



Negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the European Union and Tunisia

## The EU Proposal on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

### FACTSHEET

April 2016

The present document aims at providing a general overview of the European Union's (EU) proposal for a Chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) envisaged between the EU and Tunisia. The text of the EU proposal was presented to Tunisian experts in October 2015 and is now available on the website [link] of the European Commission.

#### Why to negotiate on SPS issues?

Agriculture, food and feed production are sectors that have significant potential to contribute to increased economic activity of any country.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures ensure the safety of production and trade in these products and include all relevant legislative and regulatory acts, requirements and procedures.

However, applications to get access to another country can take years as the exporting country would need to show evidence that their products are safe. Through closer cooperation these processes can be made much faster without the fear of increased risk of animal or plant diseases.

The DCFTA will boost opportunities for trade between the EU and Tunisia in animals and animal products, plant and plant products and other food products, while maintaining and promoting high levels of human, animal and plant health safety.

Tunisia has started an active process to implement legislation in this area consistent with international standards, including those of the European Union.

Harmonisation and alignment of legislation makes the products of one trading partner more acceptable to the other and will remove unnecessary trade barriers, while respecting the goals of protecting human, animal and plant health.

#### Main goals

The EU proposal aims to:

- Create a basis to work together to progressively **align Tunisian legislation with that of the EU**.
- Include commitments to ensure **transparency** and bilateral **consultations**.
- Set out **swift and pragmatic procedures and decision-making** mechanisms on regulations affecting trade.
- Encourage **co-operation on different areas of animal, plant and human health**, for example on recognition of disease-free areas, and on animal welfare.
- **Encourage joint work** to avoid legislative or procedural differences that would hinder trade.
- Set up a **strong mechanism for resolving trade issues** in the sanitary and phytosanitary area.

This will make exports of products derived from animals and plants and other food products more competitive on both sides.