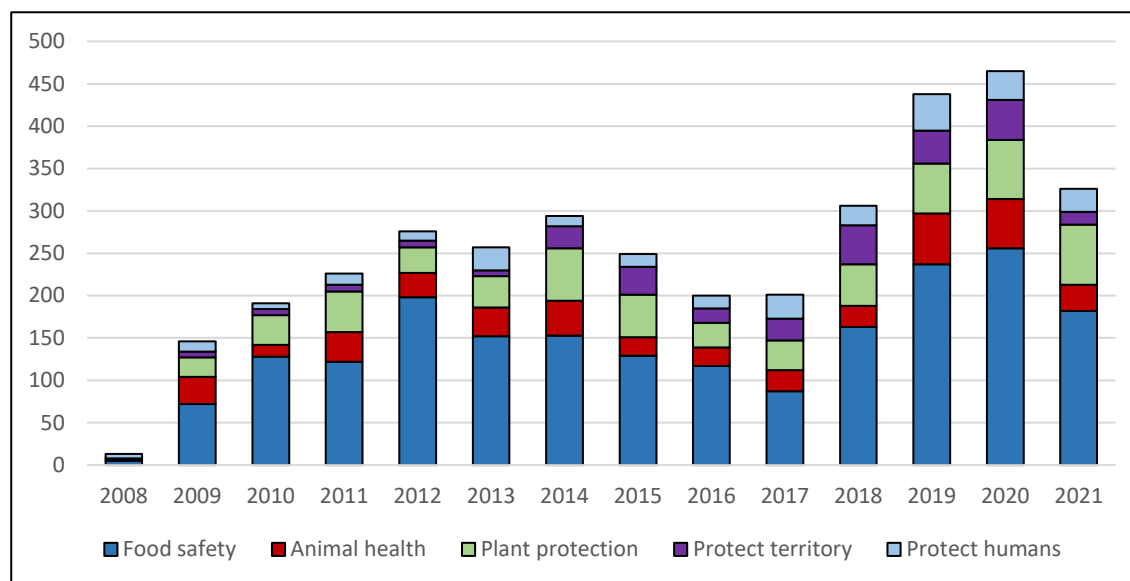
**Table A.2. Comment period provided in regular notifications (2021)**

All Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	1,006	-
Comment period available	742	74%
Comment period not indicated/not available	262	26%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	2	<1%
Average length (in days)	56	
Developed Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	336	-
Comment period available	180	54%
Comment period not indicated/not available	148	46%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	1	<1%
Average length (in days)	57	
Developing Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	670	-
Comment period available	562	84%
Comment period not indicated/not available	107	16%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	1	<1%
Average length (in days)	55	

2.45. It should be noted that no comment period needs to be provided in the case of proposed measures which facilitate trade and those which are substantially the same as an international standard. In 2021, 271 (27%) regular notifications have been identified to be trade facilitating. Of these, 165 (61%) still provided a comment period, of which 141 (84%) provided a comment period of 60 days or more. In addition, 123 (45%) of the 271 indicated conformity with a relevant international standard and, of these, 54 (44%) still provided a comment period, which in 42 (78%) was of 60 days or more. It is interesting to note that most of the trade facilitating measures refer to food safety ([Chart A.23](#)).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> See [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#), para. 2.8.

<sup>20</sup> It must be noted that many notifications identify more than one objective.

**Chart A.23 – Number of trade facilitating regular measures, per objective**

2.46. While Members must notify other WTO Members of draft, new or changed measures, they are not required to submit the text of the relevant regulations along with their notifications. However, Members have raised concerns in the SPS Committee regarding difficulties to access the full text of the regulations, only summarized in the notifications. Members have also pointed out that the process of obtaining the texts of regulations reduces the period actually available for providing comments.

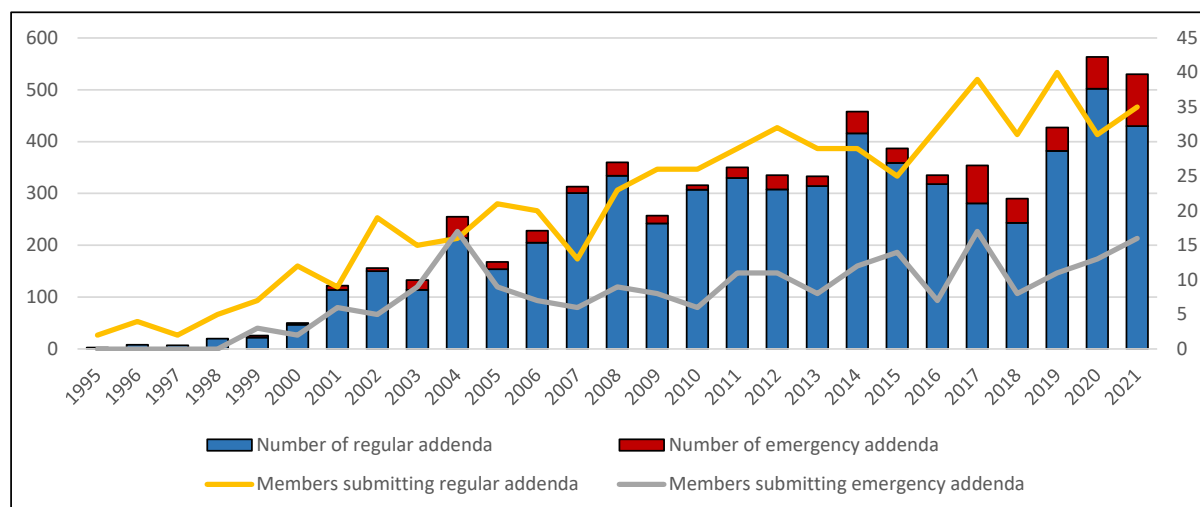
2.47. Since February 2008, to address these concerns and facilitate access to notified draft regulations, Members may, on a voluntary basis, provide the Secretariat with an electronic version of the text of the notified draft regulation as an attachment to the notification. The submitted text is then made electronically accessible to other Members through a hyperlink in the notification format.<sup>21</sup> Many Members include a hyperlink to their own electronic version of the notified regulation as part of the text of the notification, in addition to or instead of the above option. The SPS NSS also allows Members to upload documents, that become automatically available for all Members through the SPS IMS. In 2021, around 898 regular notifications (89%) and 202 emergency notifications (75%), submitted by 58 Members, included the full text or a summary of the notified draft regulations using this facility. Members may wish to remind their notification authorities of the availability of this facility.

#### 2.2.10 Addenda to regular and emergency notifications

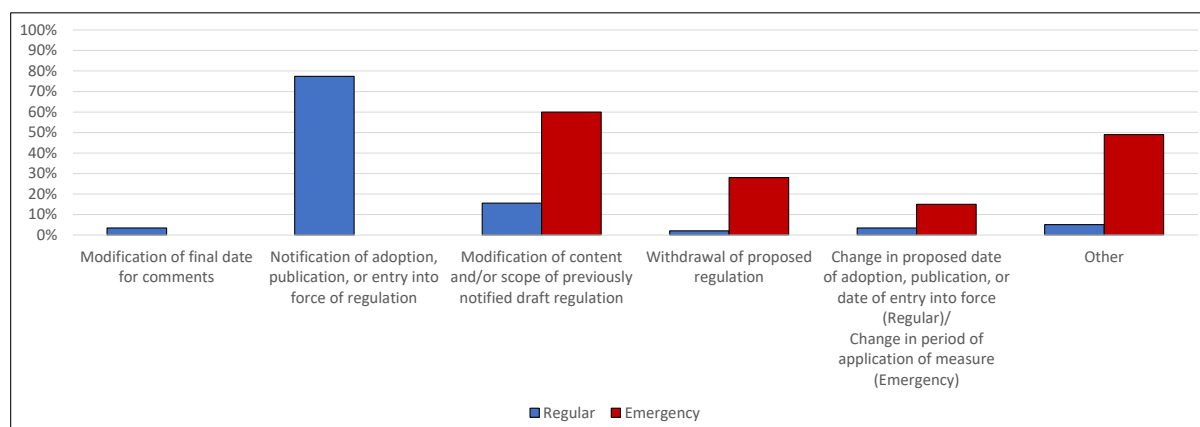
2.48. Since 1995, Members have been increasing the number of addenda to regular and emergency notifications submitted, as shown in [Chart A.24](#). While a historical maximum of regular addenda was circulated in 2020 (563 addenda in total, including 502 regular and 61 emergency addenda), a total of 530 addenda have been circulated in 2021 (including 430 regular addenda and a historical maximum of 100 emergency addenda) (see [Chart A.1](#)).

2.49. It is also interesting to note that an increasing number of Members are following the good practice of submitting addenda to regular and emergency notifications, as shown in [Chart A.24](#). In total, 70 and 49 Members have submitted, at least once, addenda to regular and emergency notifications, respectively. While the overall number of Members has not changed, four and three more Members have submitted addenda to regular and emergency notifications, respectively, in 2021 with respect to 2020.

<sup>21</sup> See [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#), para. 2.8 and Annex C.

**Chart A.24 - Evolution of the number of addenda and number of Members submitting addenda to regular and emergency notifications<sup>22</sup>**

2.50. According to the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are asked to select the reason for an addendum from a list of options. [Chart A.25](#) shows the share of each option for 2021. Note that the "Notification of adoption, publication, or entry into force of regulation" is an option available for addenda to regular notifications only. Also, the format for addenda to regular notifications includes the option "Withdrawal of proposed regulations", while emergency notifications refer to "Withdrawal of regulations". Other reasons mentioned in the formats include, for instance, lifting an import ban or the inclusion of a new country in the list of affected regions. It is interesting to note that the large majority (77%) of addenda to regular notifications inform of the adoption, publication, or entry into force of regulation while, for emergency notifications, 60% inform of the modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation and almost half (49%) refer to "Other" reasons. The option "Withdrawal of regulations", which was ticked in almost half of addenda to emergency notifications submitted in 2020, was only mentioned in 28% of the addenda to emergency notifications in 2021.

**Chart A.25 - Reasons for addenda (percentage) in 2021<sup>23</sup>**

2.51. In addition, Members can notify their decision on special and differential treatment provided in reference to a specific request, through another addendum notification format. As previously mentioned, no Member has ever notified such a decision to the Committee.

<sup>22</sup> Please note the different scales of the axis.

<sup>23</sup> Each notification can have multiple entries for the reasons for addenda.

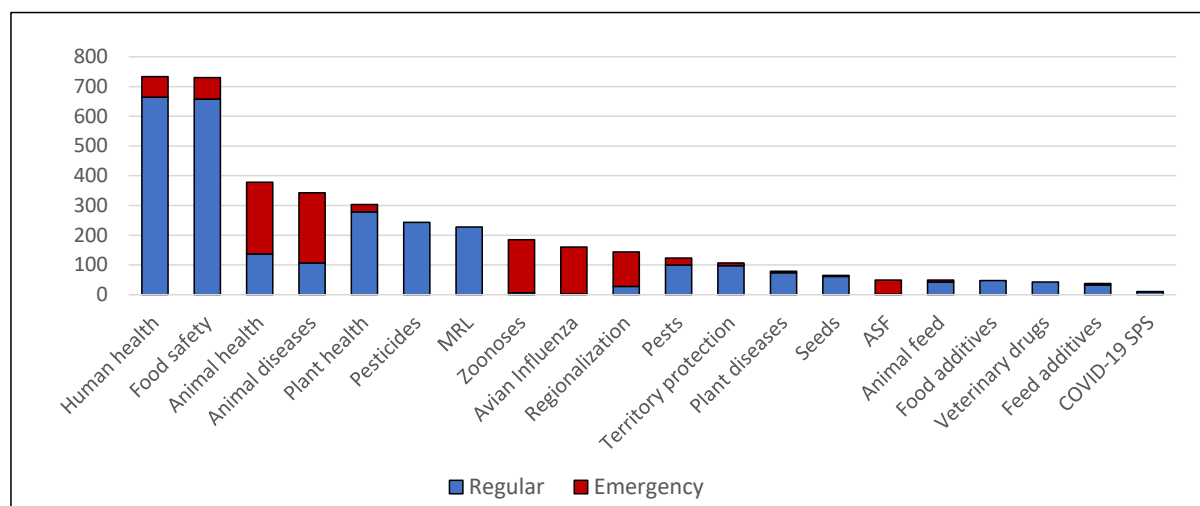


## 2.3 NOTIFICATION KEYWORDS

2.52. In the SPS IMS, notifications can also be categorized according to a list of about 90 predefined keywords, which describe issues appearing frequently in notifications. The CRN has assigned these keywords since 2003, and they assist searching for notifications in certain areas. While the keywords include the objectives of the notification (e.g. food safety, animal health, plant protection), they also include other notification subjects, specific animal and plant diseases, etc. New keywords were added in 2020, including African swine fever (ASF) and COVID-19 SPS.

2.53. As shown in [Chart A.26](#), the keywords which have been most frequently assigned to regular notifications, in descending order for the current reporting period, are human health, food safety, plant health, pesticides and maximum residue limits (MRLs). For emergency notifications, the most frequent keywords in descending order are animal health, animal diseases, zoonoses, avian influenza and pest- or disease- free regions/regionalization. It must be noted that most of the notifications are assigned more than one keyword. It is interesting to note that COVID-19 SPS is only the 20<sup>th</sup> most frequently assigned keyword (see [Section 2.5](#)).

**Chart A.26 - Keywords of notified regular and emergency SPS measures in 2021 (number)**



## 2.4 COVID-19 RELATED NOTIFICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

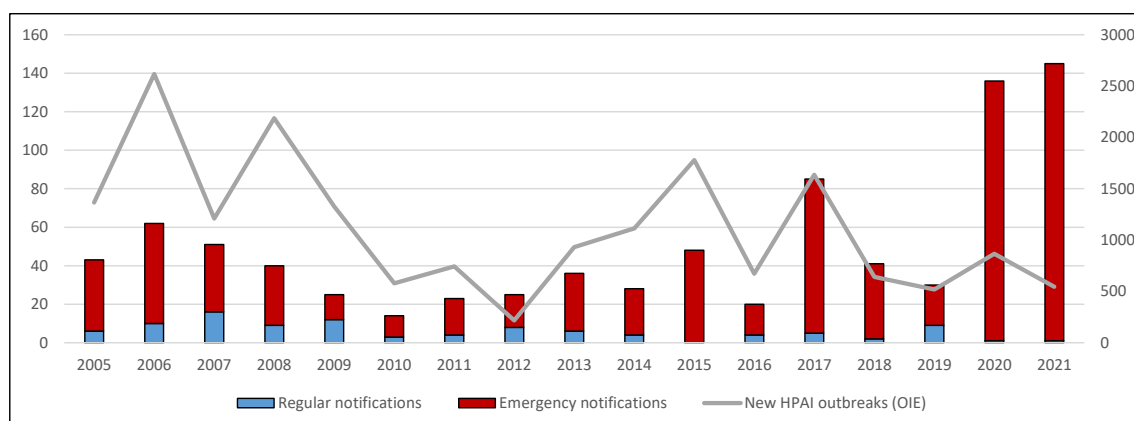
2.54. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Members have continued to fulfil their transparency obligations, including the notification of specific COVID-19 related SPS measures. The WTO created the dedicated website [COVID-19 and world trade](#) to inform of trade-related developments in light of the pandemic. As mentioned above, the Secretariat created a COVID-19 SPS keyword that was assigned to notifications and other documents based on the presence of the words COVID-19, nCoV or coronavirus in the text of the notification. This keyword can be searched for in the [SPS IMS](#), in the [ePing](#)<sup>24</sup> and in [DocsOnLine](#).

### Box 1. Avian influenza

The keyword avian influenza was assigned to 157 (59%) of the 268 emergency notifications submitted in 2021. When comparing the number of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)\* notified per year through the [OIE WAHIS system](#) with the SPS notifications submitted to the WTO, we observe that the notification of an increased number of outbreaks to the OIE does not necessarily result in an increased number of measures notified in relation to avian influenza, although in some years the trends do coincide.

Despite the high number of outbreaks of HPAI notified to the OIE and the measures notified by WTO Members in relation to this disease, since 1995 only 19 of the 532 (3.6%) STCs raised in the Committee were assigned the keyword avian influenza, corresponding to 15 of the 175 (8.6%) STCs relative to animal health. Members have also raised issues on the use of the OIE standard for HPAI under the agenda item "Monitoring of the use of international standards" in the SPS Committee meetings.

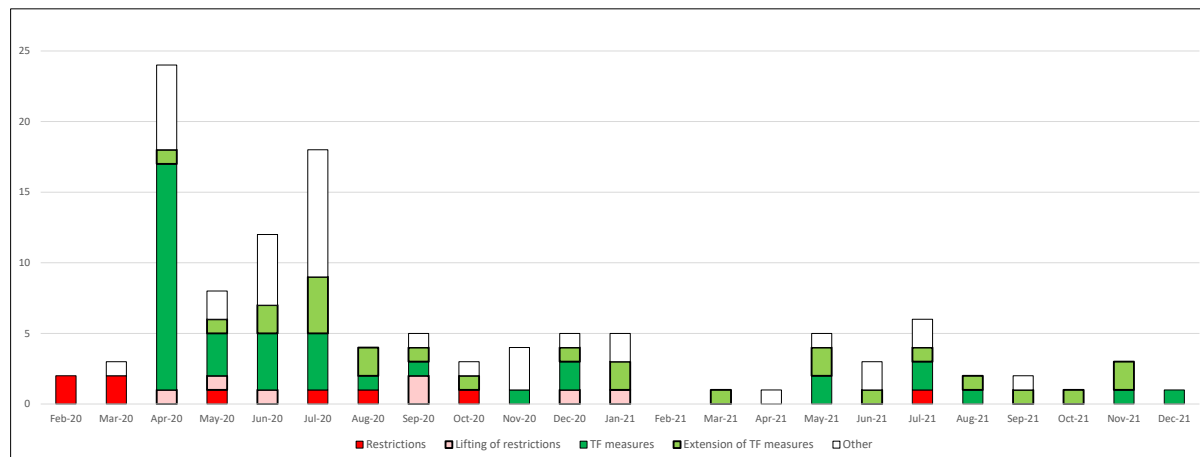
#### Number of regular and emergency notifications and number of new HPAI outbreaks notified to the OIE



\*Please note that data in the OIE WAHIS refer to HPAI while the keyword avian influenza assigned to WTO SPS notifications refers to both HPAI and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI).

2.55. Since February 2020, Members have submitted a total of 118 documents informing of measures adopted in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these, 23 notifications (including addenda and corrigenda) and 7 communications (GEN documents and revisions) were submitted in 2021 ([Chart A.27](#)). The GEN documents submitted include a measure adopted by a Member, statements delivered by Members in the SPS Committee, a proposal for a thematic session to be held in 2022 and its revision, as well as a request by 40 Members for the suspension of the processes and entry into force of reductions of MRLs for plant protection products, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the corresponding reply. Only one restriction, indirectly related to the pandemic, was imposed in 2021. Most of the restrictions on the importation, and sometimes transit, of live animals and animal products, or on certain species imposed in 2020 have already been lifted. Almost two-thirds of the measures adopted facilitated trade, mainly through the acceptance of electronic copies or scanned certificates, and several of these measures have already been extended through addenda to the original notifications. As of 31 December 2021, SPS COVID-19 related documents represented 27% of all COVID-19 related documents submitted by Members to the WTO. The last SPS COVID-19 document was submitted on 15 December 2021.

<sup>24</sup> A tutorial on how to create a filter for COVID-19 related SPS and TBT notifications is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob5ou6rYYH0&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob5ou6rYYH0&feature=emb_title).

**Chart A.27 – Objective of COVID-19 related SPS notifications and communications from 1 February 2020 to 31 December 2021 (number)**

2.56. In May 2020, the Secretariat published a technical note on "[Standards, regulations and COVID-19 - What actions taken by WTO members?](#)" (SPS and TBT) that was updated in December 2020. In June 2020, the SPS Committee organized an [information-sharing session on COVID-19](#) on the margins of the Committee meeting<sup>25</sup> and, since then, it has included a dedicated item in all informal meetings prior to the regular Committee meetings.<sup>26</sup>

### 3 PART B - SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS

3.1. Part B of the present document contains information on STCs, maintaining the previously assigned numbers according to the chronological order of the Committee meetings in which they were first raised, although titles may be updated to reflect the latest state of the concern. These numbers serve as unique identifiers and are intended to facilitate the tracking of issues raised over time. The Secretariat has revised this document annually to include new information provided by Members ([G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.1](#) to [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.21](#)). As mentioned above, in preparing this document, the Secretariat has largely relied on the [SPS IMS](#).

3.2. Part B is divided into two sections:

- [General overview of specific trade concerns \(1995-2021\)](#); and
- [Specific trade concerns considered in 2021](#).

3.3. The first section of Part B presents a general overview of STCs, including summary statistics and graphs for all the STCs raised in the SPS Committee between the first regular meeting of 1995 and the last regular meeting of 2021. It provides detailed information on the concerns raised per meeting, as well as the relation between the number of notifications and the number of concerns. In addition, the STCs are categorized as relating to food safety, animal or plant health, or other concerns. Information is also provided on the participation of Members in STCs, by development status, on the average number of times that STCs are raised, as well as on reported status of resolution.

3.4. The second section of Part B contains information regarding all STCs which were raised in the SPS Committee in 2021. This includes STCs raised for the first time in 2021, STCs which were previously raised and discussed again in 2021 and STCs resolved in 2021. Information is also provided on STCs for which substantive action occurred under the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). All STCs discussed in 2021 are presented by responding Member.

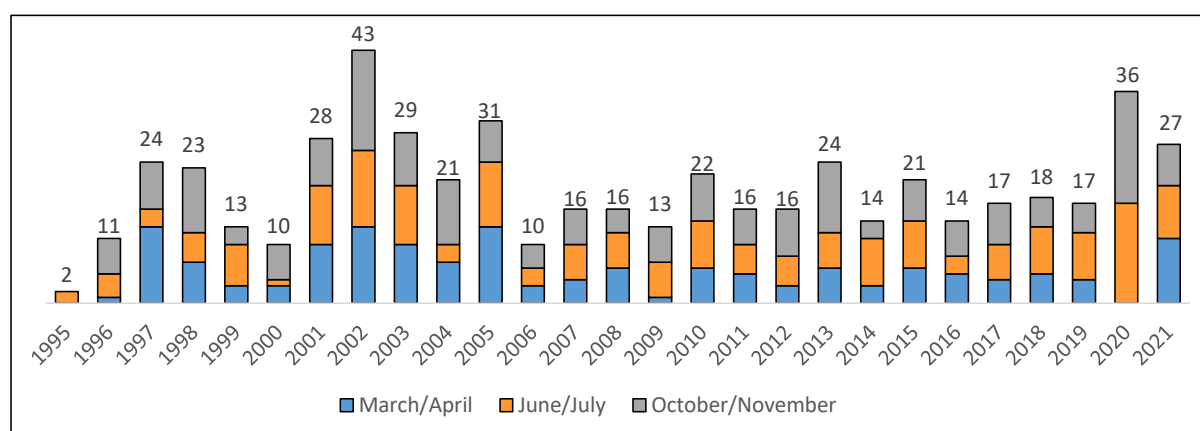
<sup>25</sup> The report of the information-sharing session is contained in [G/SPS/R/98](#).

<sup>26</sup> The reports on the SPS Committee informal meetings held in March, July and November 2021 are contained in Annex A of documents [G/SPS/R/101](#), [G/SPS/R/102](#) and [G/SPS/R/104](#), respectively.

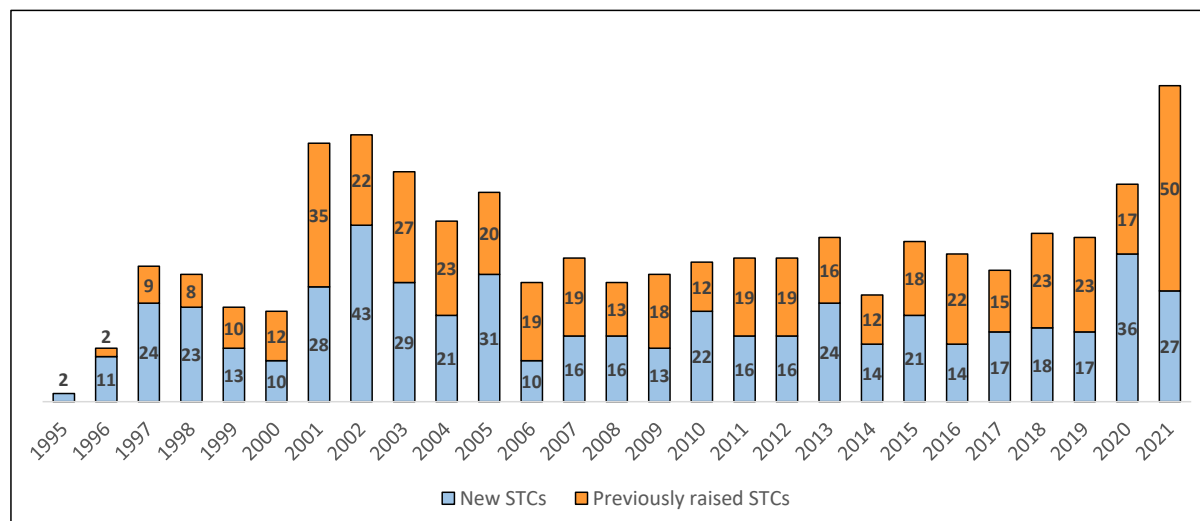
### 3.1 General overview of specific trade concerns (1995-2021)

3.5. Altogether, 532 STCs have been raised in the 27 years between 1995 and the end of 2021. The full list of STCs raised since 1995 can be found in the [SPS IMS](#). [Chart B.1](#) shows the number of new STCs raised each year, per Committee meeting, and [Chart B.2](#) shows the number of new and previously raised STCs per year. A total of [27 new STCs](#) were raised in the three SPS Committee meetings held in 2021. This number is higher than the average since 1995, although still lower than the high number of new STCs raised in 2020 (36), despite the fact that only two meetings were held in 2020.<sup>27</sup> In 2021, [50 previously raised STCs](#) were discussed again, the highest number since 1995 (specific information on STCs discussed in 2021 is available in [Section 3.2](#)). There appears to be an emerging upward trend in the total number of STCs discussed each year, although it is early to say. The increase coincides with the introduction of virtual/hybrid meetings since 2020 and could indicate that the possibility for capital-based officials to participate virtually in meetings facilitates the raising of STCs. Whether this trend continues will have to be confirmed in subsequent years.

**Chart B.1 – Number of new STCs raised since 1995, per Committee meeting**



**Chart B.2 – Number of new and previously raised STCs discussed per year since 1995<sup>28</sup>**



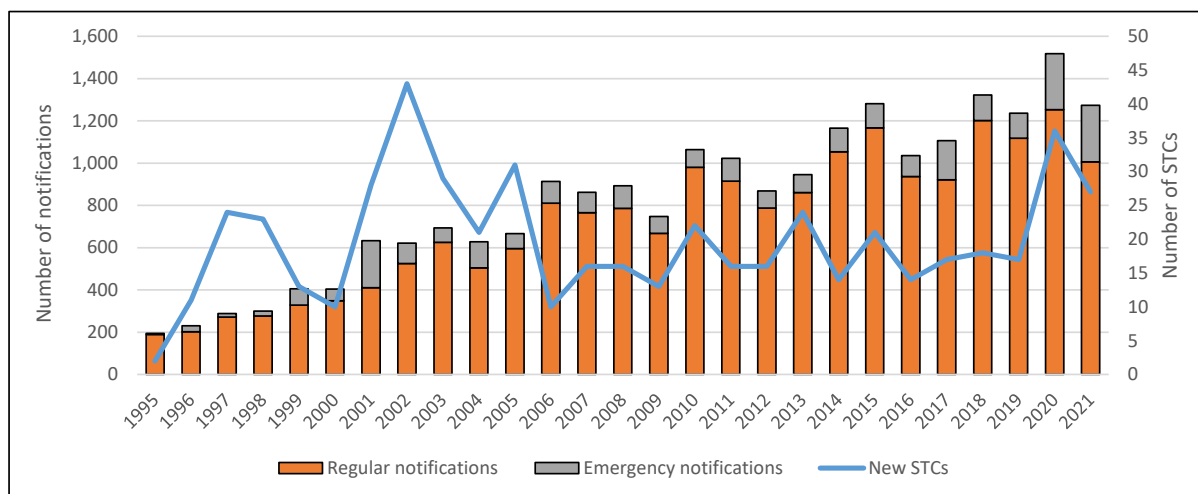
3.6. [Chart B.3](#) compares new STCs raised with the number of regular and emergency notifications submitted per year. Although notifications have increased over time and there appears to be a recent upward trend in the total number of STCs discussed per year, there is no clear correlation between

<sup>27</sup> The March 2020 Committee meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see document [JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1](#)).

<sup>28</sup> Please note that the number of times an STC is raised during the year is not taken into account.

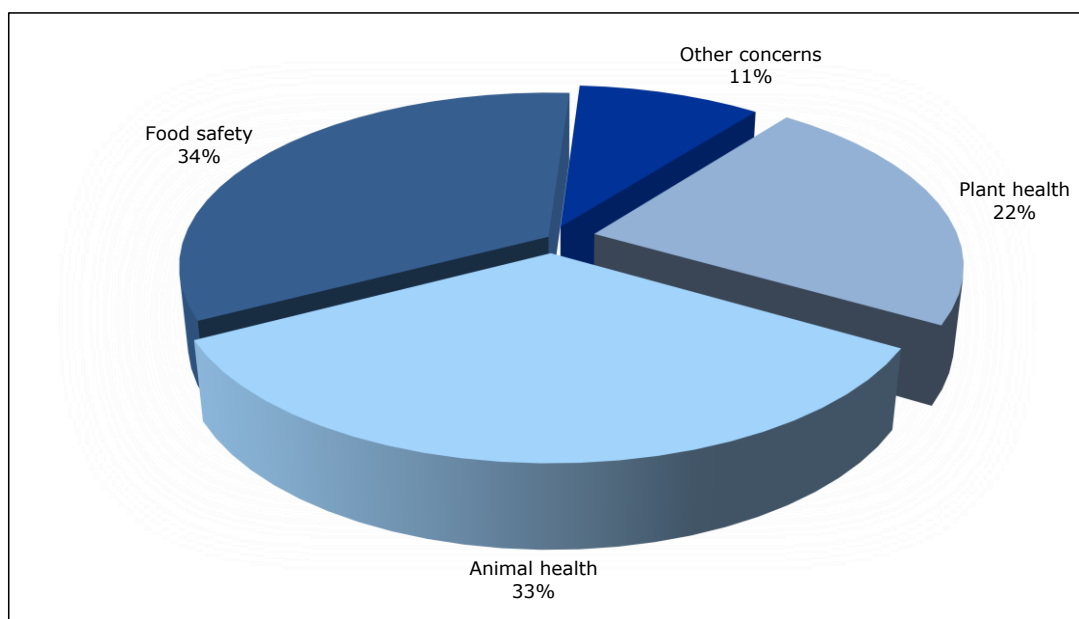
the number of notifications<sup>29</sup> and the number of new STCs raised in a given year<sup>30</sup>, i.e., overtime, an increased number of notifications does not necessarily translate into a higher number of STCs. Up to date, only 209 (39%) STCs discussed refer to a notification circulated by Members. As a specific example, while 10,005 (51%) of the regular notifications submitted since 1995 refer to food safety (see [Section 2.3.5](#) in Part A), only 33% of the STCs relate to food safety (see [Chart B.4](#)). This example reinforces the idea that increased transparency does not necessarily lead to a higher number of concerns raised in the Committee.

**Chart B.3 - Notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) and new STCs raised since 1995<sup>31</sup>**



3.7. [Chart B.4](#) categorizes the 532 STCs raised since 1995 into food safety, animal or plant health, or other concerns. Overall, 179 (34%) of STCs raised relate primarily to food safety, 175 (33%) to animal health and zoonoses, 119 (22%) to plant health, and 59 (11%) to other issues such as certification requirements, control or inspection procedures. These statistics are summarized in [Table B.1](#).

**Chart B.4 – STCs by subject (1995-2021)**



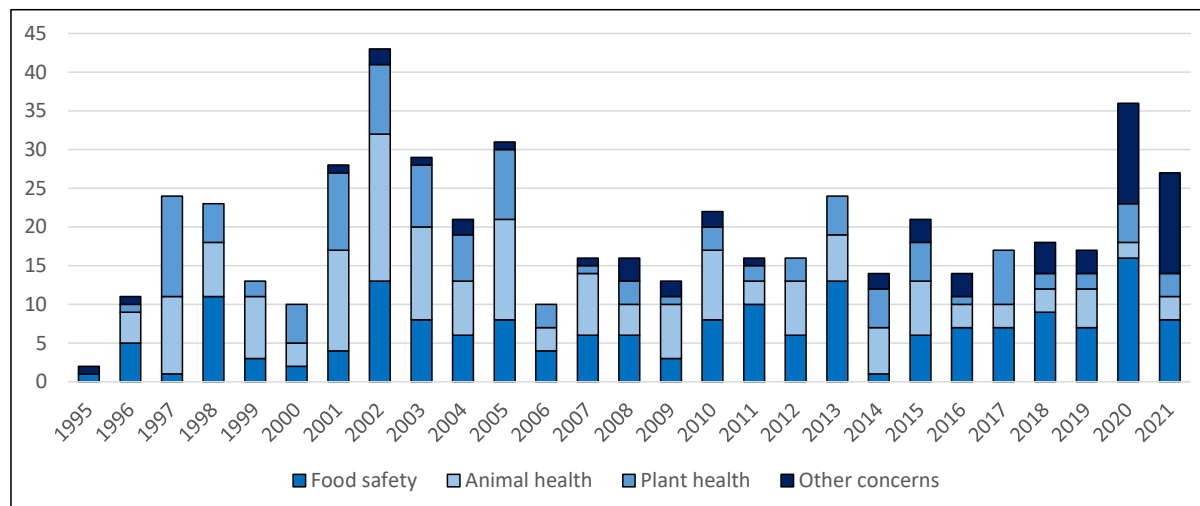
<sup>29</sup> See [Chart A.1](#).

<sup>30</sup> See [Chart B.1](#).

<sup>31</sup> Please note the different scales of the axis.

3.8. There does not seem to be a clear pattern in the primary subject keywords of new STCs submitted since 1995. Overall, food safety has been the most frequent primary keyword of new STCs raised in recent years, alternating with animal health. In general, plant health is the less frequently assigned primary subject keyword of new STCs since 2000 ([Chart B.5](#)).

**Chart B.5 - Primary subject keywords of new STCs per year**



3.9. Interestingly, in recent years STCs related to other concerns have considerably increased, and this has been the primary subject keyword assigned to almost half of the new STCs discussed in 2021. Specifically, the percentage of STCs relating to other concerns has increase from 18% in 2019 to 48% in 2021 (see [Section 3.2](#) and [Chart B.15](#) below). Furthermore, since 1995, 125 (23%) of the 532 new STCs raised by Members include "Control, inspection and approval procedures" among the relevant keywords, and this figure increases to 36 (45%) of the 80 new STCs raised since 2019. The discussions in the Working Group on Approval Procedures, established in November 2020<sup>32</sup>, may contribute to addressing concerns in this context.

3.10. On average, STCs have been raised 2.8 times. Comparing the number of times that STCs relevant to the different primary subjects have been raised per year since 1995, those relating to food safety and animal health have been raised the greatest number of times, on average approximately 3 times. STCs relating to plant health and other concerns have been raised on average 2.6 times.<sup>33</sup> These statistics are summarized in [Table B.1](#).

3.11. Charts B.6 to B.9 reflect the number of issues<sup>34</sup> raised by Members at SPS Committee meetings, which are then numbered under STCs, categorized by development status. As such, the same issue can be raised by more than one Member, in which case it is grouped under the same STC number. Developing Members are participating actively under the agenda item on STCs. [Chart B.6](#) indicates that, since 1995, developing Members have raised 360 issues, compared to 294 issues raised by developed Members, and ten issues raised by least-developed Members.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>32</sup> The Working Group on Approval Procedures was launched following a recommendation in the Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement. See documents [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

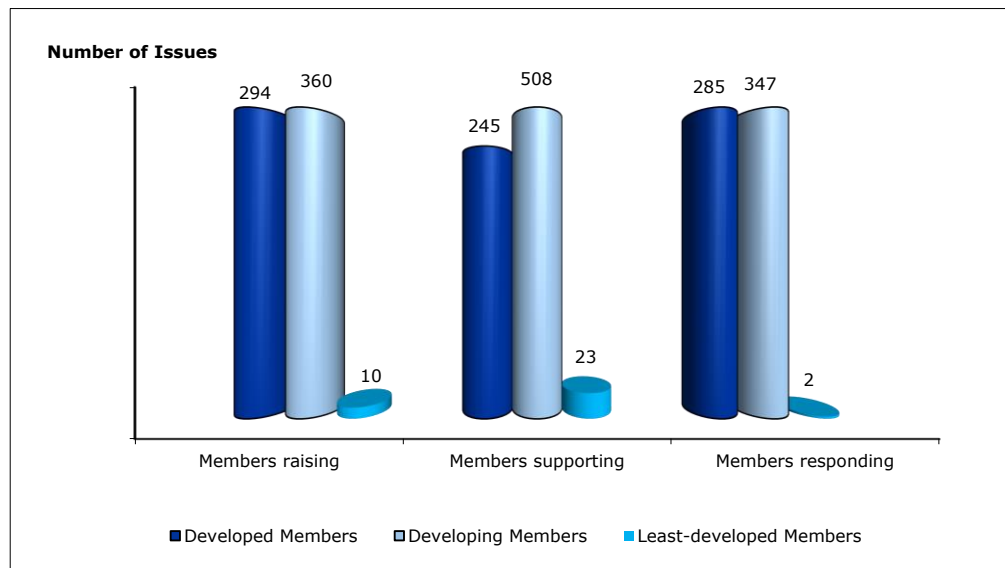
<sup>33</sup> The Committee meeting where the STC was raised only to inform of its resolution is not taken into account in these calculations.

<sup>34</sup> One "issue" refers to the participation of one Member in an STC. As such, the participation of two Members in raising (or supporting) the same concern would be considered as two issues and, likewise, the participation of one single Member in raising (or supporting) two different trade concerns would be considered as two issues. Consequently, in this document the number of issues is significantly higher than the number of STCs.

<sup>35</sup> On 1 December 2009, the *Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community* (done at Lisbon, 13 December 2007) entered into force. On 29 November 2009, the WTO received a Verbal Note ([WT/L/779](#)) from the Council of the European Union and the Commission of the European Communities stating that, by virtue of the *Treaty of Lisbon*, the European Union replaces and succeeds the European Community. However, the European Union is referred to as the European Community

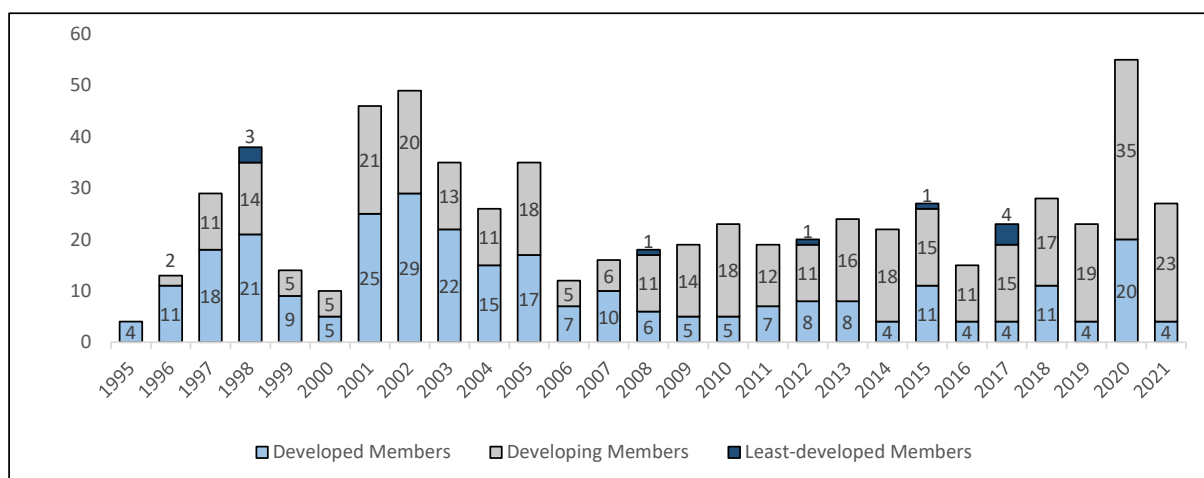
A developing Member has supported another Member raising an issue 508 times, compared to 245 times developed Members supported an issue, and 23 times least-developed Members supported an issue. A total of 347 issues related to measures maintained by a developing Member, and 285 to measures maintained by a developed Member. Two issues have been raised regarding measures maintained by a least-developed Member. Overall, the number of issues involving developing Members is much higher than those involving developed Members.

**Chart B.6 – Number of issues according to the development status of Members, since 1995**



3.12. Specifically, when looking at the annual break-down of the number of issues raised and supported by Members, a difference can be observed between developing and developed Members, in particular, in the number of developing, compared to developed, Members supporting STCs. Participation of developing Members has been consistently higher than that of developed Members since 2008 ([Charts B.7](#) and [B.8](#)). Although there may not be a direct link, a similar pattern was observed for regular notifications submitted.<sup>36</sup> Finally, regarding the development status of Members responding to a new STC, we find a similar trend since 2006 ([Chart B.9](#)).

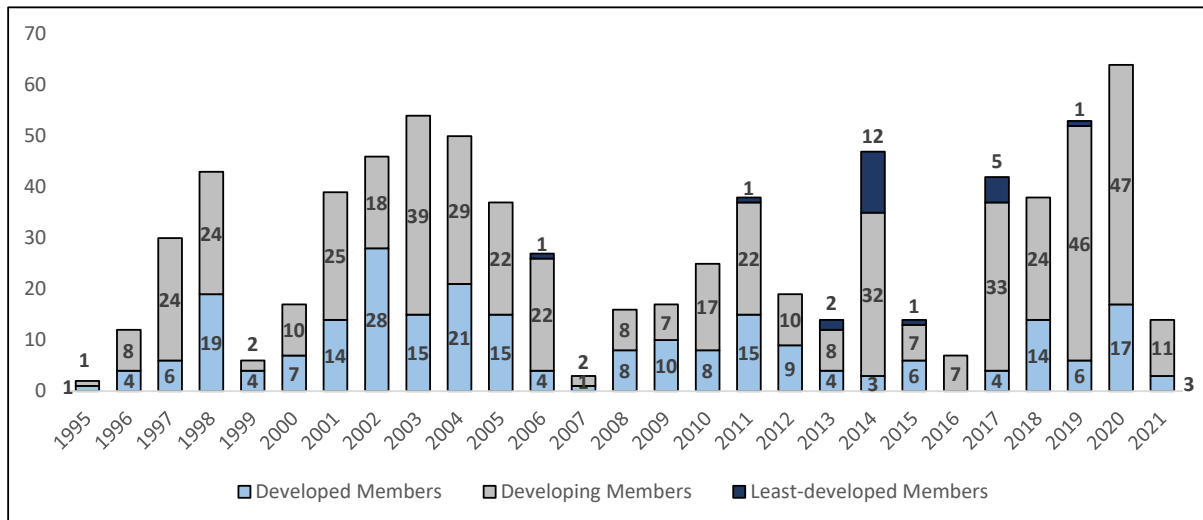
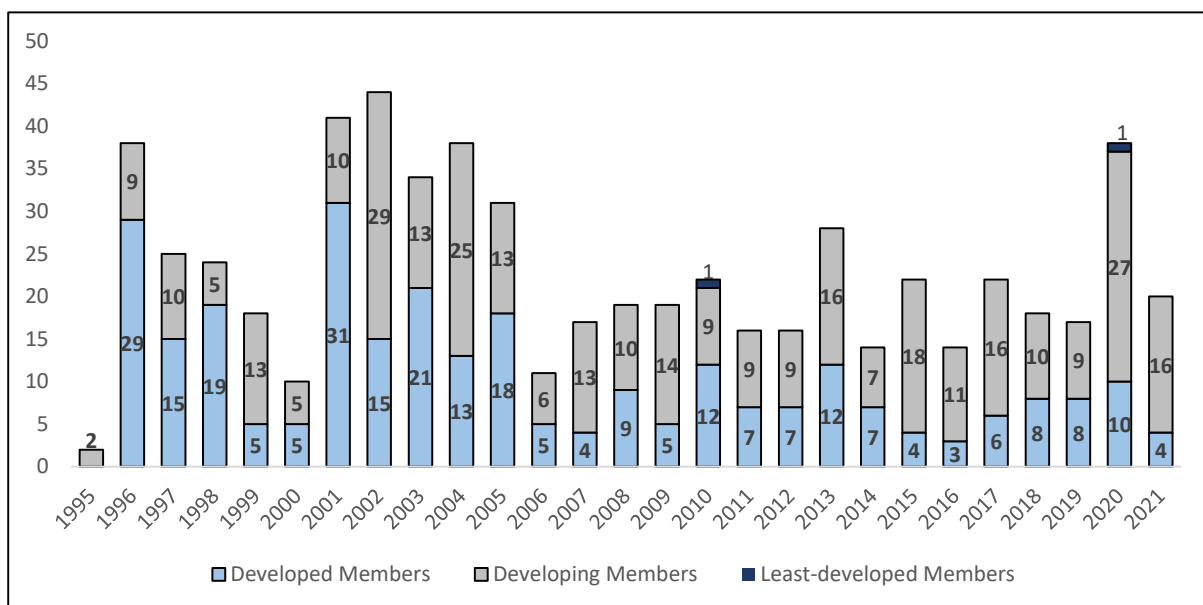
**Chart B.7 – New issues according to the development status of the Member raising the STC**



when an STC was raised or discussed before 1 December 2009. The European Union is counted as one Member. Similarly, when one Member speaks on behalf of ASEAN, it is counted as one Member only.

<sup>36</sup> See [Chart A.2](#).



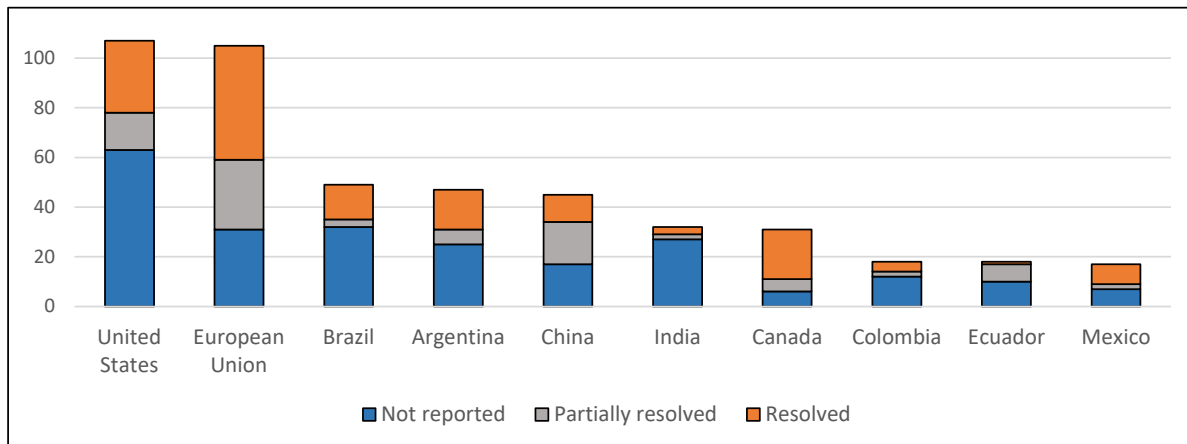
**Chart B.8 – New issues according to the development status of the Member supporting the STC****Chart B.9 – New issues according to the development status of the Member responding to an STC**

3.13. A total of 65 Members (40% of the membership) have raised at least one STC since 1995. This figure has not changed since 2018. This includes 18 developed Members (including eight EU member States), 43 developing Members and four LDCs. A total of 78 Members have supported at least one STC since 1995 (13 developed Members -including three EU member States-, 51 developing Members and 14 LDCs). A total of 75 Members' measures have been subject to an STC at least once (24 developed Members -including three EU member States-, 49 developing and two LDCs). These numbers confirm that developing Members and LDCs are very active in the SPS Committee.

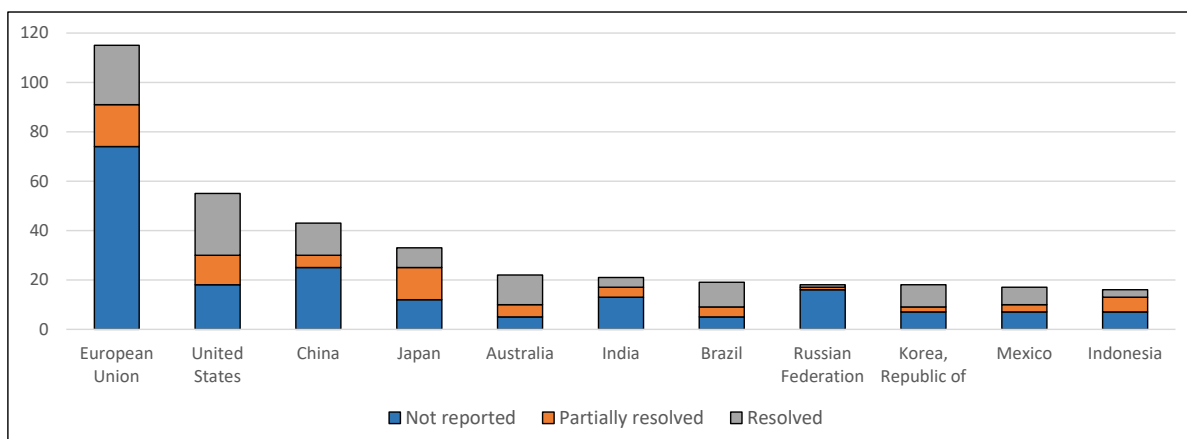
3.14. Charts [B.10](#) and [B.11](#) show the ten Members that have raised the highest number of new concerns and the ten Members that have the highest number of measures subject to an STC, respectively, since 1995 up to the last Committee meeting in November 2021. Out of the 10 Members that have raised the highest number of STCs since 1995, three are developed Members and the remaining seven are developing Members. When it comes to Members responding to STCs, four are developed and six are developing Members. [Chart B.10](#) shows that, in some cases,

more than 80% of the STCs raised have been resolved or partially resolved. Of the total number of STCs raised by these top 10 Members, 207 (51%) are either resolved or partially resolved. In the case of the seven developing Members, this corresponds to 87 (42%) of the STCs raised.<sup>37</sup>

**Chart B.10 - Members who have raised the most STCs since 1995**

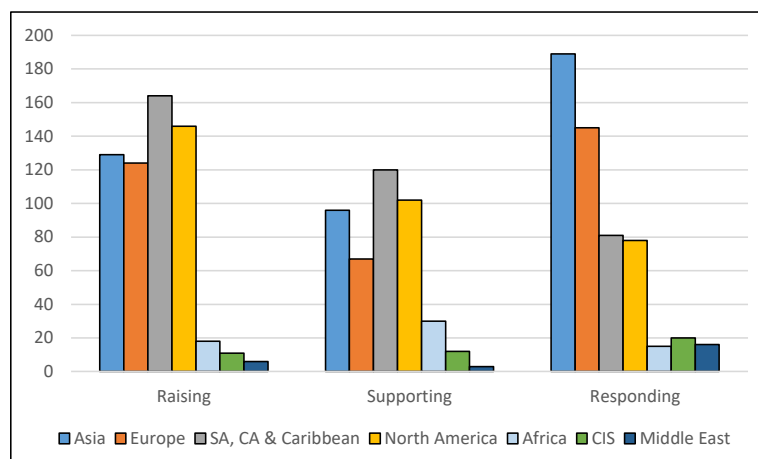


**Chart B.11 - Members responding to the most STCs since 1995**

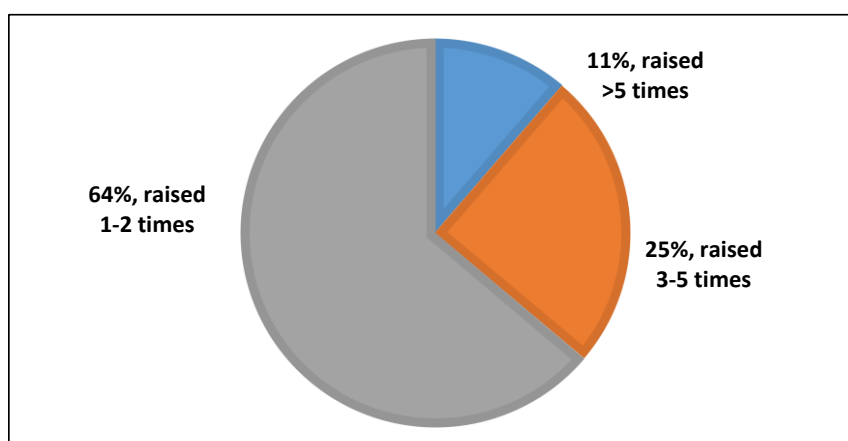


3.15. [Chart B.12](#) shows that South America, Central America and the Caribbean is the region that has raised more STCs since 1995, followed by North America. Asia is the region responding to a higher number of STCs, followed by Europe. Finally, South America, Central America and the Caribbean is also the region that most frequently supports STCs. Although Asia also seems to be the region that has submitted the highest number of notifications (see [Chart A.5](#)) since 1995, there seems to be no clear correlation between the number of notifications submitted and the number of STCs raised or supported nor the measures maintained subject to an STC.

<sup>37</sup> Members can report on the resolution of STCs under the corresponding agenda item in the SPS Committee. Where an STC has been raised by more than one Member but not all those who raised the STC have reported it to be resolved, the STC is considered to be partially resolved. Also, for partially resolved STCs, for the concern may have been resolved for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure in question.

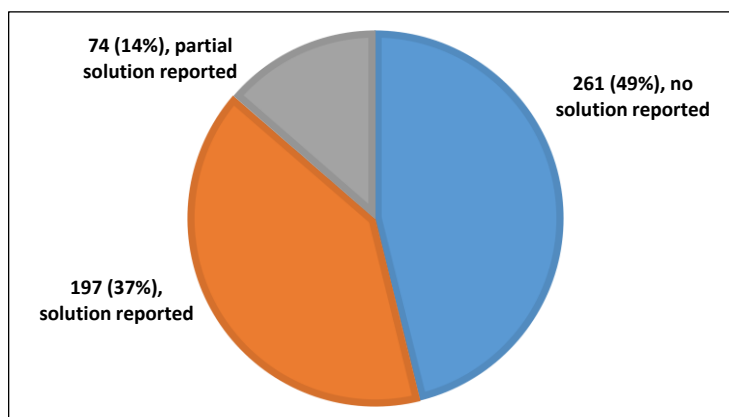
**Chart B.12 – STCs by geographical region since 1995**

3.16. [Chart B.13](#) shows the number of times STCs have been raised since 1995.<sup>38</sup> A total of 340 (64%) have only been raised one or two times, 135 (25%) have been raised three to five times and only 57 (11%) have been raised more than five times. Of the 261 STCs for which no solution has been reported, 156 (61%) have only been raised once (excluding the seven raised for the first time at the November 2021 Committee meeting). Some of these STCs may have been resolved without the Committee being informed.

**Chart B.13 - Average number of times STCs have been raised since 1995**

3.17. [Chart B.14](#) shows that out of the 532 STCs raised since 1995, 197 (37%) and 74 (14%) have been reported to be resolved and partially resolved, respectively. In the case of the partially resolved STCs, the concern may have been resolved for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure(s) in question. No solutions have been reported for the remaining 261 (49%) STCs. Thus, more than 50% of the STCs raised have been resolved or partially resolved. Specifically, 44% of STCs raised by developing Members are considered to be resolved or partially resolved. These data confirm the importance of the Committee for the resolution of trade concerns.

<sup>38</sup> These figures do not include the time the STC was raised in the Committee to report on its resolution.

**Chart B.14 – Resolution of STCs**

3.18. On average, resolved STCs were raised 2.4 times. Of the 197 STCs for which a solution has been reported, 82 (42%) relate to animal health, 57 (29%) to plant health, 47 (24%) to food safety, and 11 (5%) to other concerns. It is interesting to note that STCs relating to plant health issues represent 22% of the total number of STCs raised since 1995 ([Chart B.4](#)), while they correspond to 29% of the STCs reported as resolved. On the contrary, while STCs relate to food safety and animal health in similar proportion (33% in both cases), STCs relating to animal health represent almost double (42%) of the STCs reported as resolved compared to those relating to food safety (24%). STCs relating to other concerns represent 11% of the total, and 5% of the STCs reported as resolved. These statistics are summarized in [Table B.1](#).

**Table B.1 - Summary of statistics on resolution of STCs, by primary subject keyword**

Primary keyword subject	Food safety	Animal health	Plant health	Other concerns	All STCs
All STCs	179 (34%)	175 (33%)	119 (22%)	59 (11%)	532
Number of times raised (average)	3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.8
STCs reported as resolved (R)	47 (24%)	82 (42%)	57 (29%)	11 (5%)	197 (37%)
Number of times R STCs have been raised	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.4
Partially resolved (PR) STCs	24 (32%)	30 (41%)	16 (22%)	4 (5%)	74 (14%)
Number of times PR STCs have been raised	2.8	4.8	3.5	3.2	3.8
STCs for which no solution has been reported (NR)	108 (41%)	63 (24%)	46 (18%)	44 (17%)	261 (49%)
Number of times NR STCs have been raised	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.9

### 3.2 Specific trade concerns considered in 2021

3.19. A total of 64 STCs were brought to the attention of the Committee during 2021, of which 27 were new STCs and 50 had been raised previously ([Table B.2](#)). Thirteen STCs raised for the first time in 2021 were again discussed in subsequent meetings during the same year. In 2021, one STC was considered as resolved and another as partially resolved (see [Section 3.2.1](#) below). Substantive action occurred under the DSU in the case of five STCs (N° [185](#), N° [369](#), N° [394](#), N° [432](#) and N° [495](#)) ([Table B.3](#)).

3.20. Fewer new STCs were raised in 2021 than in 2020, despite the fact that only two meetings were held that year ([Chart B.1](#)).<sup>39</sup> The number of new STCs raised in 2021 was the second highest after 2020, in any given year since 2003, and the third highest since 1995. On the other hand, the 50 STCs previously raised discussed again in 2021 represent a historical maximum ([Chart B.2](#)). Thirty-seven (74%) of these 50 STCs were raised for the first time less than three years ago, while only 13 have been discussed for longer. Half of these 50 STCs have been discussed less than 4 times since they were raised. One of these STCs, considered to be partially resolved (see [Section 3.2.1](#)), has been raised 43 times.

3.21. Despite the high number of notifications circulated every year ([Chart A.1](#)), only four of the 27 new STCs raised in 2021 referred specifically to SPS notifications submitted in 2020 or in 2021. For instance, despite the high number of COVID-19 related SPS notifications and documents submitted since the beginning of the pandemic ([Chart A.27](#)), only four new COVID-19 related STCs have been raised in 2020 and 2021.<sup>40</sup>

3.22. Despite the mostly virtual or hybrid character of the 2021 meetings and the fact that delegates were not gathering in Geneva, several STCs were removed either before the adoption of the agenda or during the Committee meetings due to progress in bilateral consultations. In particular, in March 2021 Viet Nam withdrew an STC regarding Brazil's regulation on the use of phosphates for fishery products, product registration before export and heat treatment regime for cooked shrimps, due to progress in bilateral consultations. Similarly, Brazil withdrew its STCs regarding Viet Nam's restrictions on live cattle and Viet Nam's restrictions on melon.<sup>41</sup> In November 2021, before the adoption of the agenda China withdrew a new STC regarding Japan's pesticide maximum residue limits for honey, and Japan withdrew a previously raised STC on Thailand's phytosanitary restrictions on imports of fresh citrus fruits due to sweet orange scab. Similarly, Guatemala withdrew STCs 474 and 475 on the modification of EU MRLs for plant protection products on chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl, and mancozeb, respectively, and merged its intervention under [STC 448](#).<sup>42</sup>

3.23. As mentioned earlier, a total of 64 (new and previously raised) STCs were discussed in 2021. [Table B.2](#) provides further information on Members' participation in these STCs, i.e. the Members raising, supporting or responding to concerns. In 2021, 25 Members (15% of the membership) raised at least one STC, including 14 Members that raised at least one new STC and 23 that raised at least one previously raised STC. Of these, five (20%) are developed Members and the remaining 20 (80%) are developing Members, suggesting that these Members value the Committee as a forum to discuss trade concerns. Three previously raised STCs, discussed four, nine and 21 times, have gathered the support of ten Members or more.<sup>43</sup> Concerning Members responding, the 27 new STCs were raised against measures maintained by 14 Members (one developed and 13 developing Members). The 50 previously discussed STCs were raised against measures maintained by 18 Members, including two developed and 16 developing Members. Additionally, one STC was raised again against measures maintained by 19 Members.

3.24. Out of the 27 new STCs raised in 2021, eight (30%) relate primarily to food safety. Three (11%) others relate primarily to animal health and zoonoses<sup>44</sup>, noting that this category includes issues that are also relevant from a food safety perspective. Three (11%) other STCs relate to plant health, and the highest number of STCs, 13 (48%), refer to other concerns. [Chart B.15](#) shows all new and previous STCs raised in the Committee in 2021 compared to all STCs discussed between 1995 and 2020, by primary subject keywords assigned. These data show a sharp increase in the percentage of new STCs related to other concerns, which increased from 36% in 2019 to 44% in 2020 and 48% in 2021. While the percentage of new and previously raised STCs relating to food safety discussed in 2021 is similar to the average until the end of 2021, the percentage of

<sup>39</sup> The March 2020 Committee meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see document [JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1](#)).

<sup>40</sup> These STCs were [487](#) and [488](#), raised in 2020, and [506](#) and [507](#), raised in 2021.

<sup>41</sup> See paragraph 3.1 in document [G/SPS/R/101](#). These three STCs had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/13](#).

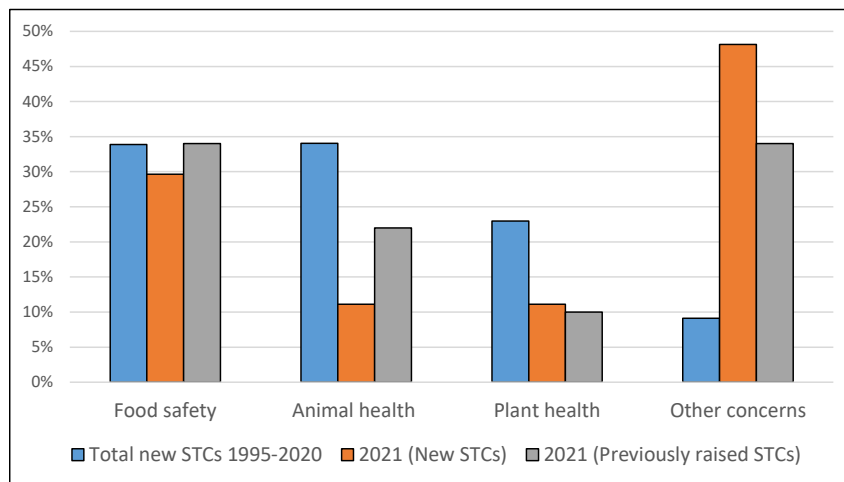
<sup>42</sup> See paragraph 3.1 in document [G/SPS/R/104](#). These STCs had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/17](#).

<sup>43</sup> STCs [501](#), [448](#) and [382](#) respectively.

<sup>44</sup> Among the new STCs raised in 2021, one refers to acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) ([507](#)), and two refer to foot and mouth disease ([510](#) and [522](#)). These three STCs were first raised and subsequently discussed in 2021. Additionally, other previously raised STCs related to ASF ([392](#), [393](#) and [466](#)), BSE ([193](#)), avian influenza ([406](#), [431](#) and [456](#)) and foot and mouth disease ([489](#)).

STCs related to animal and plant health discussed in 2021 is considerably lower compared to all STCs discussed between 1995 and 2020.

**Chart B.15 – New and previous STCs raised in 2021, by primary subject keywords, compared to all STCs raised between 1995 and 2020 (percentage)**



3.25. Taking a closer look at the new "Other concerns" raised in 2021, two developed Members have raised such concerns, compared to seven developing Members. The measures raised were maintained by one developed Member, seven developing Members and one LDC. The keywords "Control, inspection and approval procedures" was assigned to 12 (92%) of the STCs, and "Undue delays" and "Risk assessment" each applied to nine (69%) of the 13 STCs. A more detailed analysis of the 17 previously raised STCs related to other concerns shows that these were also raised by five developed Members and seven developing Members on measures maintained by two developed Members and nine developing Members. The keywords most frequently assigned to these STCs were "Control, inspection and approval procedures" (15 STCs, 88%), undue delays (5 STCs, 93%) and risk assessment (14 STCs, 82%).

### 3.2.1 Resolution of STCs in 2021

3.26. In July 2021, the European Union informed the Committee that [STC 193](#) was considered as resolved for the following Members: the Philippines; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Turkey; and Ukraine. This STC has been raised 43 times. In November 2021, Mexico informed the Committee of the resolution of [STC 515](#), related to Panama's authorization of Federal Inspection Type establishments. This STC has been raised three times. [Table B.2](#) indicates the STCs reported as resolved or partially resolved in 2021.<sup>45</sup>

## 4 PART C – OTHER TRANSPARENCY-RELATED ASPECTS

### 4.1 Transparency recommendations in the Fifth Review

4.1. The Report of the Fifth Review on the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement<sup>46</sup> was adopted at the June 2020 Committee meeting. The Report contains the following recommendation on Notification Procedures and Transparency (paragraph 7.13):

- a. Members are encouraged to clearly indicate in their SPS Committee notifications when a measure has been notified to another Committee.<sup>47</sup> Members should include this

<sup>45</sup> As per footnote 37, where an STC has been raised by more than one Member but not all those who raised the STC have reported it to be resolved, the STC is considered to be partially resolved. Also, in partially resolved STCs, trade may have been allowed for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure in question.

<sup>46</sup> [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

<sup>47</sup> Please refer to section 2.7 of the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (Article 7) in document [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#), which also makes reference to notifying a regulation containing SPS and TBT measures under both the SPS and TBT Agreements.

information under the point of the notification format titled "Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available".

4.2. The Report also contains the following recommendations on National SPS Coordination Mechanisms (paragraph 6.7):

- a. Members are encouraged to implement appropriate national coordination mechanisms to enable consultation and communication between relevant technical and trade policy experts to enable the development of coordinated SPS positions that are consistent with the obligations of the SPS Agreement. Members are further encouraged to consider ways to strengthen internal coordination on SPS matters.
- b. Members should continue to share experiences on their national coordination mechanisms and discuss strategies and approaches to improve SPS coordination and engagement at the national level with the aim of strengthening implementation of the SPS Agreement, including resolving specific trade concerns.
- c. The Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a collection of resources that can be useful for Members in implementing their national coordination mechanisms, starting with those mentioned at the 2019 Workshop on Transparency and Coordination, and including additional resources as suggested by Members.

4.3. Following the recommendation in paragraph 6.7 c), the Secretariat circulated in October 2020 a compilation document for Members' comments. A first revision of the document, incorporating Member's comments, was circulated in February 2021 and presented in the March 2021 Committee meeting.<sup>48</sup>

## 4.2 Improvement of SPS IT tools and materials

4.4. This section presents various SPS IT tools and transparency-related resources. In light of the steadily increasing volume of documents, managing the flow of notifications, and coordinating at the national level on SPS matters is a challenge for many Members. This is one of the areas where Members have sought technical assistance and guidance on best practices.<sup>49</sup>

4.5. The WTO Secretariat regularly provides hands-on training on all its tools, as part of its technical assistance programmes.<sup>50</sup> According to the 2015 questionnaire on transparency, the majority of respondents expressed a need for technical assistance to enhance their transparency mechanisms, and Members that received such technical assistance reported it to be very useful.<sup>51</sup> Some Members significantly increase their notification activity following a dedicated training on transparency. Similarly, some Members have updated the contact details of their NNAs and NEPs available in the SPS IMS and ePing, further facilitating communication between Members.

4.6. Additionally, transparency workshops, usually organized every other year, have provided highly interactive training on the use of the SPS IMS, SPS NSS and ePing. Likewise, these dedicated trainings have also led to an increased use of these tools. The last Workshop focusing exclusively on transparency was held in Geneva on 30 and 31 October 2017.<sup>52</sup> Within the framework of the Fifth Review, a Workshop on Transparency and Coordination took place on 15 and 16 July 2019, in the margins of the SPS Committee meeting.<sup>53</sup> All the information from previous workshops and thematic sessions on transparency is available in the revamped [Members' transparency toolkit](#) on

<sup>48</sup> The document was circulated as [G/SPS/GEN/1850](#), subsequently revised ([G/SPS/GEN/1850/Rev.1](#)).

<sup>49</sup> See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on the Operation of Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities ([G/SPS/GEN/751/Rev.1](#)) for further elaboration on this issue.

<sup>50</sup> See the latest version of the [G/SPS/GEN/521](#) document series.

<sup>51</sup> See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on Transparency under the SPS Agreement, ([G/SPS/GEN/1402](#), paras. 3.29 and 3.30) for further elaboration on this point.

<sup>52</sup> Information on this Workshop is available in [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/wkshopttransparency\\_oct17\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/wkshopttransparency_oct17_e.htm). The report is contained in document [G/SPS/R/89](#).

<sup>53</sup> The programme of the Workshop is contained in [G/SPS/GEN/1694/Rev.2](#). A report of the Workshop can be found in [G/SPS/R/96](#).



the SPS gateway. At the November 2021 Committee meeting, Members agreed to hold the next workshop on transparency in June 2022.<sup>54</sup>

#### **4.2.1 Integration of SPS and TBT IT tools – the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform**

4.7. The Secretariat is currently undertaking a project to integrate all SPS and TBT tools into a single platform, to allow for cross-cutting searches. The new platform will allow access to the different functions (submission of notifications, searching notifications and STCs, creating reports, etc.), depending on differentiated users' rights. This will allow the extraction of data from a single source, reducing errors and maintenance costs. Additionally, the WTO Secretariat is working towards the creation of a single sign-on system that will give access to all WTO databases to which a user has rights with a single pair of credentials. The following paragraphs summarize the functions that will be integrated in the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform.<sup>55</sup> In the SPS and TBT Committees, Members have been regularly informed of progress made in the implementation of this project.

##### **4.2.1.2 Searches**

###### **4.2.1.2.1 Notifications and STCs**

4.8. The new platform will integrate and improve the search functions for notifications and STCs currently available in the SPS IMS. Likewise, contact details of NNAs and NEPs, currently available in the SPS IMS and ePing, will also be available in the new platform.

4.9. Users will be able to search for SPS and TBT notifications together, as well as to perform more specific searches based on the information contained in the notification templates of each domain. Since notifications are increasingly being submitted online (see [Section 4.2.1.4](#)), the information available will be more complete and harmonized, further improving the quality of searches. Members will be able to register to the platform to have access to advanced functions, such as saving filters, defining favourite documents, or accessing chats previously available in the [ePing alert system](#).

4.10. Concerning searches on STCs, the integrated platform will mirror the data available in the WTO [Trade Concerns Database \(TCD\)](#), available to Members in beta version since February 2021.<sup>56</sup> This advanced analytical tool for STCs integrates concerns raised in the SPS and TBT Committees, as well as in the Committee on Market Access. It may incorporate concerns raised in other WTO bodies in the future. The mirroring of the TCD in the new integrated platform allows for data to be extracted from a single source, ensuring consistency and reducing maintenance costs and errors. For more advanced searches, the new platform will redirect users to the TDC, which contains more granular information, organized on a per meeting basis, facilitating in-depth analysis and reporting. The database includes Member profiles and allows users to explore and visualize results by objectives, keywords, and HS codes, among other options. This analytical tool is fed from the data available in [eAgenda](#) and has been manually completed with historical data on trade concerns available in the summary reports of the Committee meetings, currently searchable through the SPS IMS.

4.11. The new integrated platform also includes the possibility to search both notifications and STCs at the same time. At a future stage, users will also have the possibility to search for other SPS documents, which are currently searchable through the SPS IMS.

###### **4.2.1.3 ePing alert system**

4.12. The functions currently available in the [ePing alert system](#) will be integrated and enhanced in the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform. As such, the new platform will include a publicly available alert system for SPS and TBT notifications. By filling a registration form, users will be able to indicate particular products and/or markets of interest to them, and can subscribe to receive email alerts

<sup>54</sup> See paragraph 4.18 in document [G/SPS/R/104](#).

<sup>55</sup> Currently, the [Practical Manual for NNAs and NEPs](#), first circulated in 2011 and revised in 2018, offers guidance for governments to facilitate the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement. The Secretariat prepared an [overview of the transparency tools](#). These materials will be reviewed in light of the on-going development on IT tools.

<sup>56</sup> The WTO TCD was launched in beta version in the margins of the February 2021 TBT Committee meeting and presented to the SPS Committee at its March 2021 meeting.

regarding SPS and TBT notifications. In addition, users will continue to be able to share notifications, upload additional information and related documents, as well as participate in discussion forums. An enquiry point management tool will continue to be available to facilitate domestic as well as international information sharing and discussion on notifications. Users with admin rights will also have access to a chat function to discuss topics of their choice, whether related to a specific notification or not. As such, the system will continue to help public and private stakeholders, in particular small and medium enterprises, to track, consult and comment on measures that are being developed and adapt as necessary to changing regulatory conditions.

4.13. In 2021, the Secretariat undertook a survey to get better insights on the use of the ePing alert system, and how it can be improved. The results of the survey reflect an overall user satisfaction as well as some concrete suggestions for further improvements. Overall, users appreciate receiving daily or weekly alerts. Several responses indicated the development of an ePing app as the main enhancement that would further improve ePing services. More information is available in document [G/SPS/GEN/1933](#); [G/TBT/GEN/317](#). A new app is currently under development, that would allow users to access some of the functionalities of the Platform.

4.14. As of 31 December 2021, the number of subscribers had grown to 15,443 (including 6,204 users from private sector) from 184 countries, up from 12,360 users (including 4,932 users from the private sector) from 182 countries at the end of 2020. Some of these users registered after a TA activity had been delivered in their country or their region, confirming the efficiency of TA activities to spread the word about ePing and get users started with the registration process and the subscription to receive email alerts. 82% of users receive daily or weekly email alerts of SPS and TBT notifications. Some additional functionalities, such as the national and international discussion fora and the chat for users with admin rights, are also of interest to many Members. In total, there are 274 ePing admin users registered on ePing, covering 113 countries and territories. In the case of SPS, a total of 139 admin users from 76 countries are registered.

4.15. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the keywords COVID-19 SPS and COVID-19 TBT were created and assigned to relevant notifications, and ePing users can search for these notifications and also receive alerts by email.<sup>57</sup>

#### 4.2.1.4 Online submission of notifications

4.16. Currently, Members can easily and accurately complete and submit all SPS notification formats online using the [Notification Submission System \(SPS NSS\)](#). This will now be one of the functions accessible through the integrated platform, and SPS NSS will be discontinued. Through online submission, Members can be more precise in their notifications, which can then be processed more quickly, making documents accessible to the membership faster. The SPS NSS was improved in 2017, and again in 2020 to include all versions of the Harmonized System (HS). The submission of notifications through the new platform will provide the same functions as the SPS NSS, with improved and streamlined processes. Increased online submission helps improving the amount and the quality of information provided by Members in the various notification formats, as well as the accuracy of the information available for searches. Interested Members may request login names and access passwords for their NNAs, as well as personalized training on the SPS NSS, from the Secretariat. Since the credentials currently provided to Members are generic (one set of credentials per Member)<sup>58</sup>, new individual credentials will have to be generated upon the launch of the new platform. An [audio-visual guide](#) explaining the use of the NSS is available for Members (in English). New materials will be developed in due course.

4.17. Since its creation, the use of the SPS NSS has constantly increased. This system has also been included in numerous virtual training activities on transparency delivered in 2021, contributing to improve national coordination in some Members.<sup>59</sup> Similarly, some regional groupings are currently submitting joint notifications through the SPS NSS, and several regions are exploring the possibility of doing so. To date, 100 Members have received credentials to access the SPS NSS, and

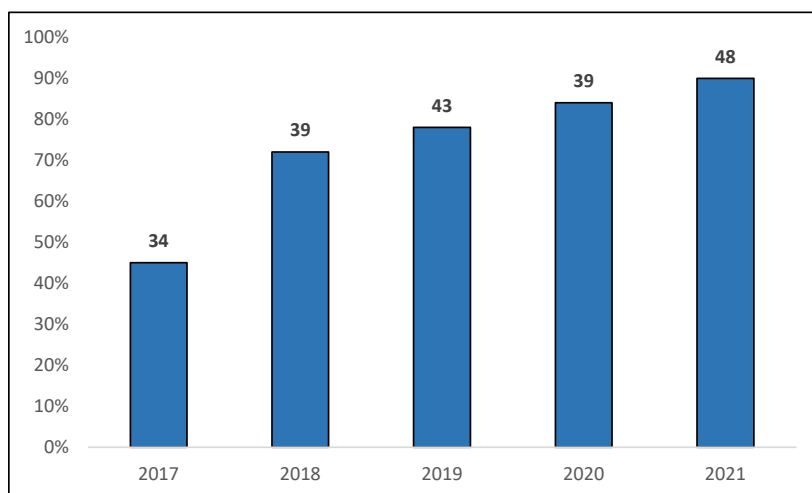
<sup>57</sup> A tutorial on how to create a filter for COVID-19 related SPS and TBT notifications is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob5ou6rYYH0&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob5ou6rYYH0&feature=emb_title).

<sup>58</sup> Currently, two different usernames and passwords are provided (a *submitting* username and a *secondary* username). Only the submitting username allows to officially submit the notification to the CRN, but the secondary username allows other individuals to enter information and review the draft notification.

<sup>59</sup> See the latest version of the [G/SPS/GEN/521](#) document series.

65 of these have officially submitted notifications through the system. Following the Secretariat's initiative to promote the use of the SPS NSS among the most frequent notifiers, in 2021 two additional Members have started using the SPS NSS to submit their notifications. In 2021, about 90% of notifications (6% more than in 2020), by 48 Members, were submitted via the SPS NSS. Since 2017, the percentage of SPS notifications submitted through the online platform has risen from 45% in 2017 to 90% in 2021 ([Chart C.1](#)).

**Chart C.1 – Percentage of notifications submitted via the SPS NSS since 2017, and number of Members using the system per year<sup>60</sup>**



#### 4.2.1.5 Facts and Figures

4.18. In this tab of the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform, users will have the option to visualize more detailed analysis. An overview of Members profiles will include the NNA and NEPs contact details, and a graphical visualisation of the Member's notification activity, including details on HS codes associated with SPS notifications. Likewise, information of a Member's involvement in STCs will also be available, extracting the data from the TCD. Users will also have the option to view more detailed analysis on notifications and STCs.

#### 4.2.2 eAgenda

4.19. The eAgenda is a collaborative online platform developed by the WTO to support the work of the SPS, TBT and Market Access Committees. This platform allows Members, ahead of a meeting, to insert interventions under any item in the proposed agenda, including to raise and support STCs. Members can also upload statements that are shared with all users in real time, significantly contributing to increased transparency prior to the meeting. While it will remain a stand-alone platform, eAgenda users will be able to reach the system from the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform without having to log in again.

4.20. The SPS eAgenda was pilot-tested in February 2020 by nine Members and actively used for the first time during the June 2020 SPS Committee meeting. Since November 2020, the SPS eAgenda platform is regularly used by most Members to add agenda items, raise STCs and upload statements. In November 2021, most agenda items and STCs raised were included directly by Members in eAgenda, increasing transparency ahead of the meeting and leading to efficiency gains in the preparation of the annotated draft agenda by the Secretariat.

4.21. Since March 2021, Members have the possibility to support STCs and other agenda items through eAgenda until they are discussed in the formal meeting, provided that these STCs and agenda items were already raised by another Member before the deadline established. As per the usual procedure, Members are also able to support items orally during the Committee meeting. Members can add other items to the agenda (apart from STCs and items under monitoring of the

<sup>60</sup> For comparison, [Chart A.1](#) shows the number of Members who have submitted at least one notification in a given year.

use of international standards) at the beginning of the formal meeting, before adoption of the agenda. Only Members who take the floor during the meeting are reflected in eAgenda and their oral statements recorded in the summary report of the meeting. Most Members uploaded a detailed statement relative to the oral interventions made in SPS Committee meetings.

4.22. As of 31 December 2021, more than 300 users from 77 Members were registered in SPS eAgenda, of which 118 (39%) had reading rights only, allowing them to consult the proposed agenda for the meeting without being able to raise items nor upload statements. In 2021, the Secretariat included eAgenda in several technical assistance activities and remains available to provide additional training upon request.

### 4.3 Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

4.23. In November 2021, the STDF launched a new [practical guide on the use of Good Regulatory Practices \(GRPs\)](#)<sup>61</sup> to strengthen and improve the design, development and review of SPS measures. The guide includes a focus on transparency, which is a cross-cutting principle of GRPs and relevant throughout the regulatory lifecycle of SPS measures. It is embodied in various GRPs, such as stakeholder engagement (e.g., consultations), information dissemination, or cooperation and coordination mechanisms. The guide also provides an overview of the transparency tools available to help with consultations, information dissemination, publication, notifications, etc. WTO Members are encouraged to consult and use the new STDF guide in efforts to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and overall fitness-for-purpose of their SPS measures.

4.24. As part of its [work on Trade Facilitation](#), the STDF has identified a number of experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing transaction costs. The work underlined the importance of transparency on SPS measures. For example, improving clarity on control, inspection and approval procedures is a simple step that can produce big benefits. If producers and traders are to implement SPS measures, they need to understand what they are. Publication of SPS regulations, forms and fees (preferably online) will open up markets and support good governance. The work also highlighted the importance of regular public-private dialogue so that businesses (including MSMEs) know what is required of them, including when SPS regulations or procedures change.

4.25. STDF's [P-IMA framework](#) is also relevant and offers an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes and link SPS investments to public policy goals such as export growth, agricultural productivity or poverty reduction. In this process, P-IMA encourages public-private dialogue, boosts transparency and accountability, and improves the economic efficiency of investment decisions. Other projects developed and financed by the STDF<sup>62</sup> have also resulted in increased transparency levels by promoting inter-agency coordination at the national and/or regional level, and by strengthening linkages between government agencies and the private sector.

4.26. Delegates are invited to contact the STDF Secretariat ([stdfsecretariat@wto.org](mailto:stdfsecretariat@wto.org)) to obtain further information on the work carried out by the Facility.

<sup>61</sup> French and Spanish versions, and a short STDF Briefing Note on GRPs, will become available shortly.

<sup>62</sup> Examples are available here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

**Table B.2 – STCs (new or previously raised) discussed and resolved in the SPS Committee in 2021, organized in alphabetical order of Members responding to the concern<sup>63</sup>**

The table below contains all the STCs, new and previously raised, that were discussed in 2021, organized alphabetically by responding Member. The full list of new STCs raised in 2021 can be accessed [here](#). The full list of previously raised STCs raised again in 2021 can be accessed [here](#).

Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Argentina	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
Australia	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
Bolivia	<a href="#">530</a>	New	Bolivia's import restrictions on agricultural and livestock products	Peru		Plant health	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
Brazil	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
China	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
China	<a href="#">392</a>	Subsequently raised	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union		Animal health	15/07/2015 (12 times)	NR
China	<a href="#">406</a>	Subsequently raised	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union; United States of America		Animal health	16/03/2016 (14 times)	NR
China	<a href="#">485</a>	Subsequently raised	China's administrative measures for registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food (26 November 2019)	Australia; Canada; European Union; Japan; United States of America	Korea, Republic of; Philippines; Switzerland; Thailand; United Kingdom	Other concerns	24/06/2020 (4 times)	NR
China	<a href="#">487</a>	Subsequently raised	China's actions related to COVID-19 that affect trade in food and agricultural products	Australia; Canada; European Union; India; Russian Federation; United States of America	Brazil; Japan; Kenya; Mexico; New Zealand; Paraguay; Switzerland; United Kingdom	Food safety	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
China	<a href="#">506</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	China's proposed new health certificate format for shrimp imports	India		Other concerns	25/03/2021 (1 time)	NR
China	<a href="#">510</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	China's restrictions on bovine meat imports	India		Animal health	25/03/2021 (1 time)	NR

<sup>63</sup> Please note that a hyperlink in the ID number redirects to the corresponding STC in the SPS IMS for further details on the concern.

Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
China	516	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	China's delay in approving requests for new listing and reinstatement of export establishments	Australia; Canada	European Union; United Kingdom	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (2 times)	NR
China	524	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Concerns with transparency, delays and due process associated with China's import requirements for agricultural goods	Australia	Russian Federation	Other concerns	14/07/2021 (1 time)	NR
China	531	New	China's import restrictions on fishery products	Mexico		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
China	532	New	China's import suspension of fresh fruits	Chinese Taipei		Plant health	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
Ecuador	498	Subsequently raised	Ecuador's import restrictions on grapes and onions	Peru		Food safety	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
Egypt	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
European Union	382	Subsequently raised	European Union legislation on endocrine disruptors	Argentina; China; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States of America	Australia; Benin; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Canada; Central African Republic; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Egypt; El Salvador; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Honduras; Indonesia; Israel; Jamaica; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mexico; Mozambique; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Togo; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia	Food safety	25/03/2014 (20 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
European Union	446	Subsequently raised	EU review of legislation on veterinary medicinal products	Argentina; United States of America	Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Japan; Norway; Paraguay; Uruguay	Food safety	12/07/2018 (6 times)	NR
European Union	448	Subsequently raised	EU MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, buprofezin, chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-methyl, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, mancozeb, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxym	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States of America	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; El Salvador; Honduras; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Nicaragua; Peru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Turkey; Uruguay	Food safety	01/11/2018 (8 times)	NR
European Union	475	Subsequently raised	Modification of EU MRLs for plant protection products: Mancozeb	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Paraguay	Argentina; Brazil; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru	Food safety	24/06/2020 (1 time)	NR
European Union	499	Subsequently raised	Request for information on the EU Farm to Fork Strategy	Colombia; Guatemala	Ecuador; Indonesia; Paraguay; Peru	Food safety	05/11/2020 (1 time)	NR
European Union	500	Subsequently raised	EU proposal requiring residue testing of casings	Australia	Ukraine	Food safety	05/11/2020 (1 time)	NR
European Union	502	Subsequently raised	EU restriction on highly refined products imported from China	China		Other concerns	05/11/2020 (1 time)	NR
European Union	503	Subsequently raised	EU restrictions on exports of chocolate and cocoa products due to the application of the Commission Regulation (EU) N° 488/2014 of 12 May 2014 Amending Regulation (EC) N° 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in foodstuff	Peru	Colombia; Ecuador; Indonesia; Malaysia	Food safety	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
European Union	504	Subsequently raised	Proposed new EU rules on composite products	Australia; China; Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei	Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; United States of America	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
European Union	517	New	EU regulation on alpha-cypermethrin	Paraguay	Brazil; Colombia; Ecuador; India; Kenya; Russian Federation	Food safety	14/07/2021 (0 times)	NR



Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
European Union	518	New	EU's classification of 'anthraquinone' as a pesticide and the MRL for imported tea	India		Food safety	14/07/2021 (0 times)	NR
European Union	519	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	EU regulatory approach to maximum levels for contaminants	Canada	United States of America	Food safety	14/07/2021 (1 time)	NR
European Union	520	New	European Commission Regulation on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food	China		Food safety	14/07/2021 (0 times)	NR
European Union	526	New	EU delays in authorizing imports of Samgyetang (Korean ginseng chicken soup)	Korea, Republic of		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
Guatemala	413	Subsequently raised	Guatemala's restrictions on egg products	Mexico		Food safety	27/10/2016 (7 times)	NR
India	479	Subsequently raised	India's new requirements for animal feed in the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (dated 27 January 2020)	United States of America		Food safety	24/06/2020 (4 times)	NR
India	484	Subsequently raised	India's approval procedures for animal products	Russian Federation		Other concerns	24/06/2020 (3 times)	NR
India	497	Subsequently raised	India's import requirements for pulses	Canada	Russian Federation	Plant health	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
India	501	Subsequently raised	India's requirement for certificate for Non-GM origin and GM-free status	China; United States of America	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Japan; New Zealand; Paraguay; Russian Federation; Thailand; Turkey; Uruguay	Food safety	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
Indonesia	414	Subsequently raised	Indonesia's food safety measures affecting horticultural products and animal products	Philippines		Food safety	27/10/2016 (3 times)	NR
Indonesia	441	Subsequently raised	Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products	European Union	Brazil; Philippines; United States of America	Other concerns	12/07/2018 (9 times)	NR
Japan	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*



Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Jordan	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
Korea, Republic of	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
Korea, Republic of	<a href="#">393</a>	Subsequently raised	Korea's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union	Russian Federation	Animal health	15/07/2015 (12 times)	NR
Korea, Republic of	<a href="#">456</a>	Subsequently raised	Korea's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union	Russian Federation	Animal health	21/03/2019 (4 times)	NR
Korea, Republic of	<a href="#">490</a>	Subsequently raised	Korea's lack of progress on pending applications for authorization of beef imports	European Union	Russian Federation	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (1 time)	NR
Korea, Republic of	<a href="#">513</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Korea's mandatory HACCP certification for imported kimchi	China		Food safety	25/03/2021 (1 time)	NR
Malaysia	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
Malaysia	<a href="#">491</a>	Subsequently raised	Delays in Malaysia's approval procedures for meat and dairy imports	Russian Federation		Other concerns	05/11/2020 (2 times)	NR
Mexico	<a href="#">489</a>	Subsequently raised	Mexico's import restrictions on pork	Brazil		Animal health	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
Mexico	<a href="#">507</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Mexico's resumption of frozen shrimp imports	China		Animal health	25/03/2021 (1 time)	NR
Mexico	<a href="#">514</a>	New	Mexico's restrictions on chili imports	India		Plant health	25/03/2021 (0 times)	NR
Nigeria	<a href="#">523</a>	New	Nigeria's import restrictions on meat, pork, poultry, milk and dairy products, genetic material and live cattle	Brazil		Other concerns	14/07/2021 (0 times)	NR
Panama	<a href="#">509</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Panama's undue delays in the renewal of authorizations for plants of Peruvian fishery and livestock enterprises	Peru	Costa Rica	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (2 times)	NR
Panama	<a href="#">512</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Panama's restrictions regarding the procedure to regain access for Peruvian potatoes and onions	Peru	Costa Rica	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (2 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Panama	<a href="#">515</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Panama's authorization of Federal Inspection Type establishments	Mexico	Costa Rica; Peru	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (1 time)	R**
Peru	<a href="#">528</a>	New	Peru's undue delays in the authorization of dairy product enterprises	Panama		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
Philippines	<a href="#">466</a>	Previously raised	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	European Union; Russian Federation		Animal health	07/11/2019 (5 times)	NR
Qatar	<a href="#">529</a>	New	Qatar's new import rules for dairy products	European Union		Food safety	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
Russian Federation	<a href="#">390</a>	Subsequently raised	The Russian Federation's import restrictions on processed fishery products from Estonia and Latvia	European Union		Food safety	15/07/2015 (14 times)	NR
Russian Federation	<a href="#">508</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Russian Federation - Procedures for authorizing units eligible for export of fish and fish products to Eurasian Customs Union	India		Other concerns	25/03/2021 (1 time)	NR
Russian Federation	<a href="#">525</a>	New	The Russian Federation's classification of tea as "fruits and vegetables"	India		Food safety	14/07/2021 (0 times)	NR
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	<a href="#">486</a>	Subsequently raised	Saudi Arabia's temporary suspension of Brazilian poultry exporting establishments	Brazil		Food safety	24/06/2020 (4 times)	NR
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	<a href="#">511</a>	New	Saudi Arabia's import restrictions on animal and plant products	Turkey		Food safety	25/03/2021 (0 times)	NR
South Africa	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
South Africa	<a href="#">431</a>	Subsequently raised	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union		Animal health	02/11/2017 (10 times)	NR
South Africa	<a href="#">522</a>	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	South Africa's import restrictions on bovine meat, pet food and other by-products of animal origin	Brazil		Animal health	14/07/2021 (1 time)	NR
Chinese Taipei	<a href="#">193</a>	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*

Member responding	STC ID	In 2021	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Chinese Taipei	496	Subsequently raised	Chinese Taipei's phytosanitary risk assessment procedure on imports of fresh vegetables and fruits	Ukraine		Plant health	05/11/2020 (2 times)	NR
Chinese Taipei	521	New (subsequently raised in 2021)	Chinese Taipei's import restrictions on poultry	Brazil		Other concerns	14/07/2021 (1 time)	NR
Thailand	470	Subsequently raised	Thailand's phytosanitary restrictions on imports of fresh citrus fruits due to sweet orange scab	Japan	Chile	Plant health	24/06/2020 (3 times)	NR
Thailand	527	New	Delays in Thailand's approval procedures for animal products	Russian Federation		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
United States of America	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*
United States of America	439	Subsequently raised	US import restrictions on apples and pears	European Union		Plant health	01/03/2018 (10 times)	NR
United States of America	471	Subsequently raised	US non-recognition of the pest-free status in the European Union for Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle	European Union		Plant health	24/06/2020 (4 times)	NR
United States of America	493	Subsequently raised	Non-publication of US final rule on importation of sheep, goats and certain other ruminants	European Union		Other concerns	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
Certain Members	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States of America	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (42 times)	PR*

\* STC 193 is considered as resolved for Philippines; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Singapore; Turkey; and Ukraine.

\*\* STC 515 was reported as resolved at the November 2021 SPS Committee meeting.

**Table B.3 - STCs where substantive action occurred under the DSU in 2021<sup>64</sup>**

STC number	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Member(s) responding	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
185 <sup>b</sup>	Restrictions due to avian influenza	European Union; United States	Australia; Canada; China	India	Animal health	01/03/2004 (16 times)	PR / DS 430
369 <sup>b</sup>	Russia's measures on live pigs and pork products due to African Swine Fever	European Union		Russian Federation	Animal health	25/03/2014 (0 times)	NR / DS 475
394 <sup>b</sup>	Costa Rica's suspension of the issuing of phytosanitary import certificates for avocados	Guatemala; Mexico	Ghana; South Africa; United States of America; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	Costa Rica	Plant health	15/07/2015 (4 times)	NR / DS 524
432	EU restrictions on poultry meat due to Salmonella detection	Brazil		European Union	Food safety	02/11/2017 (3 times)	NR / DS 607
495	Panama's import restrictions on animal and plant products	Colombia; Costa Rica		Panama	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (0 times)	NR / DS 599

<sup>b</sup> Panel proceedings occurred in the context of the WTO dispute settlement system. For more information, see [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/dispu\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm).

<sup>64</sup> Please note that a hyperlink in the ID number redirects to the corresponding STC in the SPS IMS for further details on the concern.