Update shared by the EU Commission:

“We refer to the 11 March public statement of the UK (available at <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-03-11/hcws841>), in which a new timeline for border control processes on goods imported into the UK from the European Union was announced − ***while maintaining the substance of the SPS import requirements and controls***.

In this message, you will find information on the ongoing exchanges of SPS questions and answers on exports to the UK, and other useful information on exports that is available in the Market Access Database (MADB) to EU Member States, EU and national business originations, European Commission services, EU Delegations, and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs of the UK (DEFRA).

**UK STATEMENT OF 11 MARCH 2021**

On 11 March 2021, the UK Minister Michael Gove announced a new timeline for border control processes on import of goods[[1]](#footnote-1), as follows:

* ***Pre-notification*** requirements for Products of Animal Origin (POAO), certain animal by-products (ABP), and High-Risk Food and Feed Not Of Animal Origin (HRFNAO) will not be required until 1 October 2021. ***Export Health Certificate*** requirements for POAO and certain ABP will come into force on the same date.
* ***Customs import declarations*** will still be required, but the option to use the deferred declaration scheme, including submitting supplementary declarations up to six months after the goods have been imported, has been extended to 1 January 2022.
* ***Safety and Security Declarations*** for imports will not be required until 1 January 2022.
* ***Physical SPS checks for POAO***, certain ABP, and HRFNAO will not be required until 1 January 2022. At that point they will take place at Border Control Posts.
* ***Physical SPS checks on high-priority plants*** will continue at Places of Destination until 1 January 2022, when they will move to Border Control Posts.
* From 1 January 2022, the requirement for pre-notifications, phytosanitary certificates and documentary checks will be extended to all ***regulated plants and plant products*** (i.e. not just those which are ‘high-priority’).
* From March 2022, ***checks at Border Control Posts*** will take place on live animals and all regulated plants and plant products (i.e. not just those which are ‘high-priority’).

In addition, on the same day, the **UK provided additional information via the Internet** - see part of the new information in the document attached to this message.

**COMMISSION FOLLOW-UP WITH THE UK/DEFRA**

However, despite the 11 March postponements, DEFRA also confirmed to the Commission very clearly that:

* The entering into force of the import requirements and controls was postponed, **but the** **substance of the requirements and controls remain unchanged**, and
* We need to continue to work to make sure that Member States and businesses have the necessary information and continue to prepare for the changes.

In light of the postponements, **DEFRA has already committed** (dates would be provided at a later stage) to:

* Join another meetings of the SPS MAWG (Commission, Member States and business organizations), as they did on 12 February; however, even if no longer urgent, a suitable date for the next event will be announced asap;
* Review and update the two presentations they gave in the 12 February meeting of the SPS MAWG;
* Review and update the written answers they already uploaded in the MADB (and the answers they were about to upload);
* Continue to upload in the MADB written answers to more questions.

Therefore, the information shared by the Commission with Member States and business organizations, remains valid.

In addition, please be informed that the Commission asked DEFRA to consider organizing three types of **webinars**:

* Joint SPS/customs webinars with DEFRA and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC);
* SPS/transit related matters;
* Imports into the UK of plants and plant products”.

1. Minister Michael Gove statement of 11 March 2021 on border controls: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-03-11/hcws841> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)