

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND CONSUMERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE FEDERAL SERVICE FOR SURVEILLANCE ON CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION AND HUMAN WELL-BEING (RUSSIAN FEDERATION) ESTABLISHING THE PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF A DIALOGUE IN THE FIELD OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission (DG SANCO) and the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being (ROSPOTREBNADZOR) (hereinafter referred to as “Sides”) establish a structured dialogue on bilateral and multilateral consumer policy issues.

Recalling that the EU and the Russian Federation have already acknowledged the importance of such a dialogue in their Partnership and Co-operation Agreement entered into force in 1997, as well as in the “Road map” on the Common Economic Space approved at the European Union – Russian Federation Summit meeting held in Moscow in May 2005,

Recognising the mutual benefit of joint efforts in tackling issues of common interest in this field,

The Sides would therefore like to envisage certain objectives, general principles and structure for dialogue on consumer policy.

1. OBJECTIVES

Dialogue on consumer policy should:

- 1) Promote mutual understanding, trust and bilateral co-operation between both Sides in the field of consumer policy;
- 2) Establish new communication channels so as to strengthen the exchange of information, timely notification of any relevant issues arising and facilitating their efficient resolution;
- 3) Facilitate and strengthen mutual comprehension of each other's policies and legislation in the field of consumer protection;
- 4) Contribute to the development of common approaches aiming at higher protection of consumers, including exchange of experience concerning legislation and standards;
- 5) Enhance enforcement cooperation in the field of product safety and consumers' economic interest;

In the framework of such dialogue the two Sides should:

- 1) Exchange information and experience concerning
 - i) The setting up and implementation of consumer protection policies, laws and regulations;
 - ii) Product safety issues;
 - iii) Consumers economic interests;
 - iv) Evidence based policy, consumer education and redress;

- v) International cooperation in the area of consumer policy;
- vi) International events held by the Sides;

- 2) Assess respective developments and emerging trends in the area of consumer policy;
- 3) Examine possibilities of organizing training events for officials, visits and exchanges of experts of the Sides, their agencies and organizations in the sphere of the consumer policy;
- 4) Encourage cooperation between consumer interest representatives in the EU and Russia;
- 5) Cover any other topics of mutual interest relating to consumers policy.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Dialogue on consumer policy should be based on the principles of equality, reciprocity, transparency and mutual benefit.

3. STRUCTURE

In order to facilitate dialogue on consumer policy both Sides indicate contact points. According to need, technical working groups may be formed. The level and composition of the delegations in meetings of these groups may be decided by each Side in consultation with the other. The working languages are English and Russian.

4. COSTS

Each Side is responsible for covering its own costs associated with financing the established dialogue on consumer policy.

5. LEGAL STATUS

This Administrative Memorandum is not an international treaty and does not create rights and obligations under international law.

Done in Moscow on March 22, 2013 in two originals, both in Russian and English languages.

For the Directorate General for Health and
Consumers of the European Commission

For the Federal Service for Surveillance on
Consumer Rights Protection and Human
Well-being (Russian Federation)