EU procedure on temporary derogations to import plants and plant products

Published by AGRINFO on 19 Feb 2026

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

The World Trade Organization consultation on this proposal (G/SPS/N/EU/917) closed on 11 April 2026; 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.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

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.

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*