Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (CEECAC)

WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)

DRAFT Programme

(3 May 2023)

**VENUE**

Vienna, Austria

**18–21 July 2023**

**Structure and objective**

The objective of the course is to provide participants from the Central and Eastern Europe, Central and the Caucasus (CEECAC) region an increased understanding of the SPS Agreement, with an emphasis on transparency, and the work of the three relevant international standard setting bodies (ISSBs): the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss some of the challenges experienced in the implementation of the SPS Agreement. The Workshop will also deal with the ongoing discussions in the SPS Committee, and explore opportunities of SPS-related technical assistance for the CEECAC region.

**Resource persons - WTO**

**Ms Christiane Wolff**

Counsellor

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**Ms Isabel Calderón**

Economic Affairs Officer

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**Resource persons – International standard setting bodies**

TBC

**Background materials**

WTO sites, platforms and documents relevant to sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

* [WTO | Sanitary and phytosanitary measures - Gateway](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm)
* [Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/15sps_01_e.htm)
* [WTO | Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – members' transparency toolkit](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/transparency_toolkit_e.htm)
* [WTO | The SPS Committee](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/work_and_doc_e.htm)
* [WTO | Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - Major decisions and reference documents](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/decisions06_e.htm)
* [ePing SPS&TBT platform](https://eping.wto.org/en)
* [[WTO | SPS Declaration at MC12: Responding to Modern SPS Challenges](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_declaration_mc12_e.htm)](https://www.wto.org/french/tratop_f/sps_f/sps_declaration_mc12_f.htm)
* [SPS eLearning Course](https://www.learning.wto.org/local/coursecatalogue/index.php?categoryid=50)

WTO video "Let's Talk Food Safety"

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7HHRTHc4zA>

Videos created and provided by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

* National treatment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s04acalFRrc>
* Basic rights and obligations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB7KD0Hm1X4>
* Equivalence: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GxsV16ufBU>
* Harmonization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzPzRFeL5bE>
* Regionalisation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sg8b-dvKH4>
* Risk assessment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwMkm95ZnE0>
* Transparency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSAVAzagh-k>

**Day 1: Tuesday, 18 July 2023**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | **1.1  Registration of participants** |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | **1.2 Logistical arrangements**  *Resource person: Representative from the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI)* |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | **1.3  Opening Ceremony**   * Opening remarks:   + *Representative from JVI*   + *Representative from WTO* |
| 9:45 – 10:30 | **1.4 Overview and Objectives**   * Introduction of participants and ice-breaker activity * Structure and objective of the workshop * Self-assessment quiz   *Resource persons: Christiane Wolff and Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 12:30 | **1.5  Overview of Key Principles of the SPS Agreement**   * General introduction to the WTO and the SPS Agreement * Interactive group activity * Discussion & presentation   *Resource persons: Christiane Wolff and Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| **12:45 – 14:00** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | **1.6  Identifying SPS Challenges**   * Group activity: Identifying SPS Challenges   *All participants* |
| 14:45-15:30 | **1.7  Introduction to the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement**   * The transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement   *Resource person: Isabel Calderón and Christiane Wolff, WTO* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | **1.8  Overview of online sources of SPS information**   * WTO Documents Online * Trade Concerns Database * ePing SPS&TBT Platform   *Resource person: Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| 16:15 – 16:45 | **1.9  ePing SPS&TBT Platform**   * Registration   *Resource person: Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | **1.9  Brief Recap**  *Resource person: WTO* |

**Day 2: Wednesday, 19 July 2023**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | **2.1  Debrief of Day 1: Key provisions learnt**   * Interactive activity with participants   *Resource person: WTO* |
| 9:15 – 10:30 | **2.2  ePing SPS&TBT Platform**   * Search functions – Interactive exercise   *Resource person: Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | **2.3  ePing SPS&TBT Platform – Communication and notification functions**  *Resource person: Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| 11:15 – 12:45 | **2.4  Experiences for CEECAC in SPS coordination on transparency matters**   * Group activity: Identifying challenges, benefits and best practices   *All participants* |
| **12:45- 14:00** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | **2.5  The SPS Committee: Overview**   * Role and function * Committee agenda items * Specific trade concerns   *Resource person: Christiane Wolff, WTO* |
| 14:45 – 15:30 | **2.6  The SPS Committee: Current Issues**   * MC12 SPS Declaration Work Programme * Follow-up to the Fifth Review   *Resource person: Christiane Wolff and Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 16:45 | **2.7  How to address SPS trade problems**  *Resource person: Christiane Wolff and Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | **2.8  Brief Recap**  *Resource person: WTO* |

**Day 3: Thursday, 20 July 2023**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | **3.1  Debrief of Day 2: Key points learnt**   * Interactive activity with participants   *Resource person: WTO* |
| 9:30 – 9:50 | **3.2 Overview of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)**  *Representative from the IPPC* |
| 9:50 – 10:10 | **3.3 Overview of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**  *Representative from WOAH* |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | **3.4 Overview of the Codex Alimentarius**  *Representative from Codex* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | **3.5 General Q&A session with the IPPC, WOAH and Codex**  *Representatives from the IPPC, WOAH and Codex* |
| 11:15 – 12:45 | **3.6  Work of the three sisters and the SPS Committee**  *Representatives from WTO and from the IPPC, WOAH and Codex* |
| **12:45 - 14:00** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **3.5  Introduction to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)**  *Resource persons: STDF* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 16:45 | **3.6  Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)**  *Resource persons: STDF* |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | **3.7  Brief Recap**   * + *Resource person: WTO* |

**Day 4: Friday, 21 July 2023**

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | **4.1  Debrief of Day 3: Key points learnt**   * Interactive activity with participants   *Resource person: WTO* |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | **4.2  Round table on SPS-related technical assistance**  *Resource person: WTO, STDF, IPPC, WOAH, Codex* |
| **10:30 – 10:45** | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | **4.3  Looking ahead, what next?**   * Key takeaways and final Q&A * Post-assessment quiz   *Resource persons: Christiane Wolff and Isabel Calderón, WTO* |
| 11:30 – 12:45 | **4.4  Closing**   * Evaluation * Closing remarks:   + *Representative from JVI*   + *Representative from WTO* |

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