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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixth Session

Rome, 29 March – 2 April 2004

Implementation of ISPM No.15 : Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade

Agenda Item 7.4 of the Provisional Agenda

1. Problems with the wood packaging mark in ISPM No.15 were resolved in 2003 and many countries are now moving to fully implement the requirements and provisions of this ISPM.
2. Data on the efficacy of methyl bromide treatment against pine wood nematode was provided at ICPM-5 by the Republic of Korea and by China. ICPM-5 agreed to refer this data to the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) for scientific review. The Secretariat has received proposals from a number of companies seeking approval for alternative treatments. These have all been referred to the IFQRG. The IFQRG convened in February 2004. Any recommendations from this Group to amend the approved treatments in ISPM No.15 will be submitted to the Standards Committee and be subject to the normal country consultation and standards adoption procedures.
3. A presentation was made to the Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance working group on some practical problems faced by industry in the implementation of ISPM No.15. These practical problems included dealing with:
 1. repaired wood packaging,
 2. wood packaging treated and marked, but before the new logo had been approved,
 3. costs of re-marking wood packaging,
 4. the possibility of using the mark for treated sawn wood,
 5. the use of old wood packaging material which should not present a risk and should not need to be retreated and marked etc.
4. It was argued during the presentation that the implementation of measures according to ISPM No.15 could cause considerable costs to NPPOs and industry. It was further said that practical implementation difficulties with ISPM No.15 should be carefully studied and, if appropriate, solutions to remove these difficulties be developed.

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5. The SPTA recognized that, with the implementation of ISPM No.15 starting in countries, it was important to identify the difficulties now arising in practice, and move to resolve them. It is likely that other countries are experiencing operational and implementation difficulties in addition to those listed above and these should be identified and examined.

6. In order to identify the full range of issues related to the implementation of ISPM No.15 the SPTA recommended that an open-ended informal working group should be convened during ICPM-6. This group should identify problems of implementation and other issues related to ISPM No.15 and, if appropriate, make recommendations on future action to the ICPM. In response to the SPTA recommendation the Secretariat has provided for an informal open ended working group on this topic during the ICPM.

7. ICPM members are invited:

To *participate* in the informal open ended working group on this topic during the ICPM meeting to develop, if appropriate, recommendations for future action.