



## The Philippines removes discriminatory accreditation conditions for EU meat establishments

Since 2006, the Philippines has operated an accreditation system which discriminated against EU meat establishments. In particular, the inspection fees and charges applied by the Philippines' National Meat Inspection Service relating to the accreditation process were less favourable to EU establishments than to meat establishments in other major trading partners. Such discriminatory treatment is not in accordance with the SPS agreement, which stipulates WTO Members shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between Members where identical or similar conditions prevail.

Since the introduction of these inspection requirements, the European Commission services, the EC delegation and the EU Member States have consistently raised the issue with the Philippines in all available fora, including bilateral meetings, at technical and political level. On each occasion, our representatives urged the Philippines to abolish the discriminatory treatment and to bring their accreditation system into line with their obligations under the WTO-SPS agreement.

As a result, the Philippines revised its import conditions, through an amended Administrative Order, which entered into force in September 2009. The order revised the rules on expenses relating to the accreditation of foreign meat establishments, thereby removing the elements which discriminated against EU meat establishments.

The European Commission services together with the EC Delegation in Manila will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that trade takes place in accordance with the conditions laid down in the WTO SPS agreement and in particular, to ensure that SPS measures are not more trade restrictive than necessary. We also invite EU business to continue to inform us of any developments in this matter.

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