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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS

Supplement

Denmark

The present document reproduces information on Denmark's technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, which has been received from the Permanent Mission of Denmark by means of a communication dated 7 November 1996.

The Danish Patent Office executes the following Technical Assistance Projects:

LITHUANIA

1. *Duration*

The project started in 1992 and ended on 1 November 1995.

2. *General objectives of the programme*

- Support to Lithuania in the context of implementing new IPR laws.
- Training of Lithuanian patent and trademark experts.
- Training of Lithuanian office-automation experts, and support to Lithuania in the implementation of an office-automation plan.

3. *Description of the project*

The specific objectives can be summarized in two major points:

3.1 Legislation

The Danish Patent Office (DPO) has provided legal assistance and training to the Lithuanian State Patent Bureau (SPB). The Lithuanian patent and trademark laws came into force on respectively 1 February 1994 and 1 October 1993.

3.2 Organizational matters

In cooperation between DPO, EPO and SPB, a plan for the development of the organization of the SPB was made. The plan in general provides proposals for the organizational structure, the need for technical equipment, staff and training, and budgets for the first five-year period.

The DPO also gave assistance to the SPB in connection with the invitation to tender for a computer-network, and the implementation of office-automation, in the SPB.

4. *Other matters*

In November 1994, a conference was held in Vilnius with the purpose of promoting the awareness of industrial property. Among other things, DPO-representatives provided examples of the usefulness and value of IPR information.

MINOR ACTIVITIES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION
(Summary)

1. *Bilateral activities*

1.1 In 1994

- support to Latvia in the implementation of an automation plan;
- counselling Bulgarian and Romanian experts in industrial property information and services to industry (financed by PHARE/RIPP).

1.2 In 1995

- assistance to Albania in drafting automation tender;
- assistance to Lithuania continued (training of experts).

1.3 In 1996

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2. *Multinational activities*

2.1 In 1994

- arranging industrial property seminar in Lithuania in cooperation with EPO and Lithuanian State Patent Bureau;
- hosting one-week seminar for experts from ASEAN countries and China in cooperation with EPO;
- training African/Asian experts under the WIPO Development Cooperation Project;
- technical coordination and supervision of the RIPP Common Software program in cooperation with EPO;
- participation in high-level expert mission to ASEAN countries and in regional ASEAN Symposium.

2.2 In 1995

- RIPP Common Software project continued.

2.3 In 1996

- ...

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES - PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION

I. PROJECTS

ESTONIA

Information concerning Danish Estonian cooperation programme in the seed sector in relation to plant variety protection.

The cooperation programme comprised a number of activities including the participation of private companies in Denmark and Estonia. The coordination of the project was carried out by Danagro Adviser A/S.

1. *Duration*

November 1993 to December 1994.

2. *General objectives of the programme*

- lectures on Danish legislation including plant variety protection;
- training courses in seed testing, variety testing and seed certification;
- seed sector study.

3. *Description of the project*

3.1 Legislation

Lectures on seed legislation were given at a number of occasions in Denmark to officials from the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture.

A seminar on seed legislation and technical examination of plant varieties for protection was given to a number of officials from the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture in Tallinn, Estonia.

3.2 Training courses

Seed testing

A training course in seed testing of one week's duration was held for four officials from the Estonian Seed Testing Station.

Variety testing

A training course of two weeks' duration was held for five officials from Estonia. The course comprised among other things training in testing of varieties for distinctness, uniformity and stability on which criteria new varieties can be protected. This project will be repeated in 1997.

Seed certification

A training course of one week's duration was held for two officials from Estonia.

3.3 Seed sector study

A study on the Estonian seed market including the possibilities for variety testing, plant variety protection and the improvement of the seed market was carried out including a study trip in Estonia for one-and-a-half week's duration.

II. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Visits

Assistance to a number of persons from other countries is given on basis of visits mostly within the technical examination of new plant varieties.

The duration of such visits is often one-two days and is not considered to be training courses as such.

Written information

On a similar basis information is given about the legislation on plant variety protection as well as the technical examination of plant varieties. The information is given in replies to a number of written enquiries. Often such enquiries are of a more general nature.

Legal assistance

The three Nordic members of the European Union have a joint project with the three Baltic states concerning the adjustment of the last-mentioned states' legislation in the field of plant variety protection etc. to EU norms.