



Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6-7 MARCH 2019

INTERIM CHAIRPERSON: MR. JOSE MANUEL CAMPOS ABAD

Note by the Secretariat¹

Corrigendum²

3.4.41 European Union – Application of Regulation No. 1169/2011 and Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 as regards the labelling of food products, in not prohibiting or examining the use of "palm oil free" labels (IMS ID 555¹¹⁰)

The statement delivered by Guatemala should read as follows:

3.245 The representative of Guatemala shared the concerns expressed by other Members, as palm oil producers, and in particular regarding the EU's measures and advertising campaigns against the consumption of palm oil and its use in various products, identifying palm oil as a product that damaged health and destroyed the environment.

3.246 Her delegation was of the view that "Palm oil free" and "No palm oil" labels had a negative impact and discouraged the consumption of palm oil only, and not of other oils, constituting discrimination. This type of labelling misinformed consumers and constituted a form of deceptive advertising.

3.247 Guatemala was concerned by the European Union's inaction, allowing the use of negative labelling and thereby generating discrimination against palm oil as opposed to other vegetable oils and similar European products. She acknowledged that these acts did not violate European regulations but nonetheless called on the EU to take action when they had a negative impact on the consumer or misinformed or confused consumers. In her delegation's view, these measures took no account of the efforts made by the Guatemalan palm oil agro-industry to ensure that production was sustainable and in conformity with international environmental sustainability standards.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

¹¹⁰ [G/TBT/M/76](#), para. 3.202 and [G/TBT/M/75](#), paras. 4.209-4.210.

² In English only.