

**Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)** in food and crops were the subject of two new specific trade concerns on regulations by the EU and Chinese Taipei. WTO members follow different approaches to managing GMOs in food and animal feed, including when informing consumers through labelling and this sometimes creates trade challenges.

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Paraguay and the US aired concerns about a proposed revision of EU regulation (EC)1829/2003 on GMOs ([G/TBT/N/EU/284](#)). The revision would enable EU member states to ban certain GMOs for over-riding public interest reasons, even if the GMO had been authorized at the EU level as not posing a health or environmental risk. Concerned members urged the EU to also notify the proposed revision to the WTO [Sanitary and phytosanitary \(SPS\) Committee](#). The EU said the proposed revision did not introduce any restriction or ban but enabled EU member states to opt out of a GMO authorization by the EU. Free circulation of GMOs in the EU internal market would be preserved under the proposal as member states would not be permitted to restrict or ban the import and circulation of GMOs — only their use.

Canada, New Zealand and the US raised questions about new labelling requirements put in place by Chinese Taipei to indicate the presence of GMOs in food. They questioned why the threshold for labelling had been lowered (meaning that more products had to be labelled as containing GMOs), and argued that the labels could mislead consumers and create the impression that food containing GMOs was unsafe. Chinese Taipei explained that its three new labelling regulations were designed to provide information to consumers.