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Country follow-up to UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

Belarus: follow up activities*

Summary

The Government of the Republic of Belarus has launched a new wave of reform measures to remove regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. These measures are implemented by the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus (SCCBY) and the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus (Gosstandart), taking into account priority areas identified in the UNECE needs assessment study that was carried out in 2011.

The Government wishes to brief the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards on achievements to date.

This document is presented to the Steering Committee for information.

* Updated as of October 2015.



I. State Customs Committee of Belarus (SCCBY) reform measure: Introduction of the principle of «Two Services at the Border»

A. Overview of the preparations and planning efforts that led to the adoption of the reform measure.

1. The “Two Services at the Border” principle is meant to reduce the time associated with control operations at the road border crossing points. It involves transferring transport control functions as well as individual functions of the sanitary-quarantine, veterinary and phytosanitary controls to customs authorities.

2. The SCCBY, together with the customs services of neighbouring countries, undertook a thorough analysis of the time required for completing border control operations. The analysis showed that the transition from one border control service to another, and not the processes associated with the control functions, is responsible for extending the time required for traders to pass through border control. Border control services have different subordination and approaches to implementing their mandates. The current organization of control functions prevents synchronization of border control processes. Different locations of the control agencies undermine the agencies’ ability to consolidate a coordinated approach. Other factors relate to repetitive entering of information requirements into the systems of different border control agencies and duplication of control operations.

3. The implementation of the “Two Services at the Border” is proceeding within the context of a phased approach. The first phase is guided by Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 309 of April 24, 2013 “On improving the procedure for crossing the state border of the Republic of Belarus by individual persons, vehicles and goods”, which came into effect on May 1, 2013. The Resolution stipulated assigning to the SCCBY the following operational control functions of the Transport Inspectorate of the Ministry of Transport, veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary-quarantine services at border crossing points:

- Arranging the interaction between state control bodies when passing vehicles and goods through the state border of the Republic of Belarus;
- Sequencing and synchronizing control operations for vehicles and goods passing through border crossing points.
- Regulating the time for completion of control operations by all the border control agencies.
- Identifying the places for submission of documents necessary for transport, veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary-quarantine control, as well as identifying places for conducting the abovementioned controls;
- Preparing and conducting anti-corruption activities.

B. Objectives of reform measure

4. The “Two Services at the Border” principle seeks to accelerate border control procedures through:

- Eliminating repetitive submission of information requirements.

- Reducing waiting time at border crossing points.
- Increasing manageability of control processes at the border.
- Synchronizing activities of the control services.

C. Organizational structures that were set up to implement the reform measure

5. Permanent Working Groups were set up to transfer functions of transport and sanitary-quarantine control to the Customs and work plans were elaborated to transfer such functions to the Customs.
6. Implementation of the reform measure involved the following State agencies:
 - SCCBY as the main, lead agency, responsible for overall coordination of the development of the required laws, methods and approaches for transferring sanitary-quarantine, veterinary and phytosanitary control functions to the Customs.
 - The Ministry of Transport and Communications (the Transport Inspectorate of the Ministry of Transport, RUE “Belarusian Road Engineering Technical Centre”), which is responsible for the liaising with the SCCBY (within the working group) on issues related to transferring transport control functions to the Customs.
 - The Ministry of Health, which is responsible for liaising with the SCCBY and the State Border Guard Service on issues related to transferring sanitary-quarantine control functions to the Customs and border guard authorities.
 - The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which is responsible for liaising with the SCCBY on issues related to transferring documentary control over compliance with veterinary and phytosanitary requirements to the Customs.

D. Associated legal reforms

7. Implementation of the reform measure saw the introduction of the below amendments to the existing legislation and the development of new legal acts. The amendments are listed by area:
 - Road traffic: the amendments to the Law “On Highways and Road Activity” of December 2, 1994; Presidential Decree No. 613 of November 26, 2010 “On Passage of Heavy and (or) Large-sized Vehicles on Public Roads”; Presidential Decree No. 551 of November 28, 2005 “On Measures for Enhancing the Road Traffic Safety”.
 - Vehicle control procedures: amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 776 of May 30, 2008 “On Approval of the Regulations on the Procedure of Control over the International Road Transportation on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus”.
 - Implementation of vehicle control functions at road checkpoints by the customs authorities: Presidential Decree No.589 of December 31, 2013 “On Some Issues of the Customs Bodies Activities and on Amendments to Some Decrees of the President of the Republic of Belarus”; Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus “On Approval of Regulations on the Procedures of Control over International Road Transportation on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus”.

- Implementation of documentary control over compliance with sanitary-quarantine requirements by the customs authorities: Presidential Decree № 524 of November 28, 2013 “On Some Issues of Implementation of Sanitary-Quarantine Control at Border Crossing Points at the State Border of the Republic of Belarus”.

E. Achievements in implementing the reform measures to date

8. Transport Inspectorate functions as well as sanitary-quarantine documentary control functions at road border crossing points were placed under the SCCBY. The SCCBY is now responsible for:

- Transport control (full-scale) at border crossing points.
- Sanitary-quarantine documentary control at border crossing points.

9. Functions of sanitary-quarantine control over individual persons were placed under the Border Guard Service.

10. The number of personnel of all the control agencies at border crossing points has been optimized, including by way of staff reduction.

F. Elements that were critical for making these achievements possible

11. The reform measure takes into account the experiences of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, which have already implemented “the two services at the border” principle.

12. The awareness of all border control agencies of the importance of speeding up the passenger traffic and the flow of goods, as well as of the necessity of addressing the excessive presence of control agencies at border crossing points were of great significance for successful implementation of reform measures.

13. Customs authorities were only assigned control functions related to border crossing points, thereby minimizing control operations at the border by means of transferring controls to the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

G. Gains for traders

14. The wait time for vehicles at border crossing points was reduced by 15 minutes on average (depending on the infrastructure of the border crossing point).

H. Key challenges

15. The project faced the following difficulties:

- The current system of veterinary and phytosanitary control at border crossing points in the Republic of Belarus is efficient and ensures epizootic welfare and quarantine phytosanitary security of the country. Taking into account current unfavourable epizootic situation with regard to extremely dangerous animal diseases in the Republic of Belarus and in the neighbouring countries, it was decided that it is premature to transfer veterinary and phytosanitary documentary control functions to the Customs.

I. Future plans

16. Continued cooperation between the SCCBY and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to elaborate optimal approaches to veterinary and phytosanitary control at border crossing points.

17. Further training of the Customs officials in transport and documentary sanitary-quarantine control. It is also planned to continue improving software.

II. Gosstandart: development of conformity assessment system and food products quality and safety controls using international standards and conformity assessment procedures

A. Overview of preparations and planning efforts that led to adoption of the reform measures

18. The implementation of the reform measure commenced in May 2012, within the context of the European Union (EU) funded project “The support to the quality infrastructure in Belarus - Food safety”. The project, which was completed in 2014, covered “Accreditation”, “Market surveillance”, “Laboratory Management and Public Procurement” and “Enhancing the Capacity of the Food Industry”.

19. The “Accreditation” component was geared to bring the accreditation legislation of the Republic of Belarus in compliance with EU Regulation EC/765/2008 and with the European accreditation practice, as a pre-requisite for the National Accreditation Body of the Republic of Belarus to join the Conformity Assessment Mutual Recognition Agreements with International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA).

20. The “Market Surveillance” component sought to improve market control functions through bringing these functions in compliance with the EU regulations and requirements.

21. The “Management of Laboratories and Public Procurement” component sought to create the network of reference laboratories for ensuring the safety of bottled mineral water, fish, meat and dairy products.

22. The component on “Enhancing the Capacity of the Food Industry” sought to help Belarusian food manufacturers (production of bottled mineral water, fish, meat and milk) achieve compliance with the international safety and product quality standards. The results of the project are provided below.

23. Results of the “Accreditation”:

- Analysis of the Belarusian legislation for its compliance with EU Regulation No 765/2008 and preparation of recommendations for introducing amendments to legal acts of the Republic of Belarus in the field of accreditation to ensure complete harmonization with European accreditation practices;
- Support to the reform of the national accreditation system of the Republic of Belarus through enabling the national accreditation body of the Republic of Belarus (Belarusian State Accreditation Centre-BSAC) to enter into mutual recognition agreements with EA, ILAC and IAF:

- Introduction of the rules and procedures of the ILAC, EA and IAF into the national accreditation system of the Republic of Belarus;
- Creation of a digital database of EA, ILAC, IAF documents;
- Provision of training for the entities of the national accreditation system of the Republic of Belarus on application of EA, ILAC, IAF basic standards and mandatory documents;
- Internship at EU accreditation bodies for the purpose of studying the best European accreditation practices;
- Participation of BSAC in the events and sessions of ILAC, IAF and EA
- Development of “Accreditation” automated information management system in order to ensure transparency, operability and traceability of the accreditation process in line with the requirements of the national accreditation system of the Republic of Belarus;
- Assistance in introducing the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 (Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection) in the Republic of Belarus.

24. Results of the “Market Surveillance”:

- Bringing the laws associated with market surveillance in line with the EU requirements. In particular, preparation of: the draft Law on General Product Safety, draft Law on Official Controls over Food Safety and amendments to the legislation on the liability for defective products (the Civil Code, the Law on Consumer Protection).
- Establishing a new national information system for unsafe food following the structure and technology of the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASSF); developing the required legal framework and specifications, as well as staff training;
- Developing and implementing the Belarusian market surveillance system in accordance with the EU requirements.
- Supporting the implementation of risk management system in the field of food safety, and improving the management systems of market surveillance bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 standard.

25. Results of the “Management of Laboratories and Public Procurement” component:

(a) Supporting the development of the legal framework (legal act) for the laboratories of the Gosstandart (Belarus State Metrology Institute), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) and the Ministry of Health (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health) in order to obtain the national reference laboratories status in line with the EU standards, including Regulation (EC) 882/2004.

The following documents were prepared:

- The Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus “On Establishment of the System of Reference Laboratories in the Republic of Belarus”;
- The Procedure of appointing national reference laboratories with reference functions in the Republic of Belarus;

- Regulations on the Interagency Board under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus that would bring together government agencies responsible for selecting, appointing and supervising the activities of national reference laboratories;
- Draft justification document for elaboration of the Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus “On Establishment of the System of Reference Laboratories in the Republic of Belarus”.

(b) Organizing one two-day seminar in the Republic of Belarus on the legal framework and procedures set for EU reference laboratories, as well as eight one-day seminars on the following topics: validation of methods, quality control in testing laboratories, certified reference materials, proficiency testing, uncertainty of measurements, internal audits, responsibility of national reference laboratories in the field of testing and organizing proficiency testing for experts from the laboratories of the Gosstandart (the Belarusian State Metrology Institute), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) and the Ministry of Health (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health).

The below training activities were undertaken:

- Two-day seminar (May 28-29, 2013) that focused on the legal framework for reference and official laboratories in Europe;
- Two-day seminar (July 17-18, 2014) that focused on the overview of relevant topics and the latest news from European laboratories;
- Two-day seminar (August 12-13, 2014) on non-organic analysis;
- 8 one-day seminars (2012-2013)

(c) Assistance in ensuring compliance with the EU requirements that are applied to laboratories exercising control over bottled natural mineral water, fish, meat and dairy products, including products for newborns and infants, by means of adapting the currently used analytical procedures to ensure compliance with the current EU food safety standards, as well as with the legislation on laboratory standards and other requirements.

26. Providing professional consulting and hands-on training for the Gosstandart (the Belarusian State Metrology Institute) laboratory staff, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) laboratory staff and the Ministry of Health (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health) laboratory staff on implementation of modern, internationally recognized analysis methods when using the procured (or similar) equipment (as may be necessary).

27. During project implementation, and within the framework of expert missions, the internationally recognized methods of detection and analysis of the following substances were validated:

- elements and heavy metals;
- food contact materials;
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID);
- anti-bacterial substances, such as betalactams (e. g., penicillins), tetracyclines, macrolides, lincosamides, quinolones, sulphanilamides, aminoglycosides and levamisole;
- anti-thyroid drugs;
- microbiological analysis.

28. As far as tests for residues of pharmacologically active substances are concerned, validation of methods was done in accordance with the protocol of the Commission Decision 2002/657/EC; validation was documented with the help of InterVAL® software.

29. When possible, internationally accepted standard methods (ISO, EN) were used and introduced.

30. In the field of organic substances analysis methods of identification of solvents, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) were validated.

31. Existing equipment (for gas chromatography (GC), high-efficiency liquid chromatography (HELIC), mass spectrometry (MS), atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS), microbiological laboratory equipment) was used, new methods were introduced and validated, quality management system of laboratories was updated.

32. Methods for validation were selected depending on laboratories' needs, and for most important substances the methods for validation were selected in line with the mandate and tasks of national reference laboratories (mycotoxins, pesticides, elements, food contact materials, pharmacologically active substances, PAHs, microbiology).

33. On-site training was conducted. The training focused on the analysis of materials in contact with food, mycotoxins, residues of organic and non-organic pollutants, residues of pesticides and pharmacologically active substances, microbiological analysis of food products with the use of internationally recognized methods.

34. The existing system of gas chromatography with mass-spectrometer detector, which was not used in the laboratory, has been put into operation again. The system can be subject to technical maintenance and then used for routine tests.

35. Training on food contact materials focused on migration tests and identification of unit migration (phthalates, epichlorohydrin, bisphenol A and acrylamide) in food substitutes.

36. All in all 27 trainings were conducted, including on-site practical sessions and seminars. 73 people were trained.

37. The following laboratories underwent proficiency testing within the framework of the project:

- The Belarusian State Metrology Institute participated in two FAPAS proficiency tests in the field of metals (arsenic, lead and cadmium) and pesticides analysis. Proficiency testing results have already been assessed by FAPAS. Tests results are "excellent";
- The Ministry of Health laboratory (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health) successfully passed LGC proficiency test on identification of listeria in food products;
- The Ministry of Agriculture laboratory (the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) participated in several FAPAS proficiency tests related to the analysis of various groups of pharmacologically active substances on different matrices.

(d) Determining the equipment, software and reference materials to be procured for the laboratories of the Gosstandart (the Belarusian State Metrology Institute), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) and the Ministry of Health (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health), that

control the pollutant residues in bottled natural mineral water, fish, meat and dairy products.

38. Assistance in preparation of tender dossier to procure equipment, software and reference materials for the laboratories of the Gosstandart (the Belarusian State Metrology Institute), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) and the Ministry of Health (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health) that control pollutant residues in bottled natural mineral water, fish, meat and dairy products. As well as assistance in implementation of the tender and execution of the supply contract.

39. Analysis and assessment of laboratory premises, equipment and communication means of three national reference laboratories with regard to chemical and microbiological tests were conducted.

40. The Belarusian State Metrology Institute, Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health, Belarusian State Veterinary Centre laboratories received all the testing equipment and measuring instruments specified in the supply contracts.

41. Measuring equipment was installed and put into operation, specialists were trained.

(e) Organizing at least three practical study visits for the personnel of the laboratories of the Gosstandart (the Belarusian State Metrology Institute), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre) and the Ministry of Health (the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health) to the national reference laboratories of the EU member-states.

42. 6 study tours to national reference laboratories and EU reference laboratories for the employees of beneficiary laboratories were organized. Within the framework of study tours the participants underwent practical training in specific test areas related to the mandate of national reference laboratories.

(f) Organizing at least two weekly (5 working days) study tours to EU reference laboratories and reference laboratories of the member-states that perform milk, meat, fish and bottled mineral water testing.

43. 2 study tours to national reference laboratories and EU reference laboratories were organized.

44. The component on “Enhancing the Capacity of the Food Industry” involved:

- Creating online web-based database of the information on the approved food manufacturers in the field of mineral bottled water, fish, meat and dairy products.
- Analysing the application of self-control systems based on the HACCP principles at the level of enterprises involved in the production of bottled mineral water, fish, meat and dairy products.
- Developing the action plan for the modernization of the selected enterprises producing bottled mineral water, fish, meat and milk in order to adopt for the HACCP principles in accordance with the EU requirements.
- Training the enterprises involved in the production of mineral water (bottled), fish, meat and dairy products in the application of the HACCP principles.
- Preparing and publishing guidelines on the application of HACCP principles at food enterprises, the guidelines on application of HACCP principles at the enterprises producing the mineral water (bottled), fish, meat and dairy products.

- Reviewing the level of harmonization of the Belarusian legislation with the EU Law on Food Products and the EU legislation on animal food products safety, safety of mineral (bottled) water, and creating instructions for state controls regulations.
- Harmonizing analysis methods for food products with the European and other international standards on mineral (bottled) water, fish, meat and dairy products.

B. Objectives of the reform measure

45. To improve the Belarusian food safety and quality assurance system through providing for its gradual convergence with the EU quality requirements, in addition to the harmonisation of quality testing standards for food products with the EU standards. The reform measure will also reduce technical barriers to trade through the application of mutual recognition of conformity assessment results in the field of food products.

C. Organizational structures that were set up to implement the reform measure

46. The reform measures were implemented by three state authorities, including the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus. Four working groups were created, which mirrored the four components of the EU-funded project, and each group brought together representatives of State authorities and agencies.

D. Associated legal reforms

47. The following draft laws or amendments to the existing legislation were developed: the Law “On the Market Surveillance”; Amendments to the Law “On Protection of the Consumer Rights” in the area of the manufacturer (supplier, importer) responsibility for the compensation of the damage caused by deliveries of poor-quality and dangerous products; the draft regulatory legal act ‘On Creation of the Reference Laboratories network in the Republic of Belarus’; the proposal for the development of the Customs Union (CU) Agreement on General Safety of Products.

E. Achievements in implementing the reform measure to date

48. As a result of project activities BSAC prepared an application with a set of supporting documents (around 50 documents on BSAC’s management system and legal acts of the Republic of Belarus) to the European Cooperation for Accreditation for undergoing peer evaluation in order to sign a mutual recognition agreement with the EA in the field of testing, calibration, product certification, management systems and personnel.

49. According to the rules of international accreditation organizations, successful peer evaluation of BSAC by the EA will ensure subsequent signing of mutual recognition agreements with ILAC and IAF in the respective areas.

50. Based on the requirements of Regulation (EC) No.882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, that regulates requirements to reference laboratories, the

reference functions were established and three laboratories were nominated as reference laboratories: the Belarusian State Veterinary Centre, the Republican Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health, the Belarusian State Metrology Institute.

51. The Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers “On Establishment of the System of Reference Laboratories in the Republic of Belarus” was elaborated.

52. Technical capacity of laboratories was reinforced by means of procurement and putting into operation of modern analytical equipment that ensures food safety control by highly accurate methods – mass-spectrometric and ion chromatography, ICP spectrometry and molecular microbiology.

53. Qualification level and competence of laboratories’ personnel was boosted by means of professional consultations at EU reference laboratories and national reference laboratories of Germany, France, Belgium, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, the Netherlands. The personnel underwent practical training and internship to master, introduce and further develop modern chromatographic, microbiological and emission control methods to ensure their subsequent operation as national reference laboratories.

54. During their operations food industry enterprises use sectoral guidelines on application of good hygiene practice and HACCP principles in food sector that were developed by the expert team of the project to ensure better understanding of food hygiene requirements and efficient introduction of the provisions of the EU and Belarusian legislation.

55. Food enterprises, exporters, government agencies and other stakeholders were informed about the advantages of introduction of food safety management systems, as well as about the requirements of foreign food safety legislation, particularly, the EU legislation. This was done through conferences, educational seminars and trainings.

56. National standard STB 2414-2015 “Natural mineral and drinking waters. Requirements for export to the EU countries. Technical specifications” was developed (effectiveness date – 1 January 2016). This standard will allow manufacturers of the Republic of Belarus to produce natural mineral water in line with the requirements of the EU legislation for successful development of exports.

57. Within the framework of “Market Surveillance” component information on risk-based controls and on inspection practices of the competent authorities of Denmark, France, Belgium and Lithuania was obtained. Within the framework of the project important legislation and recommendation documents were elaborated that would help beneficiaries start applying EU practices.

F. Critical elements for bringing about these achievements

58. The project was supported by the public authorities and enterprises interested in increasing their exports to the EU. The previous efforts to harmonise Belarusian food safety and quality test methods with the relevant EU standards helped to ensure effective implementation. The availability of qualified specialists in the Gosstandart, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was another important factor for the success of the project.

G. Gains for traders

59. Reduced transaction costs for traders, as they do not have to re-certify goods targeted for exports. The food industry will achieve gains on investments associated with adopting the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles according to the EU requirements. The market surveillance body for food products will be established, thereby allowing for reducing the time and financial costs associated with cross border trade, especially passing border control.

H. Key challenges

60. There is a need to improve the distribution of responsibilities between the State bodies supervising quality and safety of food products and the bodies responsible for (food) raw materials.

I. Future plans

61. The Government plans to expand the list of products for which the national standards and the procedures for monitoring product safety will be harmonized with international and the EU standards.

62. Consolidate the favorable conditions for ensuring the recognition of the results of conformity assessment conducted by the accredited conformity assessment bodies of the Republic of Belarus. In this respect it is planned to undergo peer evaluation (January 2016) to sign a mutual recognition agreement in the field of tests, calibration, product certification, management systems and personnel between BSAC and EA. Multilateral recognition agreements with ILAC and IAF will be signed on the basis of EA evaluation results.

63. Obtain a legislative status for the national reference laboratories.

64. Establish methodological, analytical and technical framework for analytical control in the Republic of Belarus based on modern, highly-accurate methods that meet the requirements of the national and international legislation.

65. Forge professional cooperation and integration into the system of reference laboratories of other countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and EU.

66. The government plans to include into the legislation the provision on establishment and operation of information systems for hazardous products notification in the Republic of Belarus.

67. It is also worth mentioning that reform measures are not limited to this project. An EU project on energy efficiency “Support of the Republic of Belarus in the sphere of norms and standards in the field of energy efficiency of consumer goods and industrial products” is being implemented in Belarus.

68. The main goal of the project is to strengthen the status of the Belarusian energy efficiency testing laboratory network, the implementation of the action program on standardization in the field of energy efficiency and upgrading the Belarusian energy efficiency-related testing capacity.

69. The project supports the efforts undertaken by Belarus in the field of energy efficiency and conservation, as it involves bringing the quality infrastructure up to the requirements of ensuring compliance with related international and European regulatory,

technical and administrative mechanisms; and, encouraging greater participation of central and local authorities in implementing energy efficiency measures as well as the private sector and civil society in general.

70. Currently a project is being prepared in consultation with the International Finance Corporation, implemented according to the Agreement on implementation of the program of consultations on improving the investment climate in Belarus. The project involves the creation of a national alert information system for dangerous non-food products in order to improve the efficiency of market surveillance; the study of the European experience in the area of market surveillance, especially the experience of those countries with similar levels of development of quality infrastructure in the Republic of Belarus; the development of a package of normative legal acts for consumer product safety; further improving procedures for addressing poor quality and counterfeit products.
