WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/LIC/Q/RUS/4

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Committee on Import Licensing

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES[1]

QUESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The following communication, dated 27 March 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

The EU regrets that the Russian Federation has not submitted its annual notification in accordance to article 7.3 of the Import Licensing Agreement with reference to the year 2017 and would strongly encourage the Russian Federation to comply with its notification's requirements.

In the lack of any updated notifications and considering the increasing number of concerns of the EU traders on certain import licensing procedures applied by the Russian Federation, the EU would like to receive clarifications on the import licensing procedures for pharmaceutical products.

According to the information contained in the notification submitted by the Russian Authorities, referring to 2016 (G/LIC/N/3/RUS/3), the importations of specified medicines and pharmaceutical products are subject to licences. It is also stated that the use of import licences enables the Government to restrict and monitor the quantities controlled substances imported but that the system is not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports.

The notification also specifies that the maximum processing time for permit is 5 days and that the maximum processing time for licence is 15 days.

Since the introduction of the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate requirements, as from January 2016, the importations of pharmaceutical products are submitted to complicated and burdensome procedures. Furthermore, for obtaining those certificates the timing is very long and goes normally beyond the 5 to 15 days declared in the notification.

While the EU is aware of legislative developments that are ongoing since the beginning of the year, we do not see real progress in the legislative procedure.

EU question No 1: Could the Russian Federation explain why the procedures for obtaining the GMP certificate are not described under item 7 of its annual notification, describing the import licensing procedures for the importation of medicines and pharmaceutical products?

EU question No 2: Could the Russian Federation clarify what is the average time for obtaining the GMP? Could the Russian Federation share its statistics?

In the notification (see page 22, reply to question 7.a), it is stated that the processing time should be between 5 days for obtaining a permit and 15 days for obtaining a license.

EU question No 3: Could the Russian Federation clarify to what permits and licenses the Russian Federation is referring to?

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[1] See Understanding on procedures for the Review of Notifications (G/LIC/4).

EU question No 4: Could the Russian Federation clarify whether the GMP is included in the definition of licence above?

EU question No 5: Could the Russian Federation clarify the Russian Federation envisage any amendments to the current procedures and in what sense? Could they confirm that a bill of law was sent to the Duma early 2018 and inform about the current stage of this draft law?