



INFORMATIVE REPORT

of

The State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia	The Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation
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RIGA

14 December 2008

On the Results of the Parallel Audit Examining Activity of the State Institutions of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia in the Field of Import Regulation of Latvian Food Products into the Russian Federation

1. Legal Justification of the Audit

1.1. Paragraph 1 of the Memorandum on Mutual Cooperation between the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation and the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia of 31 August 2006.

1.2. The decision of 30 June 2009 on conducting the parallel audit by the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation and the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia.

1.3. Clause 3.8.14 of the Working Plan of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation for 2009, approved by decision of the Council of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation (Minutes No.15K(652) of 20 March 2009).

1.4. The Audit Plan of the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia for 2009 and the audit assignment of the Fourth Audit Department of the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia of 11 May 2009.

2. Audit Objective

2.1. To determine effectiveness of international agreement documents on external trade of food products, legal enactments of the Russian Federation with respect to the State regulatory framework, importing Latvian food products into the Russian Federation and legal enactments of the Republic of Latvia with respect to the State regulatory framework on export of Latvian food products to the Russian Federation.

2.2. To clarify problematic issues within legal framework and application thereof with regard to import of Latvian food products into the Russian Federation, and to draw up proposals for improvement of legal framework.

2.3. To identify factors, which have negative impact on import of Latvian food products into the Russian Federation, and to draw up respective proposals.

3. Scope of the Audit

3.1. Audited entities:

Audited Entities by the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation

- Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance;
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (on request);
- Federal Service for Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare (on request);
- Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (on request);
- Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (on request);
- Federal Customs Service (on request);
- Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Latvia (on request).

Audited Entities by the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia

- Ministry of Agriculture;
- Food and Veterinary Service;
- Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics.

3.2. During the audit activity of responsible institutions of the Russian Federation was assessed on the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 October 2009, activity of responsible institutions of the Republic of Latvia was assessed on the period from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2009.

4. Short Description of the Audited Field

Data that characterises export volume of food products of the Republic of Latvia to the Russian Federation is indicated in the table.

Table 1

**Import Volume of Food Products of the Republic of Latvia
into the Russian Federation in 2008 and Q1 2009**

	In accordance with the data of the Republic of Latvia		In accordance with the data of the Russian Federation	
	2008 (million euro)	Q1 2009 (million euro)	2008 (million euro)	Q1 2009 (million euro)
Import into the Russian Federation	239,6	30,0	142,59	10,96

4.1. There is certain incompliance between the data on trade volumes submitted by the Federal Customs Service and the Central Statistical Bureau of the Republic of Latvia. It is related to the fact that countries are using different approach to processing and accounting external trade statistics. Latvia applies “special” accounting methodology that conforms with the European Union regulatory documents, in turn Russia – general methodology, in accordance with recommendations of United Nations.

4.2. The Ministry of Agriculture is the leading institution of State administration in the Republic of Latvia in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery.

4.3. The Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Latvia is an institution of direct administration under supervision of the Minister for Agriculture. The objective of the institution is, in accordance with regulatory enactments, to organise and perform State supervision and control over handling of food and veterinary medicine, in order to provide for distribution of safe food to the consumers, as well as ensure observance of requirements regarding health and welfare of animals.

4.4. In accordance with the regulatory enactment in the field of handling of food the Food and Veterinary Service shall have the following main functions:

- To supervise and control at all stages of the handling of food, the conformity of food products with the requirements prescribed by regulatory enactments;
- To recognise and register the activities of food undertakings in accordance with the procedures prescribed by regulatory enactments, as well as to cancel recognition and registration;
- At all stages of the handling of food, to supervise and control the activities of food undertakings and the conformity of the processes of handling of food with the requirements prescribed by regulatory enactments;
- At all stages of the handling of food, to perform risk factor research and analysis.

4.5. In the Russian Federation the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation ensure national policy in the field of economic activity, internal and external trade. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation has been established as the institution of executive power, which shall develop legal framework in the field of agroindustrial complex, food market and agricultural raw materials for the Member States of the World Trade Organisation.

4.6. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation in accordance with the decision, approved by regulation of the Government of the Russian Federation No.327 of 30 June 2004 "Regulation on Approval of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance", performs control and surveillance functions in the field including veterinary, quarantine, plant protection and safe handling of pesticides and agrochemicals. Implementing control and surveillance functions, the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance also:

- Issues licences for import into the Russian Federation and export from the Russian Federation, as well as transit on its territory of animals and goods of animal origin;
- Accredits experimental laboratories;
- Controls safe handling of pesticides and agrochemicals, regulates observance of requirements of veterinary regulatory enactments of the Russian Federation on the State border and in transportation;
- Under the competence thereof submits proposals on establishment or removal of quarantine zones or other restrictions related to elimination of animal infectious disease spreading in the territory of the Russian Federation or subject of the Russian Federation.

4.7. Food products import from the European Union countries (including Latvia) into the Russian Federation is regulated by six memorandums that are signed between the European Community and the Russian Federation. The memorandums are related to transporting products of animal origin from the European Union and transit via the European Union to the Russian Federation, certification of animals and products of animal origin, border zones with regard to transporting of animals and products of animal origin between countries, type and contents of

main phytosanitary certificates, mutual provision of information, including two memorandums related to delivery of products from the Republic of Latvia.

4.8. In accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community negotiations and entering into trade agreements with third countries shall be under exclusive competence of the Community, and respectively Latvia as the Member State of the European Union has the right to enter into bilateral cooperation agreements with the Russian Federation only in the areas, where the European Commission has harmonised cooperation agreement model with the Russian Federation.

4.9. Legal basis for economic and trade relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia are bilateral agreements on economic, scientific and technical, humanitarian and cultural cooperation, as well as agreements on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters, on the State border of Latvia and Russia etc.

4.10. Constitution of the Russian Federation, codes and Federal laws of the Russian Federation, generally recognised principles and international legal norms, international agreements of the Russian Federation, as well as other regulatory enactments form the legal basis for regulation of import into the Russian Federation of agricultural produce, raw materials and food.

4.11. Regulation of import is organised, determining differential import duties, applying special protection measures, antidumping and compensation measures. Besides, economical, as well as non-economical type prohibitions or restrictions may also be imposed.

4.12. During the audit (3 November 2009) the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation had approved for export to the Russian Federation lists of recognised Latvian undertakings processing meat, milk and fishery products

Table 2

Number of Undertakings Recognised for Export to the Russian Federation Processing Meat, Milk and Fishery Products

Field of Activity of an Undertaking	Number of Undertakings
Undertakings recognised for export to the Russian Federation manufacturing and storing products of animal origin	24
Undertakings recognised for export to the Russian Federation processing fishery products	32
Undertakings that have the right of exporting to the Russian Federation pigs for slaughtering	17

Audit Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

Common informative report presents findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation and the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia, which are related to issues under the competence of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia that are not regulated by bilateral agreements of the European Union and the Russian Federation on food products.

5. Findings

Legal Framework of the Russian Federation in the Field of Harmlessness of Food Products

5.1. Products imported into Russia shall comply with the national requirements of the Russian Federation, which in relation to several indicators and some types of products are stricter than the requirements of the European Union.

5.2. Legal enactments of the European Union and the Russian Federation establish different allowed norms regarding amount of prohibited and hazardous residue.

5.3. In accordance with the comparative analysis of legal enactment requirements of the European Union and the Russian Federation (in selective order) on maximum permissible level of prohibited and hazardous residue in food products of animal origin, substantially stricter requirements with regard to 55 products exist in the Russian Federation, but in the European Union – with regard to 34 products.

5.4. Russian side amends the requirements on maximum permissible level of prohibited and hazardous residue in food products of animal origin if such do not decrease safety of food.

Planning of Inspections for Recognition of Undertakings Involved in the Handling of Food by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation

5.5. Inspections of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation for recognition of foreign undertakings involved in the handling of food are conducted in accordance with the plan approved by the Service, which has been developed on the basis of applications of foreign veterinary administrations, taking into account demand of the Russian market.

5.6. Demand of the Russian market for food products is determined by economic efficiency and food safety in the country. Demand of the Russian market for one or another food product depending on political and economic situation is determined only by the Government of the Russian Federation (particularly the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation), also taking into account the readiness for mobilisation.

Approach of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation and the Food and Veterinary Service to Recognition of Undertakings Involved in the Handling of Food and Supervision of Undertaking Recognised for Export

5.7. In accordance with memorandums entered into between the European Community and the Russian Federation, as well as bilateral memorandums entered into between the Russian Federation and European countries regarding quality and safety of food products intended for export from the European Union to the Russian Federation, delivery of such products is allowed only for undertakings included into lists of undertakings recognised for export to the Russian Federation.

5.8. In accordance with procedures for export to the Russian Federation an undertaking shall submit an application to the Food and Veterinary Service regarding recognition for export to the Russian Federation. Upon receipt of application the Food and Veterinary Service shall assess compliance of the undertaking with the requirements of the Russian Federation and shall send a written recommendation to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation for performance of inspection (excluding fish processing undertakings and vessels). The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation after inspection of an undertaking shall take the decision whether the undertaking may or may not import its products into the Russian market.

5.9. During the time period from 1 January 2008 to 14 January 2009 the Food and Veterinary Service recommended for export to the Russian Federation all undertakings engaged in manufacturing of products of animal origin, which have submitted applications for recognition for export to the Russian Federation and have complied with the requirements of the European Union regulatory enactments.

5.10. In accordance with the explanation of the Food and Veterinary Service “the only criterion for assessing compliance of an undertaking is compliance or non-compliance thereof with the requirements of the Russian Federation. Other criteria, in accordance with which the Food and Veterinary Service shall take a decision on compliance with the requirements of the Russian Federation for products export to the Russian Federation, are not specified in the regulatory enactments of the Food and Veterinary Service”.

5.11. During the audit analysing minutes of inspections performed in 2009 at undertakings engaged in manufacturing of food products of animal origin, which had applied for recognition for export to the Russian Federation, it was disclosed that the Food and Veterinary Service has recommended for export to the Russian Federation undertakings processing milk products and undertakings processing meat products with various number of deficiencies.

5.12. The Food and Veterinary Service conducts inspections both at undertakings manufacturing food products of animal origin that already export to the Russian Federation and at those undertakings that have applied for export recognition to the Russian Federation.

5.13. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation performs inclusion or exclusion of undertakings manufacturing food products of animal origin from lists of undertakings on the basis of results of veterinary inspections randomly performed by the Service’s inspectors abroad.

5.14. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation inspected Latvian undertakings recommended by the Food and Veterinary Service from 14 to 27 July 2004, from 6 to 22 December 2004, from 18 September to 1 October 2005 and from 18 to 29 June 2007. Last inspection of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation from 13 to 22 October 2009 was conducted at 12 Latvian undertakings that were willing to commence export of their products to the Russian Federation. The audit was also performed at 15 recognised undertakings that are exporting their products to the Russian Federation.

5.15. During the last inspection of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation it was disclosed that Latvian undertakings have conducted several measures to meet the requirements of the Russian Federation. The Food and Veterinary Service has performed systematisation and comparative analysis of regulatory requirements the European Community on safety of products of animal origin.

5.16. At the same time, conducting inspection of Latvian undertakings processing food products of animal origin, deficiencies and violations were disclosed, which further need to be addressed more closely from the management of undertakings and the Food and Veterinary Service. Disclosed deficiencies and violations included insufficient organisation and performance of controls by the management of undertakings and production supervision units, as well as by inspectors of the Food and Veterinary Service, in order to ensure implementation of timely and efficient measures in relation to provision of according veterinary sanitary conditions in the territories and production premises of the undertakings.

5.17. In accordance with the results of inspections of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation at Latvian undertakings recognised for export in October 2009, four undertakings were excluded from the list of recognised Latvian food undertakings, seven undertakings were suspended the rights to deliver products to the

Russian Federation, three undertakings were not included in the list of recognised undertakings, eight out of fifteen inspected undertakings remained in the list of recognised undertakings, a possibility was also discussed whether to include in the list of recognised undertakings nine inspected Latvian undertakings.

Cooperation of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation and the Food and Veterinary Service within the Framework of the Memorandum on Delivery of Fishery Products

5.18. On 14 January 2009 the Memorandum has been signed regarding requirements on delivery of fish, sea and fishery products from Latvia to the Russian Federation.

5.19. On the basis of the Memorandum, the Food and Veterinary Service has the right to recognise fishing and fish processing undertakings for export to the Russian Federation.

5.20. The Memorandum specifies that fishery products and produce may be exported only from fishing production and processing undertakings (fishing vessels) and refrigerators, which were approved for export to the Russian Federation by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation. Taking into account the fact that Latvian manufacturing and storage undertakings have never been certified in this field, the Food and Veterinary Service prepares a list of the abovementioned undertakings, which have made deliveries of their products to the Russian market or which have requests from Russian importers.

5.21. Implementing provisions of the Memorandum upon coming into force thereof on 14 January 2009, the Food and Veterinary Service has sent the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation four letters with lists of undertakings engaged in fishery products processing (three undertakings and five vessels), which were recognised by the Food and Veterinary Service in 2009 as compliant with the requirements of the Russian Federation.

5.22. In accordance with the Memorandum:

- The Food and Veterinary Service will hand over to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation all amendments to the lists of undertakings approved by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation;
- The approved list of undertakings shall come into force not later than within the period of 30 days from the submission date of the updated list, unless the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation has submitted any objections;
- The approved lists shall come into force within the period of two weeks, and veterinary border points shall be notified of the fact by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation.

5.23. The Food and Veterinary Service awaits approval from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation for the list of undertakings recognised for export to the Russian Federation also after the 30 days period specified in the Memorandum, and undertakings are granted the permission to export their products to the Russian Federation only upon receipt of the approval of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation.

5.24. The Food and Veterinary Service in the letter¹ to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation asked for approved of two vessels, providing guarantee of compliance of the abovementioned undertakings with the requirements of the Russian Federation. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation did not include these vessels into the list of recognised undertakings².

5.25. On 23 October 2009 the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation notified³ the Food and Veterinary Service about the procedures on inclusion of Latvian vessels (including both vessels) into the list of undertakings recognised for export to the Russian Federation.

Restrictions to Deliveries of Latvian Food Products of Animal Origin

5.26. During the time period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 restrictions were introduced on deliveries to the Russian Federation from 129 European Union undertakings engaged in handling of feed and products of animal origin (excluding fishery and sea products), including from one Latvian undertaking.

5.27. During the time period from 1 January to 21 October 2009 no restrictions were introduced on deliveries of feed and products of animal origin to the Russian Federation from Latvian undertakings.

5.28. During the time period from 1 January 2008 to 21 October 2009 restrictions were introduced on deliveries to the Russian Federation from two Latvian fish processing undertakings.

Consolidation of Latvian Food Products Manufacturers

5.29. At large the objective specified in the policy planning document on export promotion is achieved; however Latvian policy on promotion of export of food products is mainly focused on rendering support to individual undertakings.

5.30. Business transactions on export markets are organised individually, that is, each entrepreneur is looking for potential cooperation partners, ensures logistics for delivery of food products etc. Acting individually on export markets entrepreneurs can ensure rather limited products volume and assortment, which may have an impact on the competitiveness of respective products in regional sales networks of the Russian Federation.

Cooperation of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation in the Field of Sanitary Epidemiologic Human Welfare

5.31. Regulation regarding issues on sanitary epidemiologic human welfare at the Federal Service for Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare is provided within the framework of common cooperation with the European Community. Bilateral cooperation agreements with Latvia up to now have not been entered into.

5.32. At present the regulation of 28 May 2009 regarding dialog in the field of health protection is in force. It was entered between the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation and the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers, and provides for the possibility to develop cooperation in the field of elaborating international safety standards for food products.

¹ Letter of the Food and Veterinary Service No.21-1-15/242 of 20 February 2009.

² Letter of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation No.ΦC-HB-2/3525 of 20 April 2009.

³ Letter of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation No.ΦC-AC-4/11620 of 23 October 2009.

6. Common Conclusions

Assessing:

- Regulatory framework of the Russian Federation with regard to import of Latvian products and
- Activity of institutions responsible for export promotion of Latvian products to the Russian Federation,

It was concluded that measures conducted in 2007-2008 overall comply with the legal framework of both countries; at the same time during the audit opportunities for improvement of cooperation were identified, in order to improve trade relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia.

Legal Framework of the Russian Federation in the Field of Harmlessness of Food Products

6.1. With regard to several indicators requirements for safety of food products in force in the Russian Federation are stricter than in the European Union countries. On occasions, when stricter requirements do not significantly influence quality and safety of food products, economic activity of foreign importers in the Russian Federation may be limited.

Planning of Inspections for Recognition of Undertakings Involved in the Handling of Food by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation

6.2. As the main criteria for import into the Russian Federation is internal demand of the Russian market, possibilities of foreign entrepreneurs to plan export of products are limited, which thereby influences total export volume.

Approach of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation and the Food and Veterinary Service to Recognition of Undertakings Involved in the Handling of Food and Supervision of Undertaking Recognised for Export

6.3. As sufficient information is not being received from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation regarding the approach applied by the Service for classifying deficiencies, when taking decisions on recognition of undertakings, the Food and Veterinary Service has not developed according criteria for assessment of compliance of undertakings for export to the Russian Federation.

Cooperation of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation and the Food and Veterinary Service within the Framework of the Memorandum on Delivery of Fishery Products

6.4. Although the provisions of the Memorandum specify that:

- The approved list of undertakings shall come into force not later than within the period of 30 days from the submission date of the updated list, unless the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation has submitted any objections;
- The approved lists shall come into force within the period of two weeks, and veterinary border points shall be notified of the fact by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation,

The actual activity of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation and the Food and Veterinary Service limits possibilities of undertaking to commence transactions for export of products to the Russian Federation. Fish processing undertakings are granted the permission to perform export transactions to the Russian Federation

only upon receipt by the Food and Veterinary Service of the approval from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation, receipt of which may be delayed up to eight months.

Restrictions to Deliveries of Latvian Food Products of Animal Origin

6.5. Overall the quality of products delivered by the Republic of Latvia complies with the veterinary requirements of the Russian Federation, which is certified by insignificant number of restrictions on product deliveries from Latvian undertakings.

Consolidation of Latvian Food Products Manufacturers

6.6. As Latvian policy on promotion of export of food products is mainly focused on rendering support to individual undertakings, there is a risk that such approach is not sufficiently effective for purposeful development of Latvian food products export, including export to the Russian Federation.

Cooperation of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation in the Field of Sanitary Epidemiologic Human Welfare

6.7. Regulation regarding issues on sanitary epidemiologic human welfare at the Federal Service for Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare is provided within the framework of common cooperation with the European Community. Bilateral cooperation agreements with Latvia up to now have not been entered into, thus there is a possibility of developing cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia in this field.

7. Recommendations

7.1. In order to harmonise indicators specified in the legal framework of the Russian Federation with the requirements (indicators) of the European Union, the Russian side and the European Union shall be recommended to clarify activities and timelines for review of maximum permissible level of prohibited and hazardous residue in food products of animal origin, when:

- Requirements of the Russian Federation by far exceed the requirements of the European Union;
- Requirements of the European Union by far exceed the requirements of the Russian Federation;
- Reducing of requirements of the European Union and the Russian Federation does not influence consumption safety of products of animal origin.

7.2. Latvian side shall assess the possibility of performing measures that would facilitate consolidation of Latvian food products manufacturers, as consolidation could influence competitiveness of undertakings, increasing export volumes of Latvian products on the Russian market, in order to commence cooperation with regional sales networks of the Russian Federation.

7.3. Taking into account that overall the quality of products delivered by the Republic of Latvia complies with the veterinary requirements of the Russian Federation, within the framework of mutual cooperation the following shall be proposed:

- Russian side shall assess the possibility of performing analysis of legal framework regarding opportunity of applying favourable regime to import procedures for importers from Latvia;
- On the basis of analysis performed by the Russian side, Latvian side shall propose criteria for developing a list of those Latvian food products exporters, which have

exported products during a longer period of time observing the veterinary requirements specified in the regulatory enactments of the Russian Federation;

- Russian side shall assess the possibility of applying favourable regime to import procedures for the importers included in the abovementioned list.

7.4. It shall be proposed to the Food and Veterinary Service and the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation to conclude a written agreement on interpretation of provisions of the Memorandum to speed up recognition for export to the Russian Federation of fish processing undertakings.

7.5. It shall be proposed to:

- The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation to develop a doctrine on safety of food in the Russian Federation, so the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation could develop unified criteria for assessment of compliance of undertakings for food products import into the Russian Federation;
- The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation and the Food and Veterinary service to agree on criteria applicable for assessment of compliance of undertakings for export to the Russian Federation, in order to improve recognition process of Latvian food processing undertakings.

7.6. Within the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation:

- It shall be proposed to the Food and Veterinary service to perform measures for improvement of quality of inspections at undertakings recognised for export with regard to implementation of sanitary and veterinary requirements of the Russian Federation;
- It shall be proposed to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation to assess the possibility of taking decision on renewal of export rights after elimination of deficiencies disclosed by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation, on the basis of guarantees provided by the Food and Veterinary Service that undertakings have implemented sanitary and veterinary requirements and norms of the Russian Federation.

7.7. It shall be proposed to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation to assess the possibility of signing a memorandum with the Food and Veterinary Service regarding deliveries of meat products from the Republic of Latvia.

7.8. The possibility shall be assessed of entering into bilateral agreement between the Services of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia in the field of sanitary epidemiologic human welfare.

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