

Minutes

1st meeting of the EU – UA Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) Sub-Committee

May 16, 2017

The meeting was held at 09:00-13:00 o'clock on May 16, 2017 at the National Agrarian Academy of Sciences, 9, Mykhaila Omelianovycha-Pavlenka str., Kyiv, Ukraine.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductory remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the Decision 1/2017 of the SPS Sub-Committee concerning the Rules of Procedure
4. Structure, organization and division of competences of competent authorities in SPS area
5. Update on the implementation of the DCFTA SPS Chapter
6. Export of Ukrainian animal products to the EU
7. Current epizootic situation in Ukraine
8. EU ongoing and future financial-technical assistance in the SPS area
9. Other ongoing SPS matters
10. Operational conclusions and closing

Discussed points:

1. Welcome and introductory remarks

UA Side: Opening and introductory remarks by Mr. Volodymyr Lapa. Mr Lapa thanked for fruitful cooperation and strong EU support, in particular regarding systematic reforms in the SPS area.

EU Side: Mr. Van Dyck marked the work between two sides in a constructive manner the specific example of which was the positive decision of the Ukrainian Side concerning the recognition of EU regionalization on avian influenza. Mr. Van Dyck pointed the importance to cooperate in an open spirit.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda of the 1st SPS Sub-Committee meeting has been approved without amendments.

3. Adoption of the Decision 1/2017 of the SPS Sub-Committee concerning the Rules of Procedure

The Decision No 1/2017 of the SPS Sub-Committee concerning the Rules of Procedure has been adopted by the two sides.

4. Structure, organization and division of competences of competent authorities in SPS area

UA Side: Co-Chair from Ukrainian Side presented in details the structure of the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection (SSUFSCP) with organization and

division of powers between the competent authorities in the SPS area.

EU Side: Co-Chair from EU Side mentioned the good approach taking one service controlling the whole chain “from farm to fork”.

5. Update on the implementation of the DCFTA SPS Chapter

UA Side: informed on the finalisation of the internal procedure on approval the amendments to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 288-p of 24.02.2016 “On approval of the Comprehensive Strategy for the implementation of Chapter IV (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures), Title IV “Trade and Trade-related Matters” of Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the one part, and Ukraine, on the other part (hereinafter – the SPS Strategy), in accordance with received recommendations.

Mr. Lapa mentioned that after completion of internal procedures by both sides, SPS Strategy could tentatively be finally adopted in July 2017.

UA and EU Sides: agreed to use the tracking table developed by the EU to follow-up the implementation of the SPS Strategy, and also to send drafted legal acts accompanied by their respective tables of correspondence to the EC for evaluation and comments, see Annex below.

EU Side: mentioned that EU legislation approximation is challenging and a long-term process, based on a scientific approach.

UA Side: Representative of the Government Office for European integration proposed to send drafts of legal acts to the Government's Office's consideration and relevant expertise before they are sent to the EU.

EU Side: Co-Chair of the European Side thanked for Ukrainian understanding concerning the recourse to the tracking table, and stressed that this tool is important in tracing draft legislation and monitoring of the legislation harmonisation process.

UA and EU Sides: agreed to use the relevant procedure for the management of the tracking table on SPS Strategy implementation, as provided by the EU Side in the Attached Annex.

6. Export of Ukrainian animal products to the EU

UA Side: Mr. Lapa informed on the current situation regarding Ukrainian export to EU. 280 Ukrainian establishments are approved for export to EU (98 are food producing establishments). Positive dynamics is mentioned.

Mr. Lapa pointed out the potential issue related to the potential beef export to the EU. He informed on the starting implementation of the BSE monitoring program in order to obtain the OIE controlled BSE risk status.

Co-Chair from Ukrainian Side thanked for mutual close cooperation, in particular on the expert level.

EU Side: Mr. Van Dyck noted the long term and complex procedure of obtaining the permission to export products of animal origin to the EU, and informed about the steps to be taken by Ukrainian Side in order to obtain the permission to export red meat (beef and pork), namely to send a formal request to the European Commission to providing an appropriate questionnaire to update the information on the current Ukrainian system of the state control over the production of red meat.

7. Current epizootic situation in Ukraine

UA Side: Mr. Lapa informed on the current epizootic situation in Ukraine, in particular free status on foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, BSE, LSD. He informed on the stable situation on the HPAI in Ukraine, and stressed that last case has occurred in February 2017. The recognition of HPAI regionalisation principle for the EU and its MS by Ukrainian Side has been noted.

The current situation on ASF has been presented (70 cases detected during the current year, 91 cases during the previous year). Mr. Lapa expressed his appreciation on receiving the Grant Agreement "Support to the protection measures taken against African swine fever (ASF) in Ukraine" from the European Commission.

EU Side: raised the possible recognition of the regionalisation principle for ASF in the EU by Ukrainian Side.

UA Side: Co-Chair from Ukrainian Side informed on the audit that needs to be carried out as an internal procedure of regionalization recognition. Mr. Lapa informed that ASF audit issue is planned to be discussed with the Delegates from Poland and Lithuania during the OIE General Session at the end of May in Paris.

8. EU ongoing and future financial-technical assistance in the SPS area

EU Side: Ben Christian Hell made a presentation on the ongoing situation on the implementation of EU technical projects in the SPS area in Ukraine. There are three EU projects: EU Technical assistance project entitled "Improvement of Food Safety Control System in Ukraine", and 2 Twinning Projects, namely "Assistance with Implementation of SPS Commitments under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement" and "Approximation of Ukrainian Legislation with the EU in the Field of Plant Protection Products and Plant Health and Strengthening Associated Inspection and Laboratory Services".

These projects are aimed at assisting Ukraine in developing legislation in the framework of the SPS Strategy implementation, in addition to supporting inspection and laboratory services and improving data management.

Mr. Hell mentioned that about 50 legislative acts are already drafted and in the process of adoption. Approximately 30 legal acts will be drafted up to the end of the current year.

Mr. Hell informed both sides on the trainings carried out and laboratory and IT equipment supplied in the framework of EU projects.

He also introduced the possibility to further extend EU assistance to the SSUFSCP, considering the necessary implementation of the SPS Strategy. This support would mainly consist in additional Technical Assistance in Food Safety and Animal Health. Laboratory and BIP equipment could be considered on an ad hoc basis.

UA Side: Mr. Lapa noted the importance of EU technical assistance for SSUFSCP, and thanked all Projects that are currently acting in Ukraine in the SPS area.

9. Other ongoing SPS matters

UA and EU Sides: agreed to determine Secretaries of the Sub-Committee as a contact points for exchanging information and further cooperation.

10. Operational conclusions and closing

UA and EU Sides: Operational conclusions of the EU-Ukraine SPS Sub-Committee meeting have been amended and approved by EU and UA Sides.

Sides agreed to held the next meeting of the SPS Sub-Committee in October of the current year (format will be agreed in the working order).

UA Side: Mr. Lapa thanked everyone for participation, and a fruitful discussion, and wished the success for the further cooperation.