



WTO: 16 countries voice concern over EU implementing non-tariff barriers on agricultural products at WTO

For information: The Delegations of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay have submitted a communication to the WTO Council for Trade in Goods. The communication relates to the EU implementing non-tariff barriers on agricultural products in the field of crop protection products.

The concern is that the EU:

- has begun to effectively prohibit the use of a number of substances that are required for safe and sustainable agricultural production and have been assessed and authorized for use by many WTO Members.
- is diverging from those standards by incorporating a hazard-based approach to the approval and renewal of plant protection product authorizations for certain substances and is creating a high degree of uncertainty on how import tolerances will be considered
- despite repeated requests in the TBT and SPS Committees over the past four years, the EU has not identified either the level of protection being sought or the specific pathways of exposure or risks that it seeks to mitigate, to justify the trade impact of these restrictions. The EU has not taken into consideration the comments of other WTO Members on draft regulations.
- the EU has ignored requests to complete science-based risk assessments before the implementation of these measures; to take into account risk assessment techniques developed by international organizations and to articulate how risks would be assessed.
- the EU has not clarified, despite multiple requests to do so, how it intends to consider applications for import tolerances for those substances that are being assessed following hazard-based criteria.

The Communication urges the EU to provide additional information on the process and timelines to set import tolerances for active substance which are not re-authorized in the EU and applicable transitional periods and to engage in a meaningful way with its trading partners.

For full details:

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=255400&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=371857150&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=False&HasSpanishRecord=True

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