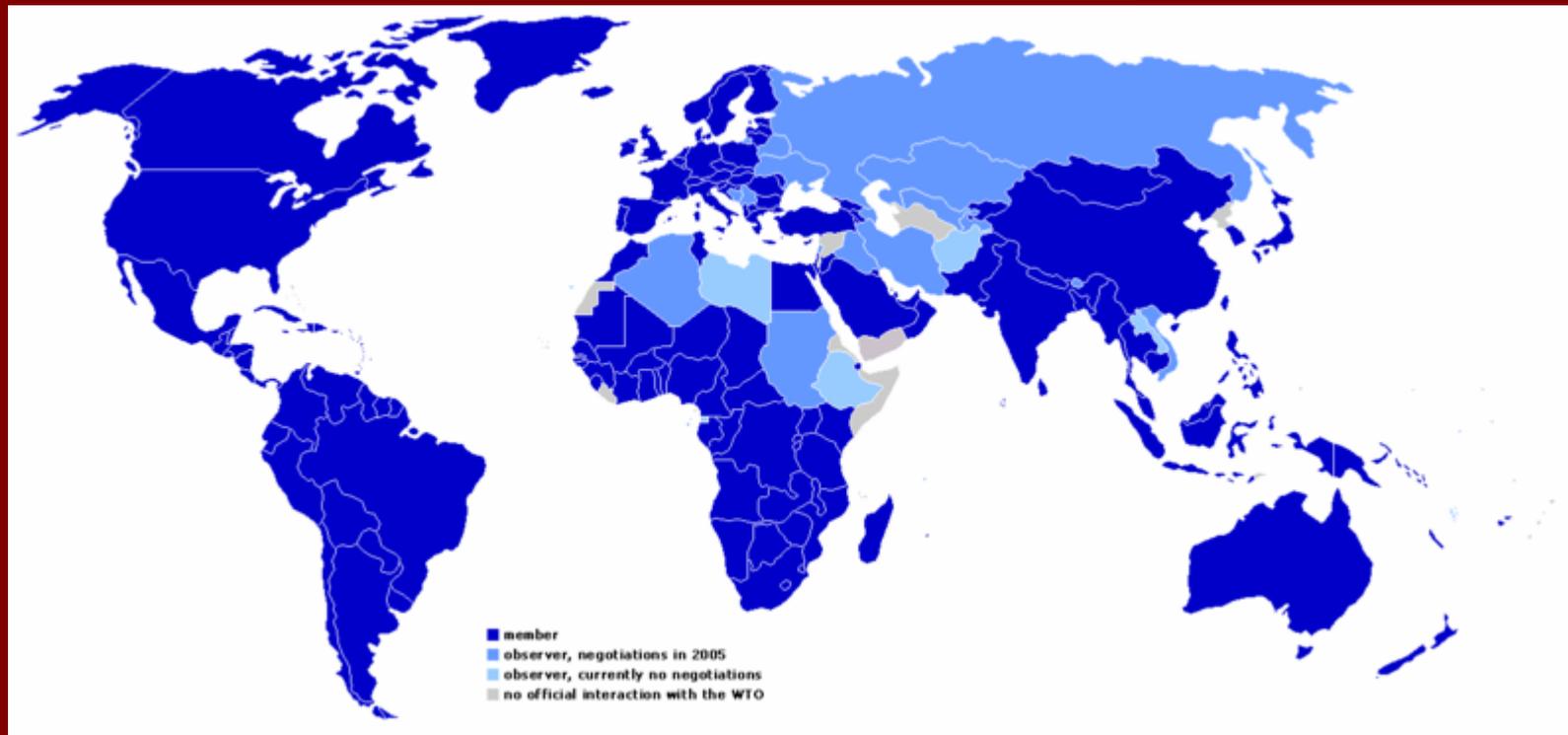


SPS

Export Promotion Seminar
26 – 27 September 2007

Lima, Peru

*Ingibjörg Ólöf Vilhjálmsdóttir, LL.M
Officer, The EFTA Secretariat Geneva*



Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

- Concerns the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures – in other words food safety and animal and plant health regulations.

SPS

- Sovereign Rights means ?
- International standards, guidelines and recommendations where they exist.

Why?





Standardsetting bodies

- Codex Alimentarius (Codex)
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Transparency

- Legal framework
- Scientific justification
- The organisation of Food Safety controls
- Notification Point
- Enquiry Point



SPS

- SPS measures typically deal with....

EFTA Member States

- Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland
- The European Economic Area (EEA)

EU development – Food Safety

- BSE and "food scandals"
- New General Food Regulation 178/2002
- Hygiene Package 2004
- New Animal Health Strategy and Animal Welfare Action Plan

Safe food for Europe's consumers

- From farm to fork:
http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/move/46/index_en.htm
- White Paper on food safety:
europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/pub/pub06_en.pdf
- Consumer Voice (magazine on EU consumer policy):
europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/pub/index_en.html
- The European Commission's food safety website:
europa.eu.int/comm/food/index_en.html
- The European Commission's agriculture and food website:
europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/foodqual/index_en.htm
- The European Food Safety Authority website:
efsa.eu.int/
- The rapid alert system for food and feed website:
europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm

EEA Agreement

- Covers:
 - Internal market that is the so-called four freedoms:

EEA

- EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)

EEA Agreement

- Products covered by the EEA-Agreement are e.g.:
 - seed, feeding stuffs, animals and animal products, aquaculture animals and products thereof.

EEA Agreement

- Is the basis for import from third countries to the EEA/EFTA States in the covered areas.



- Secretaries-General
- Contacts
- Job opportunities
- Links

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The EFTA Secretariat

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an inter-governmental organisation established in 1960. Its Member States are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The EFTA Secretariat administers the organisation, in particular the EFTA Free Trade Area: EFTA's participation in the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes the European Union (EU), and EFTA's worldwide network of free trade agreements. EFTA's headquarters is in Geneva. The Secretariat also has an office in Brussels and a Statistical office in Luxembourg.

The EEA Financial Mechanism, operated in Brussels by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, supports social and economic cohesion within the European Economic Area.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) and the the EFTA Court are separate inter-governmental institutions. ESA in Brussels ensures that Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway respect their obligations under the EEA Agreement. The EFTA Court in Luxembourg fulfills the judicial functions with regard to the EEA EFTA States.

Latest News

Successful completion of the second round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between Colombia, Peru and EFTA 03-09-2007

Colombia, Peru and the EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) held the second round of negotiations on comprehensive Free Trade Agreements last week in Lima.

Icelandic Minister of Health visits EFTA 27-08-2007

EFTA's Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Bergdis Ellertsdóttir met with Iceland's Minister for Health and Social Security Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson on 27 August 2007 at her office in Brussels.

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Calendar of Events

27-09-2007

Standing Committee Meeting

28-09-2007

EEA Joint Committee Meeting

25-10-2007

Standing Committee Meeting

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European Economic Area > EEA Agreement > Annexes

Annexes

	Annex 1 Veterinary and phytosanitary matters	931 KB
	Annex 1 Veterinary and phytosanitary matters (Annex 1-12) certification (Chapter 1-12)	809 KB
	Annex 2 Technical regulations, standards, testing and certification (Chapter 13-32)	1.69 MB
	Annex 3 Product liability	17 KB
	Annex 4 Energy	542 KB
	Annex 5 Free movement of workers	26 KB
	Annex 6 Social security	241 KB
	Annex 7 Mutual recognition of professional qualifications	179 KB
	Annex 8 Right of establishment	35 KB
	Annex 9 Financial services	182 KB
	Annex 10 Audiovisual services	25 KB
	Annex 11 Telecommunication services	97 KB
	Annex 12 Free movement of capital	26 KB
	Annex 13 Transport (Chapter 1-6)	1.05 MB
	Annex 13 Transport (Chapter 7 + Appendix 1)	6.07 MB
	Annex 13 Transport (Appendix 2-8)	160 KB
	Annex 14 Competition	89 KB
	Annex 15 State aid	85 KB
	Annex 16 Procurement	91 KB
	Annex 17 Intellectual property	52 KB
	Annex 18 Health and safety at work, labour law, and equal treatment for men and women	89 KB
	Annex 19 Consumer protection	35 KB

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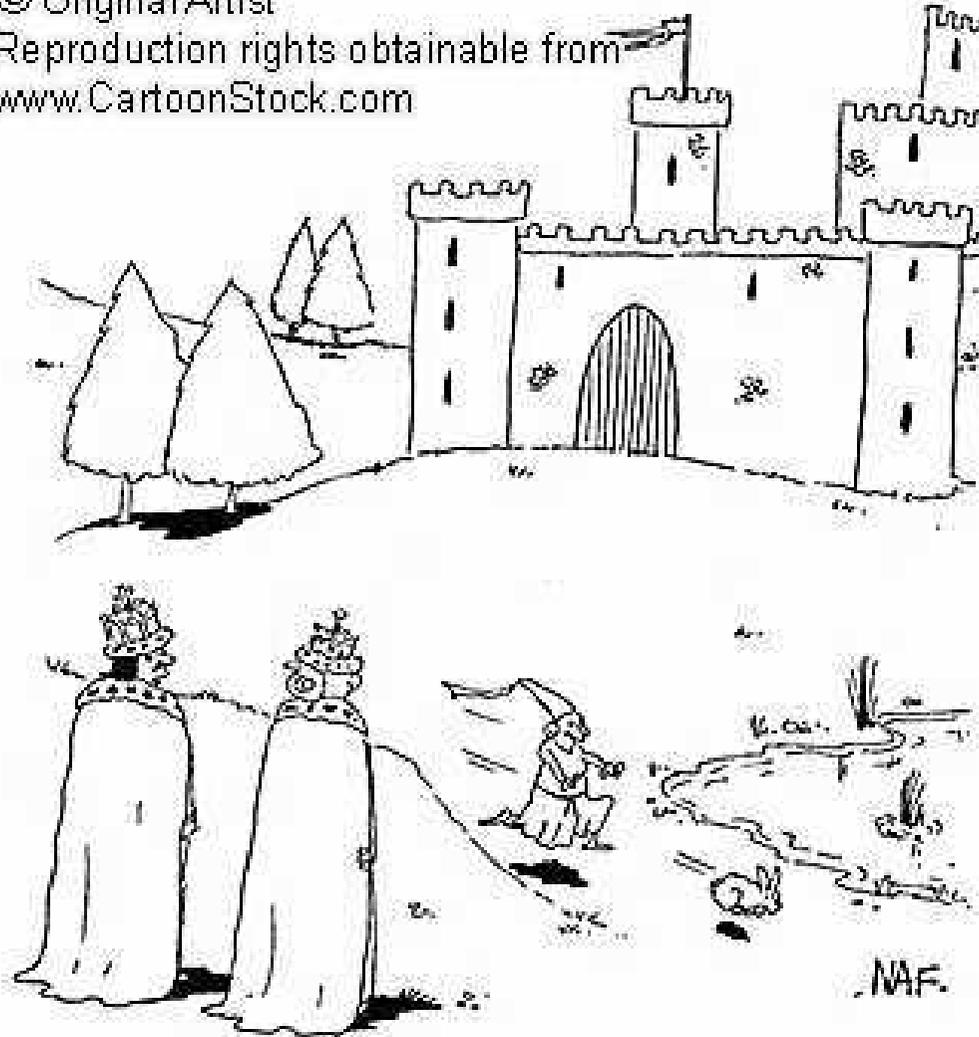
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"I'm worried about her, Margaret. She's moved on from kissing frogs to chasing any animal that happens to be passing!"

Import of products of animal origin

- Regime of the EU/EEA is based on the following principles:

The phytosanitary field

- Not full harmonization since plant health is not part of the EEA Agreement.
- However the legislation is for the major part consistent with the EU legislation.
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Import of products of plant origin

- Seeds – legislation fully harmonised with EU rules through the EEA Agreement for:

Not part of the EEA Agreement

- Meaning that the national legislation of the country applies to the importation:



EU/EEA

- The general principle is that authorised third countries and third country establishments must comply with the EU rules.
 - Information on legislation:
 - <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s85000.htm>
 - http://europa.eu/pol/food/index_en.htm

The 3 EFTA/EEA Member States

- Norway
- Liechtenstein
- Iceland

Norway

- Norway is fully harmonized in the fields covered by the EEA Agreement.
- This includes that Norway can:
 - Participate in Committees – Working Groups and Standing Committees (“SCFCAH”)
 - Has right to speak – but not to vote
 - Common legal situation
 - No border controls
 - Common external border vs. 3. countries

Norway

- This implies that risk assessment carried out by EU institutions form the basis for EU acquis are also integrated in Norwegian legislation
- Requirements regarding Salmonella

Liechtenstein

- Liechtenstein is not fully harmonized for products of animal origin and for plants/seeds

Iceland

- Iceland is only partly harmonized for products of animal origin – Iceland makes therefor its own risk assessment for the products concerned.

Iceland

- Regulation no 509/2004
- Risk assessment
- Different sanitary status due to long time isolation of the island.

Iceland

- The Agricultural Authority of Iceland
<http://www.adfangaeftirlit.is/landbunadarstofnun/logogreglur/index.aspx?GroupId=410&TabId=416>
- Regulation 509/2004 in English:
http://www.adfangaeftirlit.is/Uploads/document/eydubl_ensk/REGULATION_509_2004.pdf

Con. Iceland

Article 5

Raw foods

- Imported foods which are listed under HS numbers: 0202, 0203, 0204, 0207, 0208, 0210 and 1602 and which have not received satisfactory heat treatment shall be accompanied by the following certificates:

Phytosanitary Certificate

Con. Iceland

Article 10

International risk assessment

- The recommendations of the Chief Veterinary Officer concerning disease control shall be based on risk assessment

Switzerland

- Bilateral agricultural agreement with the EU
- Risk assessment

Article on SPS in an EFTA FTA Agreement

- The usual elements include:

EFTA-CHILE

ARTICLE 16

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

- 1. The rights and obligations of the Parties in respect of sanitary and phytosanitary measures shall be governed by the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (hereinafter referred to as “the SPS Agreement”).
- 2. The Parties shall strengthen their co-operation in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, with a view to increasing the mutual understanding of their respective systems and facilitating access to their respective markets.
- 3. At the request of a Party, expert consultations shall be convened if any Party considers that another Party has taken measures which are likely to affect, or have affected, access to its market. Such experts, representing the Parties concerned on specific issues in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary matters, shall aim at finding an appropriate solution in conformity with the SPS Agreement.

EFTA-CHILE

- 4. The Parties shall exchange names and addresses of “contact points” with sanitary and phytosanitary expertise in order to facilitate communication and the exchange of information.
- 5. In order to permit the efficient use of resources, the Parties shall, to the extent possible, endeavour to use modern technological means of communication, such as electronic communication, video or telephone conference, or arrange for meetings referred to in paragraph 3 to take place back-to-back with Joint Committee meetings or with sanitary and phytosanitary meetings in the framework of the WTO. The results of expert consultations convened in accordance with paragraph 3 shall be reported to the Joint Committee.
- 6. Chile and any of the EFTA States may, for better implementation of this Article, develop bilateral arrangements including agreements between their respective regulatory agencies.



Import into the EFTA States

- Find an importer in the relevant country.
- Good contact points:
 - The relevant embassies in your country
 - SIPPO for Switzerland www.sippo.ch
 - HSH for Norway www.hsh.no

Import into the EFTA States

– The Ministries of Foreign Affairs

- Switzerland

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html>

- Iceland

<http://www.utn.stjr.is/>

- Norway

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud.html?id=833>

- Liechtenstein

http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/eliechtenstein_main_sites/portal_fuerstentum_liechtenstein/home.htm

Conclusion

- High level of protection
- A consumer's perspective
- Knowledge and science
- Influence and development through international cooperation

Questions ?

- Questions related to SPS in the EFTA States:
- Ingibjorg Olof Vilhjalmsdottir,
The EFTA Secretariat
iov@efta.int



THANK YOU