

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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## MONITORING AND CONTROL OF POULTRY DISEASES

### Communication from Peru

1. As from 2004, Peru's National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) will be implementing a national programme to control and eradicate poultry quarantine diseases, under a cooperation agreement with the Peruvian Poultry Association (APA), with the aim of declaring Peru free from "avian influenza" and areas of the country free from Newcastle disease, so that high-quality Peruvian poultry products may gain access to the world's most demanding markets.
2. The Newcastle disease virus, together with the highly pathogenic form of avian influenza, are the main cause of restrictions of international trade in poultry products and by-products. According to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Newcastle disease is a List A disease owing to the high spread potential and the substantial economic losses caused to the poultry industry.
3. According to OIE reports, this disease is being controlled in certain South American countries by means of strategic programmes. In Chile, no cases of the velogenic form of the disease have been reported since 1975, while the last cases reported in Argentina and Uruguay date from 1987 and 1984, respectively.
4. A similar situation is observed in certain Central American countries, particularly Costa Rica which has had no notifications of the disease since 1990 and is close to being declared free from the disease.
5. Against this background, SENASA, with the participation of the APA, has devised a strategic poultry health plan designed to "develop the poultry production chain by conducting an efficient programme of monitoring, control and eradication of diseases, with the active participation of the State and interested parties, and based on efficient, flexible and innovative organization". The strategic objectives are the following: (i) to declare disease-free areas with international recognition; (ii) to protect and maintain the current sanitary situation; (iii) to certify the health and safety of poultry products; (iv) to strengthen private participation by means of mechanisms such as the accreditation of veterinarians specializing in poultry health. There are two clear short-term goals: (i) to declare areas of Peru free from Newcastle disease by the year 2005; and (ii) to declare the entire country free from avian influenza by the year 2005.
6. It should be emphasized that the poultry industry has grown at an average annual rate of 8.5 per cent over the last ten years and that in 2002 it accounted for 22 per cent of the gross domestic agricultural product and 52 per cent of GDP in the livestock subsector. Consequently, this sanitary programme is a strategic priority for the development of Peruvian poultry exports and for the corn/poultry/eggs production chain.