

**REVISION OF THE PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS
OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION**

Proposal by Argentina

The following communication, received on 4 July 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

In the framework of the revision, following the Third Review of the SPS Agreement, of the Procedure to Monitor the Use of International Standards, and mindful of the call by the Chairman of the SPS Committee during the meeting held last March for specific proposals in this respect, below are a number of suggested textual amendments (bold and underlined) to the Decision of the Committee G/SPS/11/Rev.1. These suggestions are based on the concerns and the proposals submitted by Argentina in December 2010 in document G/SPS/W/255.

10. The Secretariat should prepare an annual report to the Committee on the list of standards, guidelines or recommendations established under paragraph 8, the major trade impacts identified by Members and their comments regarding the use or non use of the identified international standards, guidelines or recommendations and of those cases identified where there was no international standard, guideline or recommendation, and any conclusions drawn by the Committee. ~~The Committee will transmit this report to the international organizations responsible for developing the relevant sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines or recommendations. It is expected that Members will take this information into account, through their participation in these international organizations, in establishing those organizations' work priorities.~~

11. **Unless the submitting Member requests otherwise, the Secretariat will also include in its annual report issues submitted under the agenda item "Specific Trade Concerns" in cases where the issue concerns:**

- (a) **The departure of a sanitary or phytosanitary standard from international reference standards; or**
- (b) **the absence or inappropriateness of existing international reference standards.**

12. The Committee will transmit this report to the international organizations responsible for developing the relevant sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines or recommendations. It is expected that Members will take this information into account, through their participation in these international organizations, in establishing those organizations' work priorities.

13. The report will also be cumulative in order to give a more comprehensive and complete picture of the situation regarding implementation of the international harmonization process.

Further Action

14. Following the review noted in paragraph 3 of the operation of this provisional monitoring procedure, the Committee may want at a later stage to consider the need for a more focused monitoring procedure. In particular, the Committee may wish to consider developing standard formats for the supply of information under paragraphs 6-8¹, and using those standards, guidelines or recommendations which have been identified as having a major impact on international trade and are of widespread concern to Members (paragraph 8 refers) as the basis for a pilot project to obtain additional information as to how Members are dealing with the standards, guidelines or recommendations of concern.

¹ See footnote 4.