

**WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION**

**G/SPS/GEN/295/Add.7**  
1 March 2002

(02-1056)

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Submission by Belarus

Addendum

<b>Technical assistance <u>requirements</u>:</b>					
	<b>Information</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)</b>	<b>Specific concern</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement</b>	yes	yes	<u>Soft</u>  <u>Hard:</u> NIC needs equipment for communication with its partners inside and outside the country	Training is required for the personnel of the TBT and SPS National Information Centre (NIC) on communication and cooperation procedures, both within national governmental structures and with foreign partners – particularly regarding questions from WTO Members.  <u>Server of data bases</u> CPU-2xPIII-Xeon OZY-512Mb RAID Controller HDD-3x20Gb FDD-1.44Mb CD-ROM-40x Strimmer DDS312/24Gb (4mm) Ethernet 10/100Mbps Monitor-15” Keyboard+mouse  <u>Equipment for appropriated line</u> Zyxel Prestige 153x 3WAN of port ILAN, TCP/IP/IPX,RIP  <u>Modem for appropriated line</u> Zyxel (model depends upon the speed of connection)  <u>Laser printer DUPLEX NET</u> 24 ppm 1200dpi 16Mb A4  <u>High speed scanner</u> HP SJ7400C	

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<b>Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement (Cont'd)</b>				<u>Work station</u> Processor Pentium IV type OZY –128Mb HDD-30Gb Monitor-17” Ethernet 10/100Mbps FDD-1.44Mb CD-ROM-40x Keyboard+mouse	
<b>Food safety</b>					
<b>Animal health</b>					
<b>Plant health</b>					
<b>Contact details</b>	Vera Levkovitch National Information Centre on TBT and SPS 3 Melezh str., Minsk, 220113, Republic of Belarus, Fax (37517) 262-15-20; Tel. (37517) 262-12-50; E-mail: belgiss@mail.belpak.by				

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*(Such information could include, inter alia, a more detailed description of the technical assistance required, any relevant background information on the reasons for the request, the possibility of using a regional approach to the provision of the requested assistance and the scope for a coordinated approach among relevant international organisations.)*

1. A joint SPS/TBT National Information Centre has been established by Government decision and fulfils the functions of both National Notification Authority and Enquiry Point. NIC staff will consist of 3 people for whom training in the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement is required. Specific training topics to be covered include: processing information coming from the WTO and ensuring Belarusian compliance with the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement. Once trained, these officials will also use their knowledge and skills to benefit the staff of other Ministries and enterprises involved in SPS questions.
2. Although NIC has good office premises, it is lacking office equipment. The list of equipment mentioned above provides an outline of our needs.
3. We kindly ask for assistance from the WTO so that the NIC may assist the Republic of Belarus in its WTO accession process.
4. Technical assistance has previously been provided to the Government of Belarus through the EU's TACIS programme. Mr. Bergholm, former Chairman of the SPS Committee, visited Belarus twice financed by this programme. Thanks to his seminars a wide circle of Belarusian specialists have received a good overview of the WTO. In view of his acquaintance with Belarus, further training by Mr. Bergholm would be one option that would be welcomed.

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<b>Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement</b>				Harmonization of foodstuff safety testing methods with those of other WTO members.	
<b>Food safety</b>	<p>1. On the maximum permissible levels of micro-organisms and contaminants (toxic elements, pesticides, antibiotics, mycotoxins, nitrosamins, radionuclides and others) permitted by WTO members.</p> <p>2. On foodstuff safety testing methods officially recognized by WTO members.</p>	<p>Training of specialists from:</p> <p>1. Central Veterinary Inspection and Inspection on Quality and Standards of Ministry – 4 persons</p> <p>2. Republican laboratory and Belarusian Veterinary Centre - 7 persons</p> <p>3. Veterinary Inspection and Inspections on quality and standards for agricultural products and regional veterinary laboratories – 20 persons</p> <p>4. State border and transport veterinary inspection - 6 persons</p> <p>5. Veterinary Service and services quality and standards of meat processing enterprises and the city veterinary station doctors - 12 persons</p>	<p>Equipment for accredited laboratories undertaking food safety assessments: devices for express testing of microbiological and other safety criteria using for example Bac Tzac 4100 FOODCARD 2; OCTETE – PC and others.</p>		

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<b>Animal health</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Food receives information about animal diseases from the Office International des Epizooties and European states. Information from OIE is presented in English. In order to facilitate the documentation handling it would be preferable to receive documents in Russian.	Training of veterinary specialists of the national Veterinary Institutions and Organisations and local officials on food safety and animal health.	<p><u>Soft Infrastructure:</u> Ensuring methodical inspection methods for raw materials and finished commodities</p> <p><u>Hard infrastructure:</u> Assistance in equipping laboratories with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Atomic absorptive spectrophotometer with hybrid attachment and electro-sprayer (AAS-6) – 10 items,</li> <li>- Gas chromatograph with set of accessories – 10 items ,</li> <li>- Spectrophotometer – 10 items</li> <li>- Binocular biologic microscope – 10 items</li> <li>- PH-meter – 10 items</li> </ul>		
<b>Plant health</b>	Exchange of experience between quarantine laboratory specialists on phytosanitary appraisal of plant products. Familiarization with quarantine laboratory structures.	Training of laboratory specialists to work with Elise test and Epson printing device (purchasing of necessary reactives).	Purchasing of laboratory equipment for plant examination.	Assimilation of new methods of plant laboratory examination (disease diagnostics, hook-worms, pests, weeds).	

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<b>Contact details</b>	Natalia Lomasko Ministry of Agriculture and Food 15 Kirov str., Minsk, 220050, Republic of Belarus, Fax: (37517) 226-14-26; Tel: (37517) 226-51-74; E-mail: <a href="mailto:Inatasha@mshp.minsk.by">Inatasha@mshp.minsk.by</a>				

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<b>Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement</b>					
<b>Food safety</b>	Delivery to the Ministry of Health of a set of normative documents (translated into Russian) concerning food safety: Codex Alimentarius standards, EC directives on normalization and regulation of production and circulation of foodstuffs, food supplements, biologically active supplements and nutraceuticals, hygienic rates of safety factors, methodical instructions on methods for determination of food quality and safety, and laboratory quality systems documentation for toxicology, including	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training of specialists of the Ministry of Health in the introduction and audit of risks analysis systems and control of critical points (HACCP) at food enterprises - 10 persons.</li> <li>2. Training of leaders and managers on quality at food enterprises – 35 persons.</li> <li>3. Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on foodstuff laboratory testing - 20 managers – specialists of the Ministry of Health</li> <li>- on the quality audit realization according to ISO 17025 -10 persons</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Laboratories need the following equipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laboratory module for the monitoring of the content of dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, mycotoxins nitrosamines ;</li> <li>2. laboratory equipment of the following types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- high-performance liquid chromatographs – 9 items,</li> <li>- chromatomassspectrometers – 9 items,</li> <li>- atomic absorption and atomic emission spectrometers – 9 items</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Training of leaders and enterprise managers on foodstuff quality according to HACCP principles - using EC experience as the example so as to ensure the speedy introduction of HACCP into large food enterprises.	

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<b>Food safety (Cont'd)</b>	good laboratory practice instructions on methods for the determination of foodstuff quality and safety, good laboratory practice and laboratory quality systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- automated complexes for microbiological indices evaluation – 9 items</li> <li>- radiometers – 9 items</li> <li>- radiochemical analysis devices – 9 items</li> <li>- equipment for keeping of and working with the laboratory animals – 2 items</li> <li>- system for samples preparation (for chromatographic and spectrometric equipment) – 9 items for each.</li> </ul> <p>3. Assistance on accreditation of food testing laboratories including support on international experts and auditors' involvement.</p> <p>4. Assistance in participation of Belarusian laboratories in international schemes of round robin and professional testing</p>		

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<b>Animal health</b>					
<b>Plant health</b>					
<b>Contact details</b>	Golub Vladimir Sergeevich, Chief Medical Officer Republican Centre of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health Tel. +375 172 784369 Fax +375 172 784207 e-mail: hygiene@rcge.belpak.minsk.by				

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