

UK-ANDEAN COUNTRIES Sub-committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

13th and 16th of June 2022 (Virtual Meeting)

The Sub-committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures took place on 13th and 16th of June 2022, via videoconference. The meeting was chaired by Paul Green, Deputy Director for SPS and Imports within the Animal Plant Health & Welfare Directorate, Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Agenda item 1: Greetings and Opening Remarks

The UK welcomed all parties to the committee meeting and acknowledged the mutual interest in holding the 1st committee on SPS measures. All parties noted their shared views on the importance of SPS measures and collaborative working in this space. All Parties recognised this committee as a place to continue addressing SPS issues and to facilitate resolutions.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda of the initial meeting of the SPS Committee

- Paul Green (chair) approved the agenda
- Ingrid Felicita Jauregui Lozano, Head of Peru delegation approved the agenda
- Andrés Quiroz, Head of Ecuador delegation approved the agenda
- Elvin Leonel Rincon, Head of Colombia delegation asked that they be allowed to raise 2 additional points at the end of the session and then approved the agenda

This was recorded as **Operational Conclusion** 01 of 2022.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Decision by the SPS Sub-Committee regarding approval of its Rules and Procedures

All Parties noted that the formal rules of procedure (RoP) have yet to be finalised by the Trade committee and therefore the EU-Andean countries Rules of Procedure would be used in the interim for this meeting. Once the overarching RoP are finalised, specialised RoP for this committee could be developed for the next meeting. This was recorded as **Operational Conclusion** 02 of 2022

Agenda Item 4: Information regarding contact points, organizational structures and distribution of responsibilities between Competent Authorities in the field of SPS measures

All parties presented information on their organisation structures and management of SPS issues. All parties would share these presentations after the committee. This was recorded as **Operational Conclusion** 03 of 2022.

Agenda Item 5: Sharing information on British legislation post EU exit

The UK explained that while a majority of EU law had been retained on leaving the European Union, the Government intended to review these laws to ensure they remained fit

for purpose. A bill had recently been introduced which would make it easier to reform, replace or repeal law as necessary. The UK confirmed that this would not affect its international obligations.

Agenda Item 6: Exchange of information on the process for adoption of pesticide MRLs

Peru asked questions about the legislation regarding, and process for setting, maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides. The UK explained that all EU MRLs that were in force as of 31st December 2020 were rolled over into UK law. EU decisions taken after that date did not apply to Great Britain but did apply to Northern Ireland. The UK shared information on the current process for settings MRLs and the importance of Codex. Colombia and Ecuador asked about new applications for particular products and future changes to the MRL regime. The UK undertook to provide more information through correspondence.

Finally, due to several queries regarding the UK pesticide policy, the UK raised the possibility of carrying out technical assistance and/or cooperation activities for the Andean countries in order to identify their needs and meet them.

Agenda Item 7: Could the UK develop a unified procedure for the access of animal products from Ecuador

The UK shared information on making market access requests and talked through each step of the process, highlighting that a request could be for a new commodity, or reviewing a restriction. There was a brief discussion on novel foods, on market access bovine products and on the regulations on the import of animal or plant products into the UK. The UK confirmed it would send Ecuador information on regulation regarding animal and plant products so Ecuador can have a better clarity on how the process to access to the UK works. Ecuador clarified the need of the UK producing a document that summarizes and explain the process similar to the one that Ecuador has done, the UK will carry out internal consultations to indicate the feasibility of implementing Ecuador's request. Moreover, the UK committed with all the Andean countries to provide more information on the processes for novel foods. These were recorded as **Operational Conclusions** 04 and 05 of 2022.

Additional points raised

- Colombia noted that it is interested in exporting meat to the UK and it would like to understand more about this procedure in order to start the sanitary approval process.
- Colombia noted some interest in technical co-operation in the canine sector. The UK mentioned that this point will be discussed separately, through the UK teams based in the region in order to understand this better.
- UK asked for clarity on the process for exporting products to Peru, thus it requested to continue the dialogue in order to receive additional about the process, mainly to understand how the pre-listing commitment works in Peru. The UK also mentioned that there is interest in exporting bovine genetic material to Peru but it has difficult to obtain information from Peru on how to initiate the process.
- All parties decided to share contact details in the minutes. This was recorded as **Operational Conclusion** 06 of 2022.

Agenda Item 8: Calendar of the SPS Committee

All parties decided that if there were no outstanding issues then there could be flexibility on the frequency of the meetings. The parties decided to coordinate on timings of the next meeting, and the secretariats from each country would be in touch in 9 months to discuss the next meeting. This was recorded as **Operational Conclusion** 07 of 2022.

Agenda Item 9: Operational conclusions

The UK's SPS Secretariat summarised the operational conclusions. All Parties will finalise written operational conclusions after the meeting.

Agenda Item 10: Closing remarks

All parties thanked the secretariats and all involved personnel for organising the meeting and remarked that the first meeting had been a success. All Parties decided that SPS issues could be moved forward with continued dialogue and expressed their desire to further cooperate in the future.

Annex 1

Relevant contact points

UK:

- SPS committee correspondence: UKSPS.SECRETARIAT@DEFRA.GOV.UK
- SPS chapter implementation: TRADESECRETARIAT@DEFRA.GOV.UK

Peru:

- Ingrid Jauregui, Trade Officer of the Directorate of Technical Requirements for Foreign Trade: ijauregui@mincetur.gob.pe
- Pia Aranya, Trade Assistant of the Directorate of Technical Requirements for Foreign Trade: caranya@mincetur.gob.pe

Ecuador:

- Andres Quiroz, MPCEIP, aquiroz@produccion.gob.ec
- Carina Rosero, MPCEIP, crosero@produccion.gob.ec

Colombia:

- Elvin Rincón, Ministry of Trade, erincon@mincit.gov.co
- Juan Felipe Quintero, Ministry of Trade, jquinterom@mincit.gov.co

Annex 2

Operational conclusions

Operational conclusion No	Agenda Item	Party	Action	Deadline
01 of 2022	2. Adoption of the Agenda of the initial meeting of the SPS Committee	All	The SPS Committee noted the agenda and adopted it.	
02 of 2022	3. Adoption of the Decision by the SPS Committee establishing its Rules and Procedures	All	The Parties decided to utilise the Rules of Procedure under the EU-Andean FTA for this meeting of the SPS Committee and to develop specialised RoP for the next meeting of the SPS Committee.	
03 of 2022	4: Information regarding contact points, organizational structures and distribution of responsibilities between Competent Authorities in the field of SPS measures	All	All Parties shared information in relation to contact points and competent authorities of the UK & Andean countries. Both the UK and Andean Countries to share their presentations.	
04 of 2022	7. Could the UK develop a unified procedure for the access of animal products from Ecuador	UK	UK to provide information to Ecuador on regulation of animal and plant products for inclusion in its unified procedure. UK will carry out internal consultations to indicate the feasibility of implementing Ecuador's request.	
05 of 2022	7. Could the UK develop a unified procedure for the access of animal products from Ecuador	UK	FSA to share information on the regulation of novel foods.	
06 of 2022	Additional points raised	All	It was decided to share contact details in the minutes	
07 of 2022	8. Calendar of the SPS Committee.	All	Access whether/when there is a need for a committee in 9 months time	