



# **The SPS Committee**

**Functions/Role and How to Use It**

Chair of the SPS Committee:

Mr Deny **KURNIA**  
Indonesia



# The SPS Committee

What does it do?



- Implementation of SPS Agreement
- Reviews compliance
- Potential trade impacts
- Co-operation with technical organizations

# SPS Committee

## Who is on it?

- All 153 WTO Members
- Observer governments (acceding members)
- Intergovernmental organizations



# Observers in the SPS Committee

- Codex, IPPC and OIE
- FAO, WHO, UNCTAD, World Bank, IMF, ITC, ISO

## Ad hoc observers:

- ACP Group, EFTA, IICA, OECD, OIRSA, SELA (Latin American Economic System), AITIC, CEN-SAD, ECOWAS, SADC, WAEMU

## Pending requests:

- Asian Pacific Coconut Community, CBD, Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization, International Wine and Vine Office (OIV), CABI, ECCAS, COMESA, IGAD, CITES

# SPS Committee meetings

## 3 regular meetings per year

often preceded by informal meetings to discuss specific topics (S&D, Third review, Private Standards, Ad Hoc consultations, etc... )

Special meetings/workshops, for example on TA, transparency-enquiry points, SPS coordination



# SPS Committee meetings

## October 2011

- 17 October – workshop on national/regional SPS coordination
- 18 October – informal meetings
- 19-20 October – informal and formal meetings

## 2012

- 27-29 March 2012
- 10-12 July 2012, and
- 16-18 October 2012



# SPS Committee: **standing agenda items**

- Activities of Members
- Specific trade concerns
- Transparency
- Special and differential treatment
- Equivalence
- Pest- or disease-free areas
- Technical assistance



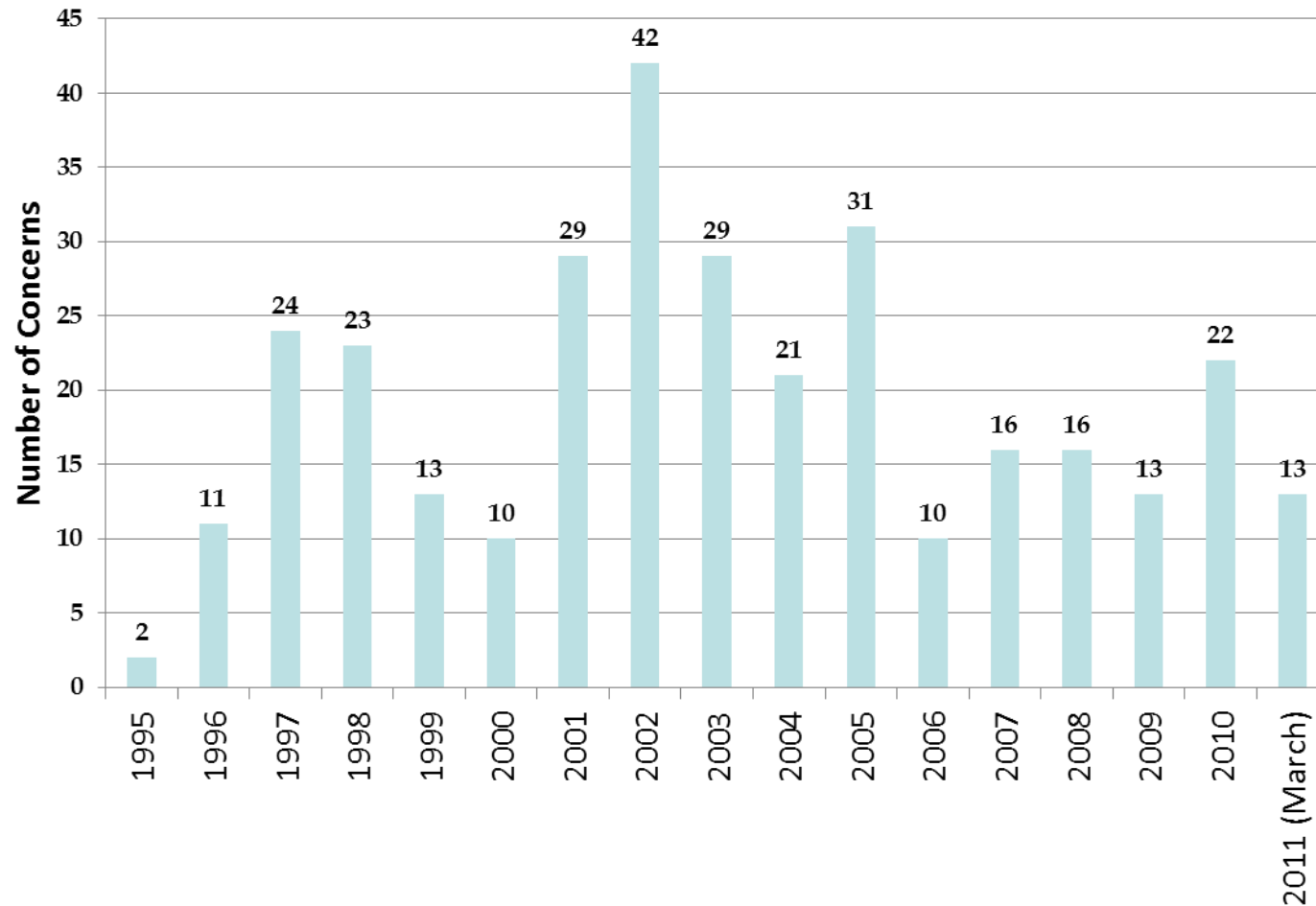


## SPS Committee: **standing agenda items** (cont'd)

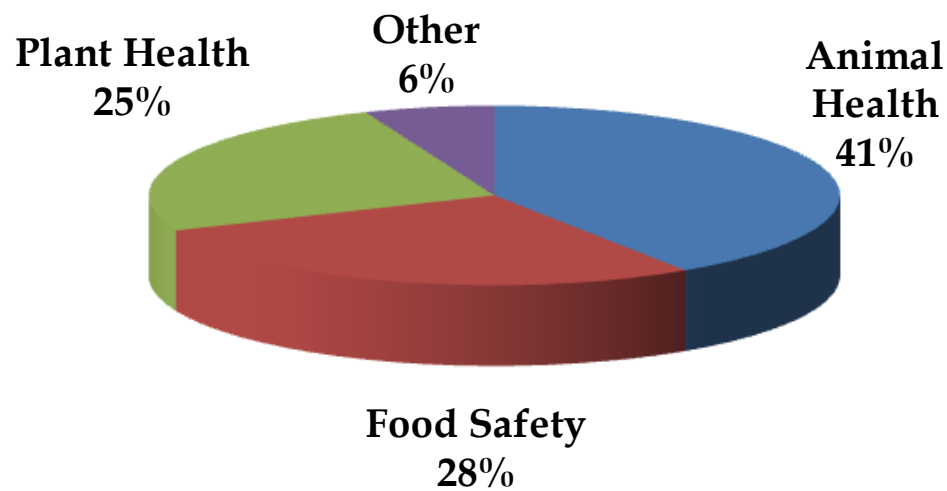
- Issues arising from second review of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/36)
- Third Review of SPS Agreement
- Monitoring use of international standards
- Information from observer organizations
- Requests for observer status
- Other business
- Dates and agenda of next meeting

# Specific Trade Concerns (1995-2011)

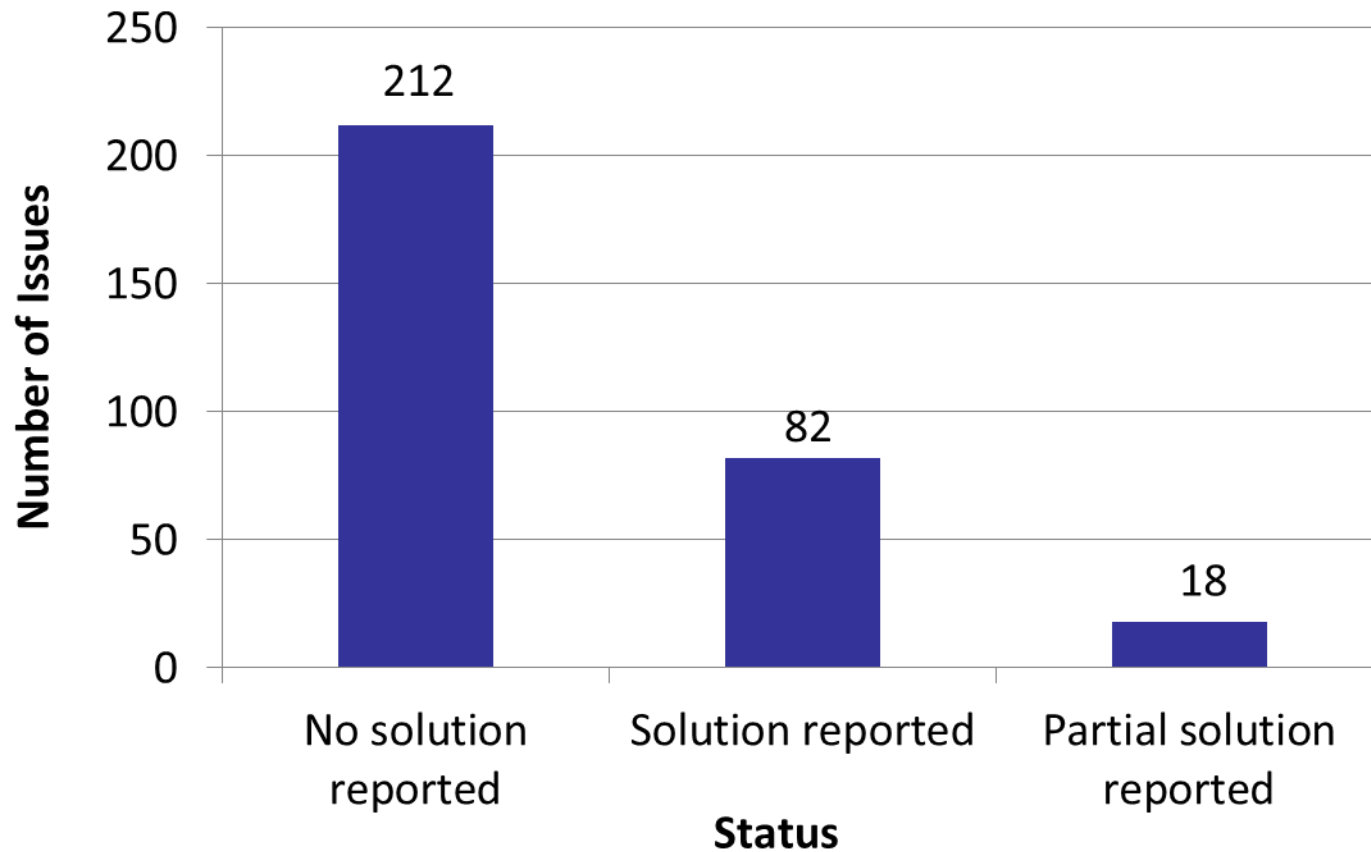
## 325 Total



# Trade Concerns by Subject (1995-2010)



# Solved Trade Concerns (1995-2010)



# Members raising concerns (Top 13)

Member	No. of STCs (March 2011)
United States	76
European Union	66
Argentina	34
China	27
Brazil	26
Canada	23
Thailand	9
India	9
Australia	8
Chile	8
Mexico	8
Colombia	6
Ecuador	6

# Members complained against (Top 11)

Member	No. of STCs (March 2011)
European Union	65
United States	37
Japan	25
China	17
Australia	16
Brazil	13
Korea, Republic of	12
Indonesia	12
Mexico	10
Canada	10
India	9

# Types of Trade Concerns

- India's restrictions on poultry due to avian influenza
- EU Novel Foods regulation
- Japan's MRLs for pesticides / additives + testing regime
- US Food Safety Modernization Act
- EU MRLs for pesticides
- EU prohibition on certain plastic kitchenware from China, Hong Kong, China
- Chinese Taipei's prohibition of ractopamine

## STCs on measures maintained by countries from the Caribbean region

STC	Title	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Members maintaining the measure	First date raised	Subject keywords	Status
151	Restrictions on imports of pork sausages and other pork products	Argentina		<a href="#">Trinidad and Tobago</a>	01/11/2002	Animal Health International Standards / Harmonization Pest/Disease status	NR
195	Restrictions on citrus	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela		<a href="#">Barbados</a>	01/10/2004	Plant Health	NR
279	Import restrictions on pork products due to influenza A/H1N1	Mexico	Australia, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, United States	Armenia, Bahrain, Kingdom of, China, Gabon, Indonesia, Jordan, <a href="#">Suriname</a>	23/06/2009	Animal Health Human Health Provisional Measures	NR



# STCs supported by countries from the Caribbean region

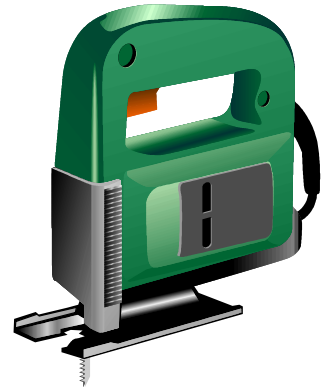
STC	Title	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Members maintaining the measure	First date raised	Subject keywords	Status
144	Restrictions on the importation of fruits and fruit juices	Brazil	Argentina, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, <b>Jamaica</b> , Uruguay	European Union	01/11/2002	Food safety Human Health International Standards / Harmonization Risk assessment	Not reported
199	Deviation from international standard for wood packing material	United States	Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, <b>Jamaica</b> , Mexico, Philippines	European Union, Spain	01/10/2004	International Standards / Harmonization Plant Health	Not reported
208	Food and feed hygiene rules	Canada	<b>Jamaica</b> , United States	European Union	01/03/2005	Animal Health Food safety Human Health	Not reported
219	EurepGAP requirements for bananas	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Argentina, <b>Belize</b> , Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, <b>Jamaica</b> , Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa	European Union	01/06/2005	Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures Food safety Human Health Private standards Technical Barriers to Trade	Not reported

# How to Resolve Problems

- Comments on notifications
- Bilateral contacts
- **G/SPS/33/Rev.1**
- Committee meetings
  - GEN/204
  - Monitoring of international standards
- Chair's/Secretariat "Good Offices"
- Formal dispute resolution procedures
- Codex, IPPC, OIE



# G/SPS/33/Rev.1



- Exporting Member identifies problem
- Bilateral consultations on request
- Change measure *or* technical assistance *or* special and differential treatment
- Notify what done

