The Domestic Coordination of SPS Transparency in China

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The transparency of Chinese SPS measures has been improving continuously.

By the end of June 2019, China has submitted 1332 SPS notifications.

Data from SPS IMS
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Coordination Mechanism

1. Solid legal basis
2. Clear-cut responsibilities
3. Persistent transparency advocacy
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1. Solid Legal Basis to Enhance the Compliance of SPS Measures

Improving the compliance of trade policies
- To build up a legal system in line with multilateral trade rules

Improving the transparency of regulation process
- To enhance the openness and transparency of the SPS-related regulation process
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2. Clear-cut Assignment of Responsibilities to Ensure Transparency of SPS Notifications

Establishing the inter-ministerial coordination scheme

- China’s SPS system involves
- the Ministry of Commerce,
- the National Health Commission,
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs,
- the General Administration of Customs,
- the State Administration for Market Regulation, ….
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2. Clear-cut Assignment of Responsibilities to Ensure Transparency of SPS Notifications

- Formulating the notification procedure of SPS measures
  - Competent Authority – Drafting an SPS measure, Deciding whether to notify, Filling out the form, and Submitting the notification and full text to SPS NEP
  - SPS NEP – Reviewing the notifications, Submitting to the NNA
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3. Continuous Communication and Advocacy to Broaden the Cooperation on SPS Transparency

- Escalating the transparency communication and cooperation
  - participating in the WTO workshops on transparency issues
  - Enhancing technical cooperation with developing members
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3. Continuous Communication and Advocacy to Broaden the Cooperation on SPS Transparency

- Promoting the Public Awareness of Transparency
  - Website, SPS notification forms translation, monthly SPS Notification Newsletter (NEP)
  - Encouraging industries, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises to utilize WTO tools, such as ePing
4. Difficulties and Proposals

- Difficulties
  - The SPS notification coordination is still insufficient.
  - The public awareness of SPS transparency still needs to be enhanced.
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4. Difficulties and Proposals

1. Making the Best Use of the Present National Mechanism, Such as the NNA.
2. Exploring the notification-related problems and improving the SPS submission system.
3. Boosting the ePing’s Function to Further Promote Transparency.
Thank you!