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To cite this version:

Sophie S. Drogue, Federica Demaria, Maria Rosaria Pupo d'Andrea. Emerging specific issues in mutual recognition of trade standards. 7. AIEAA Conference: Evidence-based Policies to Face New Challenges for Agri-food Systems, Associazione Italiana di Economia Agraria e Applicata (AIEAA). ITA., Jun 2018, Conegliano, Italy. 6 p. [powerpoint]. hal-02788026

HAL Id: hal-02788026

https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02788026v1

Submitted on 5 Jun 2020

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Emerging specific issues in mutual recognition of trade standards

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7th AIEAA Conference, Conegliano (TV), 14-15 June 2018

Emerging specific issues in mutual recognition of trade standards

- Traditional issues in the analysis of non tariff barriers are the impact on trade of regulatory heterogeneity of limits of residues.
- These limits are quantitative and facilitate the construction of metrics and quantitative analysis.
- The main question was on harmonisation: should we or should we not harmonisate?
- Recently a new challenge emerges: how do we address the issue regulatory heterogeneity from a more qualitative point of view?
- We will present this specific issue in the form of case studies to illustrate the meaning of moving from harmonisation to mutual recognition.

Case studies for the qualitative assessment of food production standards

- Based on trade concerns raised by the EC (MADB): 7 case-studies selected
  - Case study 1: EU/US on Dairy and Meat products
  - Case study 2: EU/Mexico on Import restriction on Pig Meat
  - Case study 3: EU/South Korea on BSE
  - Case study 4: EU/China on import restriction on Poultry Meat
  - Case study 5: EU/ Brazil on Import restriction on fruits and vegetables
  - Case study 6: EU/India on restrictions on imports of plants and plant products relating to fumigation treatments and table olives standards
  - Case study 7: EU / Philippines on Import restriction on fruits and vegetables

Main key findings on case-studies

- Asymetry in regulations (all CS).
- Further liberalization can only be achieved by aligning requirements with international standards (is it always desirable? Ex. meat promotors in USA).
- The EU is often not considered as a single entity, and measures of regionalisation are not recognised; procedures are negotiated bilaterally and not at the European level (CS2, CS3, CS5).
- Further liberalization should target primarily achieving reciprocity in procedures more than single issues.
- Paperwork and administrative formalities are burdensome, requirements are not always transparent and easy to understand, and discourage EU's exporters (CS1, CS2, CS3, CS5, CS7).
- Further liberalization should target shortening procedures and simplifying paperwork.

Main key findings: CS4 - EU/China on import restriction on Poultry Meat

- There is a nationwide suspension of Chinese imports of EU and US-origin poultry and poultry products.
- China does not recognize the EU's regionalisation measures to contain AI.
- EU considers China's import policy overly restrictive. China continues to perceive the risk of HPAI as high and therefore puts special attention to prevention and control measures.
- Bilateral discussions (EU-China, USA-China) are carried out to find a solution. But discussions last.
- The USA-China relations are affected by political issues and the distrust of the USA about the Chinese sanitary security system. Such political tensions are not present in the EU-China relations.

Main key findings : CS5 - EU/ Brazil on Import restriction on fruits and vegetables

- The EU is not recognized as a single entity by Brazil.
- Brazilian procedures are long and cumbersome.
- Further liberalization should primarily aim to achieve reciprocity in procedures rather than single issues.