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**IGTC**  
International Grain Trade Coalition

## IGTC Newsletter 19 September 2017

### IGTC General Assembly 2017:

Participants from six countries have already indicated their plans to attend the IGTC 2017 General Assembly! Our meetings will take place from November 15-17 in the Washington, D.C. area. Confirm your attendance and read more [here](#)

## Events

### September 27-28: WTO public forum – Geneva, Switzerland

WTO opens its doors to the public for this annual event. This year the theme is “Trade: Behind the headlines”. Information about speakers and thematic sessions is [here](#).

### September 28: European Commission high-level conference on modern biotechnologies in agriculture - Brussels, Belgium

Dr. Teresa Babuscio, Secretary General of COCERAL and Vice President of IGTC, will make a presentation at this EU-led event. Around 300 policy makers, NGOs,

## IGTC in Action

### International Grains Council (IGC) market updates meeting



The IGTC was in London on September 8th to give a briefing on “Current Developments in Policy and Trade Practice” ([document here](#)) at the International Grains Council (IGC) Markets Conditions Committee (MCC) meeting. The IGC is a government-to-government body of 55 members with the mandate of grain trade facilitation at its core. It holds twice-yearly MCC meetings in order to present independent information and “keep the global grain market situation and outlook under close review”. Expert presentations given at the September meeting include 2017/18 crop forecasts for key commodities (corn, soy, wheat, sorghum, barley, rice), as well as emerging supply and demand dynamics in the international trade of pulse products. As per a member-endorsed agreement in Buenos Aires in December 2015, the IGTC remains a committed participant in the IGC, providing grain trade updates at Council sessions, conferences and MCC meetings. The IGTC is looking forward to seeing IGC again at its 46th Council Session on 5th December in Brussels, Belgium.

### IPPC launches questionnaire on global ePhyto solution

The IPPC has launched a questionnaire for businesses, trade operators and global trade flow representatives on the adoption of electronic phytosanitary certificates. The aim of the survey is to gather information from the private sector to support and improve the IPPC-WTO ePhyto project ([website here](#)), as well as to develop a business model for financing and cost recovery. All responses to the questionnaire will be treated confidentially. To take part contact the IGTC Secretariat: [secretariat@igtglobal.org](mailto:secretariat@igtglobal.org)



### IGTC priorities: IPPC phytosanitary standard for the movement of grain

academics and agri-food value chain representatives are expected to attend.

## October 1-4: Third Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-3) – Montreal, Canada

Participants from over 60 countries are expected to attend the third edition of this event. More information about the 2007 and 2012 Summits can be read [here](#).

## October 5-7: 7th African Grain Trade Summit (AGTS)- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The AGTS is a biennial high-level, internationally-recognized grain industry conference that brings together state and non-state grain sector stakeholders from across the African continent and beyond. There will be a focus on the harmonization of science-based SPS measures as a key element of trade facilitation. More information [here](#).

## Links

[IGTC Website](#)

[IGTC list of members](#)



IPPC member governments are continuing their work on the forthcoming "International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures" (ISPM) for the movement of grain. A critical meeting of the 25 governments sitting on the IPPC Standards Committee will take place in November at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, and is expected to address ongoing core issues such as the scope of the standard; traceability measures; and what kind of "pests" are to be targeted (e.g. quarantine pests, pests that require action, or all pests). The IGTC's Policy Team on the ISPM has provided outreach material for the whole network to adapt and use in conversations with their own governments. IGTC participants from countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, Kenya, Mexico and USA have already committed to raising awareness. Once finalized, the ISPM will affect shipments of grain from the 183 government "Parties" to the Convention, and will therefore have a significant impact on grain trade operations worldwide.



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