



# IGTC

International Grain Trade Coalition

**Meeting report**  
**WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility Seminar (STDF)**  
**Electronic SPS certification**  
**28 June, 2016**  
**WTO, Geneva**

Eight IGTC participants attended the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility's (STDF) [seminar on electronic SPS certification](#) on 28 June.

The IGTC had the opportunity to make a presentation during a panel dedicated to 'dialogue with businesses', as well as making interventions from the floor during the plenary session.

Over 150 delegates were present including government representatives, UN Agencies, academia, businesses and NGOs. Attendance from governments was dominated by those active on the WTO's SPS Committee. Other vocal participants included World Bank, Convention on Biodiversity, KEPHIS, US FDA, Europatat, International Seed Federation and the German Development Ministry.

### **Key documents**

Meeting agenda [here](#)

Business session agenda [here](#)

Presentation given by IGTC [here](#)

### **IGTC participants**

1. Jean-Christian Fages, Vice President, Louis Dreyfus Commodities
2. Alexander Goulandris, co-founder and CEO, EssDocs
3. Nathalie Lazzarotto, Technical Lead, Trade Execution, Cargill
4. Katy Lee, Acting Secretariat, IGTC
5. David Merceron, Cargill
6. Vincent Minna, CFO MENA and Geneva Trading Desks, Bunge
7. Alejandro Pernías, CKO, Global Share
8. Petya Sechanova, Trade Execution Leader, Cargill

### **IGTC Mission**

The IGTC's main points, as brought forward in the lunchtime dialogue dedicated to businesses, were as below:

1. IGTC has a global Working Group on EDocs, which:
  - provides for information and advice related to the innovation of paperless document exchange, and;
  - assists in the innovation of a transparent, secure, cost efficient electronic system where all the parties benefit from productivity improvements that results in better management and more sustainable, reliable, predictable and responsive logistics.
2. IGTC is pleased to sit on the Industry Advisory Group of the [IPPC/STDF ePhyto pilot project](#). Priority is to work towards a system compatible with



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- a global transition; and comprehensively address the entire electronic document management innovation opportunity.
3. The phyto is just one part of a whole set of documents necessary for the international trade of grain.
  4. Building links with stakeholders is crucial: banks, UN Agencies such as IPPC, WCO.

## Presentations

| Title   | Speaker and Organization                          |
|---|---|
| <u>Electronic certification in the context of agricultural trade</u>  | <u>Jonathan Tat Tsen Koh</u> ,<br>CrimsonLogic    |
| <u>IPPC's standards governing electronic phytosanitary certification: recent developments</u>   | <u>Craig Fedchock/Shane Sela</u> ,<br>IPPC        |
| <u>Update on the work of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) in the area of paperless certification</u> | <u>Erik Bosker</u> , CCFICS WG on paperless trade |
| <u>OIE's standards governing electric veterinary certification</u>  | <u>Tomoko Ishibashi</u> , OIE                     |
| <u>Standards of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) to simplify and automate agriculture trade</u>             | <u>Markus Pikart</u> , UNECE                      |



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| <p><u>Use of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Data Model in the area of electronic certificate(s)</u></p>                                  | <p><u>Tejo Kusuma, WCO</u></p>  |
| <p><u>Summary of the linkages between electronic SPS certification and other trade procedures,</u></p>   | <p><u>Jonathan Tat Tsen Koh, CrimsonLogic</u></p>                               |
| <p><u>Lessons learned from implementation of electronic phytosanitary certification in Kenya</u></p>   | <p><u>Josiah Syanda, KEPHIS</u></p>   |
| <p><u>Philippines' experience in the implementation of electronic certification to facilitate quarantine clearance for animal products</u></p> | <p><u>Francis Norman Lopez, InterCommerce, Pan Asian eCommerce Alliance</u></p> |
| <p><u>The Netherland's Client System: lessons learned from exchange electronic SPS certificates with developing countries</u></p>              | <p><u>Benno Slot, NVWA</u></p>  |
| <p><u>Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region to support implementation of paperless trade (UNNExT and other initiatives)</u></p>               | <p><u>Maame Agyeben, United Nations ESCAP</u></p>                               |
| <p><u>From Customs automation to electronic phytosanitary certificates: UNCTAD's experience</u></p>  | <p><u>John David, UNCTAD</u></p>  |



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| <u><a href="#">TRAdE Control and Expert System (TRACES) of the European Union: the path towards authentic electronic certificates using qualified electronic seals and signatures</a></u> | <u><a href="#">Didier Carton</a></u> , Directorate General for Health and Food Safety at the European Commission |
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## Conclusions

In its closing statement, the STDF Secretariat drew a number of conclusions about upcoming challenges and opportunities, stating that electronic SPS certification has the potential to:

- lower transaction costs for businesses and traders;
- support in compliance with regulation;
- build trust among trading partners;
- fight fraud;
- assist in achieving the [2030 SDGs](#), as well as global food security;
- streamline business processes and lead to reform;
- help bring down stubbornly high costs of trade
- help implement the [Aid for Trade](#) initiative and [Trade Facilitation Agreement](#)

The key actions identified were:

- increase involvement of the private sector;
- build collaboration with border agencies;
- provide guidance and support with developing countries;
- explore synergies with other initiatives e.g. [CITES electronic permitting toolkit](#);
- Make better use of data at the end of transactions - aggregation of data is important, 'data is power'.