

EU procedure on temporary derogations to import plants and plant products

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Draft Commission Delegated Regulation as regards the procedure to be followed to grant temporary derogations

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) proposes to standardise the way temporary derogations (authorised exemptions) from plant health import bans or specific import requirements are requested and assessed. Any request for a temporary derogation will have to follow a clearly defined legal and scientific procedure.

According to the proposed procedure, only the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country can submit a request, and it must be supported by a complete technical dossier prepared according to the methodology used by the European Food Safety Authority. Informal or simplified requests will no longer be sufficient.

Requests will be assessed using a structured, science-based process. The European Commission will verify the dossier and, where needed, request a scientific risk assessment. A derogation will only be granted if the phytosanitary risk can be reduced to an acceptable level through appropriate measures.

The proposed change brings more clarity and predictability, but also makes higher technical demands and implies more preparatory efforts and resources for non-EU exporting countries seeking temporary access to the EU market.

Actions

- Competent authorities of countries that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point until 11 April 2026 (G/SPS/N/EU/917).
- Feedback via the European Commission's Have Your Say webpage closed on 4 March 2026.

Timeline

The Regulation is likely to be published in June 2026, and will apply 20 days after publication.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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