

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: February 16, 2022

Report Number: E42022-0010

Report Name: European Commission Prepares Report on the Feasibility of Applying EU Health and Environmental Standards to Imports of Agricultural and Food Products

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On February 16, 2022, the European Commission launched a four-week call for evidence on an upcoming report that will assess the rationale and legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products such as animal welfare standards, processes, and production methods. Stakeholders have until March 16, 2022, to comment.

General Information:

During the negotiations of the European Union's new Common Agricultural Policy between the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council (representing the Member States), the three institutions adopted [a political agreement](#). As part of this agreement, the European Parliament and the Council called on the Commission to present, at the latest in June 2022, a report containing an assessment of the rationale and legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental standards (including animal welfare standards as well as processes and production methods) to imported agricultural and agri-food products as well as identifying the concrete initiatives to ensure better consistency in their application, in conformity with WTO rules. This report should cover all relevant public policy areas including the Common Agricultural Policy, the Health and Food Safety Policy, the Environmental Policy, and the Common Commercial Policy.

On February 16, 2022, the European Commission launched [a four-week call for evidence](#) on the upcoming report, which will be published in the second quarter of 2022. The Commission notes that the report will inform future agricultural and food trade policy in relation to safety and sustainability standards in the context of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy. Additionally, the Commission states that “the report itself will have no immediate impacts”. Any policy changes resulting from this debate and aiming to promote greater sustainability at global level would influence the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Feedback Period:

The purpose of [the consultation](#) is to collect evidence and views from stakeholders, giving them an opportunity to express their general views on the matter, provide relevant information, and to inform the Commission of their respective positions on the matter.

U.S. stakeholders who would like to comment can do so via the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13371-Imports-of-agricultural-and-food-products-applying-EU-health-and-environmental-standards-report- en>

The deadline for input is 12:00 a.m. (Central European Summer Time or Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on March 16, 2022. Please note that all comments made within the consultative framework may become public.

Attachments:

No Attachments.