

# Important first step towards a common EU-UK SPS area

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**The European Commission and the United Kingdom have announced plans to establish a Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Area through a future EU-UK SPS Agreement. This is an important step forward to ease trade in agri-food products, reduce administrative burden, and support the smooth functioning of cross-border agricultural supply chains.**

Euroseeds Secretary General & CEO Garlich von Essen welcomed the announcement, stating: *"This is a long-awaited and very welcome announcement. A common SPS framework will go a long way in restoring predictability and efficiency in EU-UK trade, specifically also in plant and plant products. Euroseeds supports the commitment to dynamic co-operation and we look forward to continued dialogue to ensure practical, science-based rules for all operators along the value chain."*

This shared commitment marks a significant milestone in reducing trade barriers in the movement of agri-food products between Great Britain, the EU, and Northern Ireland, while ensuring high standards in food safety, animal and plant health, and consumer protection.

The SPS Agreement—as envisaged—will seek to minimize duplication, increase predictability, and remove many of the current obstacles to the smooth flow of agricultural goods, benefitting producers, traders, and consumers alike.

Both partners have agreed to maintain a structured and ongoing exchange, essential to ensure continued alignment and transparency. This dialogue will be key to shaping a dynamic and effective SPS regime that reflects the realities of cross-border trade and regulatory developments, while respecting the constitutional frameworks on both sides.

Today's announcement reflects a clear commitment to collaboration and cooperation. We welcome the inclusive approach taken to reach this point and look forward to continued engagement to ensure that the future SPS Agreement delivers practical benefits for businesses and safeguards the integrity of both the UK and EU markets.



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