

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/EEC/248
14 September 2004

(04-3822)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Commission of the European Communities. Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General Directorate E – Food Safety: Plant Health, Animal Health and Welfare, International questions
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Fish and fishery products (CN 03)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Member States of the European Communities (EC) and third countries exporting the products concerned to the EC.
5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: SANCO/15/2004 rev 3a Draft Commission Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 466/2001 (Official Journal L77, 16/03/2001, pp 1-13) as regards heavy metals (6 pages)
6. Description of content: This proposal would introduce revised harmonized maximum Community levels for the heavy metals lead, cadmium and mercury. The revisions are based on new information in fish taxonomy and improvements in the consistency of the format. Revised maximum levels are listed: for lead in tuna and in bonito, 0.2 mg/kg would apply instead of 0.4 mg/kg; for mercury in bass and ling, 0.5 mg/kg would apply instead of 1 mg/kg. The proposal would introduce the level of 0.3 mg/kg for cadmium in swordfish and for mercury the level of 1 mg/kg in additional fish species.
7. Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. To facilitate trade.
8. International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: The proposed Community measures respond to the advice of the EU Scientific Committee on Food (1992, 1995) and the European Food Safety Authority (2004) indicating respectively that exposure to lead, cadmium and methyl mercury should be as low as reasonably achievable/minimized.

9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: European Commission Document SANCO/15/2004 rev 3a. When adopted it will be published in the Official Journal available at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html
10. Proposed date of adoption: Late 2004 (at this time it is not possible to estimate a more specific date)
11. Proposed date of entry into force: 20 days after adoption, late 2004
12. Final date for comments: Forty-five (45) days after the date of notification Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Community notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:
13. Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Community enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Regulation (EC) No 466/2001 with background details on measures for heavy metals in food is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/chemicalsafety/contaminants/cadmium_en.htm