

**2008 Meeting
Geneva, 1-5 December 2008**

**Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 18-22 August 2008**

Items 5 and 6 of the provisional agenda
**Consideration of national, regional and
international measures to improve biosafety
and biosecurity, including laboratory safety
and security of pathogens and toxins
Consideration of oversight, education,
awareness raising, and adoption and/or
development of codes of conduct with the
aim of preventing misuse in the context
of advances in bio-science and bio-technology
research with the potential of use for
purposes prohibited by the Convention**

MEASURES TO IMPROVE BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY AND AWARENESS RAISING

Submitted by Lithuania

1. The main national legislation related to prevention of the use of biological weapons and to preparedness to biological threats are the following:
 - (i) Law on the Basics of National Security (1996);
 - (ii) Civil Protection Law (1998, last amended in 2006);
 - (iii) Law on Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in Humans (1996, last amended in 2001);
 - (iv) Law on the Control of Strategic Goods (2004, last amended in 2006).
2. The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania has a provision which prohibits weapons of mass destruction in the territory of Lithuania.

3. Subordinate legislation mostly comprised of Government Resolutions regulates the actions in the area of civil protection, development of rescue system, liquidation of the consequences of terrorism, health and medical quarantine, infected areas and communicable diseases.
 4. In order to respond to the emerging threats and prepare to liquidate their consequences, the development program of the system of civil protection and rescue was recently drafted and submitted for the approval of the Government. The Civil Protection Law is also under revision in order to reflect the needs of operative and flexible system of civil protection capable to respond to extreme situations.
 5. The main national authorities working in the area of prevention of biological weapons are the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of National Defence, Defence Staff, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State Security Department.
 6. Regarding the increasing threat of international terrorism and the urgency to curb it, the State Security Department coordinating the activities of the Commission against terrorism established an intra-institutional working party on the prevention of proliferation of nuclear, radioactive and other weapons of mass destruction.
 7. Lithuania has also committed to the preparation of the Green Paper on Bio-preparedness coordinated of the Commission of the European Union. This initiative led to a number of meetings of national authorities and the awareness raising for the academia, legal entities and representatives of operational services. The study of current preparedness proved that the authorities and agencies concerned had already established measures to impede the biological threat; however, these measures were divided up among different area such as management of extreme situations, fight against terrorism, human and animal health protection, plant and food protection.
 8. In order to strengthen the capabilities of prevention and management of different extreme situations on regional level, the exercise on food protection against the deliberate biological contamination was held on district level in 2007. The personnel working in the field of civil protection and rescue operations are permanently briefed about the threats of terrorism, risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and measures to halt it.
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