

EU Pesticide Policies: A Trade Perspective

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Outline of this presentation

- SPS Agreement primer
- Concerns raised in the SPS Committee
- Other Committee Activities
- Work ahead in 2022

WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

The right to protect human, animal, or plant life or health



Avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade

WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1. Non-discrimination
2. Scientific justification
 - harmonization
 - risk assessment
 - consistency
 - least trade-restrictiveness
3. Equivalence
4. Regionalization
5. Transparency

WTO SPS Committee

- Regular forum for consultation and to carry out functions related to **implementation of the SPS Agreement**
- Forum for consultations with countries to **resolve trade concerns** with specific SPS measures
- Raise trade concerns, singly and **in coalitions**, on the “floor” of the Committee
- Provides **regular access to SPS and trade officials** for “bilateral” meetings on the margins



MRL-related STCs being raised in the SPS Committee

Raised continuously since 2014 – over 40 Members

Regulation 1107/2009

- Authorization and renewals
- Hazard-based cut off values (genotoxicity, carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, endocrine disruptors, persistent organic pollutants)
- Uncertainty, Data Gaps
- Reduction to LOQ after non-renewal
- Recent example: Indoxacarb, a “reduced risk” pesticide and OP replacement

Most supported STC - Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, United States, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Guatemala, Canada, Panama, Chile

MRL-related STCs being raised in the SPS Committee

Concerns raised

- Hazard vs. Risk
- Sufficiency of scientific evidence, risk assessment
- Transition policies, channels of trade provisions
- Lack of import tolerances
- Derogations, emergency uses
- Trade impact – local conditions, lack of alternatives

EU Response

- Explains the EU process
- Goal is lowest possible MRL based on GAPs
- No attempt to address SPS concerns

MRL-related STCs being raised in the SPS Committee

Australia, “EU import tolerances for certain pesticides to achieve environmental outcomes in third-countries”

- Refers to “mirror clauses”
- Supported by USA, Colombia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Japan, New Zealand, Guatemala, Uruguay
- Importance of respecting local conditions

EU Response

- Will consider environmental issues when granting ITs
- Risks include pollinators, accumulation of chemicals

Other Activities in the SPS Committee

- March 2022 thematic session, “Trade Facilitative Approaches to Pesticide MRLs, Including Substances Not Approved for Use in an Export Market”
- Side Session, “Responding to Fall Armyworm: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Policy Approaches”

Work Ahead in 2022

- Ministerial SPS Declaration, “Responding to Modern SPS Challenges”
- Evolution of Farm to Fork

Thank you!

*Looking forward to your questions and
comments during the Q&A Discussion...*