

Importance of international SPS trade rules

**2016 EU-TW International Food
Trade seminar – 9 March 2016**

Trade relation EU - Taiwan

				EU-Taiwan Trade			
				2012(billion €)	2013 (billion €)	2014 (billion €)	2015 (billion €)
Trade (all categories)		EU Imports into Taiwan		15,8	16,4	16,9	18,4
CN 1-99	TW exports to EU			22,6	22,1	23,2	25,4
Agri-food trade							
CN 1-24	EU Imports into Taiwan			0,99	1	1,25	1,32
	TW exports to EU			0,11	0,11	0,11	0,14

Agri-food in international trade

Confidence/transparency

Safety is key

Well established international rules allowing safe trade

*Modern management on food safety,
animal/plant health*

Best use of resources

*Consumer confidence – requires robust
transparent SPS management*

International cooperation is key

EU sanitary and phytosanitary framework

28 countries – 1 system

Free flow of goods

High level of food safety, AH, PH

Transparency

Confidence

EU sanitary and phytosanitary framework

Unique

Harmonised SPS framework

National layer of control

EU layer of control (European Commission)

Transparency of EU's SPS system and set-up:

- consumer confidence*
- confidence between authorities/business (both within EU and between trading partners)*

SPS international toolbox

- *WTO*

*E.g. SPS Agreement (based on risk assessments
– existing risk assessments can be used);*

- *International standards (FS/PH/AH) (clear trade rules – allowance of safe trade);*

SPS international toolbox

Trade irritants

- *Growing pressure on EU: much more robust assessment*
- *Delays in applications*
- *DSP – useful guidance (e.g. regionalisation US/India)*

Audits

- *International standard (CAC/GL 26-1997)*
- *Audits (but not necessary) as part of assessment for import export accreditation / certification*
- *both EU/Taiwan uses this instrument (some commodities)*
- *preference to 'evaluation of official inspection and certification systems rather than specific commodities or establishments*

Regionalisation

- *well-established principles in international context*
- *effective implementation in EU (e.g. animal diseases – FMD/AI/ASF/CSF...)*
- *safe trade guaranteed – EU market and for exported products*

Traceability

- *International standards: importance for food safety, animal/plant health*
- protection of consumers (food-borne hazards) animal and plant populations, deceptive marketing practices and the facilitation of trade
- EU advanced systems – e.g. beef – trace back to individual animal

EUs Trade for all strategy

Ref to Taiwan:

'EU will explore launching negotiations on investment with Taiwan'

Web link:

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153846.pdf

Conclusions

- *Importance of trade relationship EU-TW*
- *affordable and high quality and safe food – solid and reliable basis – best outcome for food safety/Animal/plant health*
- *Transparency is key*
- *Making best use of resources – cooperation – international rules*