



Brussels 24 March 2020

Trade.dga1.d.3/HS/is(2020)1979068

Subject: Export certificates for animals, plants and their products

Excellency,

We would like to refer you to the letter in Annex, which the European Commission recently sent to all trading partners to inform them that electronic export certificates and scanned copies would be accepted for imports into the European Union, waiving the requirement to present original paper certificates as a temporary working solution in the context of COVID-19.

EU exporters of animals, plants and their products have likewise experienced difficulties in presenting original paper certificates issued by EU competent authorities to your border inspection posts. This is due to the serious restrictions applied to airplane transport and affecting the courier services used to deliver those certificates, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would therefore like to ask you to adopt reciprocal measures to ensure that consignments originating in the EU will be accepted on the basis of scanned copies of the original paper certificates whenever it is not possible to present the original paper certificate and provided that the original form follows at a later stage. If your country is a user of the TRACES platform, the scanned copies could be replaced by the EU harmonised export certificates issued and transmitted through TRACES. We would also like to ask your authorities to inform all EU Member States, the EU Delegation in your country and the European Commission (contact: trade-SPS@ec.europa.eu) as to the steps that exporters need to take in order to benefit from such a trade facilitating measure with regard to certification.

I look forward to your swift follow-up on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

[E-signed]

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[E-signed]

Bernard VAN GOETHEM

Enclosure: European Commission letter on export certificates due to COVID-19 dated 20 March 2020.

To trading partners of the EU