



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

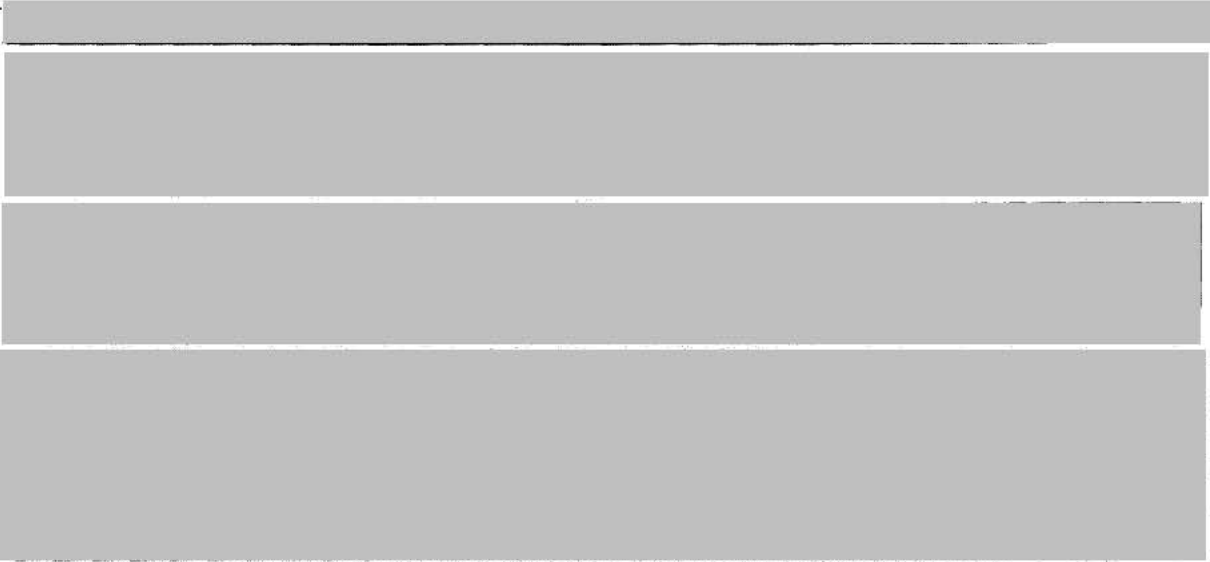
Brussels, 31 August 2015

(2015) 3990273

Subject: 63rd WTO SPS Committee – 14-16 July 2015 – Geneva

SUMMARY

the EU was under aggressive and well-orchestrated attacks on several fronts. notably
endocrine disruptors



The EU also responded to STCs on:

endocrine disruptors (the US, supported by 16 other Members).



3.2.5. European Union revised proposal for categorization of compounds as endocrine disruptors – concerns of the United States (No. 382)

The US raised for the 2nd time its concern regarding the EU's revised proposal for categorisation of compounds as endocrine disruptors (EDs). The US argued that none of the options tabled in the roadmap for defining criteria for identifying EDs in the context of the implementation of the Plant Protection Products and Biocidal Products Regulations were science-based. They also claimed that the options did not take into account the risks from exposures and that the roadmap did not say on which basis the preferred option would be selected. The US would like to know if the EU plans to consider other options than the ones outlined in the roadmap, based on the comments received. The US appreciated the organisation of the stakeholders conference on 1st June but requested to be better informed about how the impact assessment would be conducted. For example does the EU intend to publish for comments the methodology of the scientific studies supporting the Impact Assessment? The US also asked the EU to explain in a public document how comments received had been taken into account in the final text (considering that other countries have been working on risk-based approaches to EDs for many years). The US urged the EU to continue informing the WTO SPS Committee and the public on this issue.

Once again the US's concerns were echoed by many other Members: **Canada, Mexico, Egypt, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Nigeria, India, China, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Kenya, Peru and New Zealand**. Most of these countries pointed out potentially significant impact on its exports of agricultural products to the EU.

The EU replied again that currently there is no new EU legislative proposal on EDs on the table while the legislative work follows the usual steps: after the publication of the roadmap the European Commission started the impact assessment process of which the public consultation, finished in January 2015, is a part. The public consultation report is expected very soon, before the summer break. A stakeholder's conference was held on the 1st June 2015 where stakeholders, including third countries, were able to exchange views on this topic. A dedicated webpage with all information about the ongoing impact assessment is available on the website of the European Commission. In parallel, the necessary studies to support the impact assessment are on-going. All these studies, public consultations results and views of stakeholders, will feed into the impact assessment report that will accompany any legislative proposal. If such a proposal is made it will be notified to the WTO to allow all interested Members to present their observations.