

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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COMPREHENSIVE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMMES FOR BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS, BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS, BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

Statement by Belize at the Meeting of 30 June-1 July 2011

The following communication, received on 30 June 2011, is circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

1. The Belize Agricultural Health Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Belize Livestock Association and with technical assistance from the Mexican Veterinary Services Authority (SENASICA) is in the process of final preparations for conducting comprehensive surveillance programmes for three main diseases: Bovine Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. Plans are also in place to implement an animal identification system for bovine.
2. Financing for this activity is being provided by the Government of Belize, the Belize Livestock Association, and the Mexican Government through the International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (OIRSA) and the European Union.
3. Enabling legislation has been drafted and circulated to Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for their review and comments. Belize hopes to enact all five (5) pieces of legislation as soon as the comment period is over so as to have the legal provisions to carry out the surveillance and implement the animal identification system.
4. The five (5) draft regulations notified to WTO Members include:
 - Regulation for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (G/SPS/N/BLZ/2);
 - Regulation for the Importation and Exportation of Live Animals and Products of Animal Origin for the Prevention of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (G/SPS/N/BLZ/3);
 - Regulation for the Prevention, Eradication and Control of Bovine Brucellosis (G/SPS/N/BLZ/4);
 - Regulation for the Belize Animal Identification System (G/SPS/N/BLZ/5); and
 - Regulation for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis (G/SPS/N/BLZ/6).
5. The objectives of these initiatives are to enable Belize to comply with its international obligations under the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and to establish the enabling environment conducive for trade, thereby diversifying the country's exports.