



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **NAEGA MAP Trip Report – IGTC Meetings – Geneva, Switzerland – June 2017**

**Name of Traveler:** Gary Martin, President and CEO, NAEGA; President, IGTC

**Dates of Travel:** June 20-24, 2017

### **Purpose of Travel:**

Inconsistent with accomplishing NAEGA’s UES objectives Gary Martin, President and CEO, NAEGA, travelled to Geneva, Switzerland on June 20-24, 2017. In Geneva, Mr. Martin joined Ms. Katy Lee, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), for a series of meetings to support NAEGA 2017 and 2018 UES objectives largely executed via the IGTC. In particular, Mr. Martin held meetings to report on and receive recommendations for IGTC actions to address facilitation of trade with China, to consider parameters for the establishment of new commercial and official practices related to information management and implementation of regulations and to explore options for modification of the IGTC business plan. During his time in Geneva, Mr. Martin and Ms. Lee met with IGTC members and corporate stakeholders to update them on the implementation of the IGTC Business Plan and recent developments in IGTC policy filed.

### **Summary of Findings/Conclusions/Accomplishment**

A key point of discussion during this mission was the implementation of the Business Plan and outreach with new and existing members around the world. Regarding international policy work and the impact on the grain trade, the Geneva visit was particularly timely given current developments at global level, including:

- *The digitization of trading documentation:* milestone meetings took place on June 28-29 in Arlington and Washington D.C, when IGTC and representatives of other global trade flows including vegetables, seeds, cotton, came together as the Advisory Group of the ePhyto Hub. Fourteen government representatives also attended a briefing on the topic at the Canadian Embassy on 28th June.
- *IPPC International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for grain:* The IPPC Standards Committee has launched a closed-door forum in order to allow its 25 members to share views on the draft ISPM for grain.
- *The endorsement of the Global Low-Level Presence Initiative (GLI) of a new “practical approaches” statement.*
- *The IGTC’s position on MRLs* was approved by Management Council on 6th June and is intended to be used as a reference point for global advocacy efforts for grain trade representatives.

### **Recommendations**

- IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee should proceed with planning and execution of a IGTC General Assembly and outreach session in Arlington, VA on November 16, 2017.
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### **Attachments**