ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ПРИ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СООБЩЕСТВАХ



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the European Communities presents its compliments to the General Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission and has the honour to draw the attention of the latter to Article 14 of the Law of the Russian Federation No. 4979-1 "On Veterinary Issues" of 14 May 1993, which stipulates that establishments, companies, organizations and citizens can import live animals, products of animal origin and animal feed to the Russian Federation only on the basis of permits issued by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector.

Unfortunately there have been increasingly frequent attempts to illegally import products of animal origin by individual travellers in personal luggage, including hand luggage. International practice proves that such violations often lead to spread of infectious animal diseases.

Taking into consideration the worsening epizootic situation due to systematic emergence of infectious poultry and farm animal diseases (Foot and Mouth disease, African swine fever, Avian flu, Newcastle disease, etc.), the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation have instructed their territorial offices including those at border check-points to strictly pursue the provisions of the Law prohibiting import to the Russian Federation of any consignments of animal origin, including those in personal and hand luggage, without written permission of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the General Directorate the assurances of its highest consideration.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION General Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection Brussels

