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SEMINAR ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN SLOVAKIA

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1. The Slovak Republic's presentation to WFP's Executive Board is reproduced herebelow:
2. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic was pleased to co-host a workshop with WFP for non-traditional donors from Central and Eastern Europe at the Agroinstitute of Nitra last week.
3. The initiative for the workshop came from His Excellency Mr Paul Koncos, the Slovak Minister for Agriculture, who opened the proceedings and took a keen interest in the activities.
4. The workshop sought to raise awareness of WFP in Central and Eastern European countries building upon the recent experience of several countries of the region that have contributed to WFP for the first time in support of the Kosovo Operation.
5. Senior officials from the ministries of Agriculture, Foreign Affairs and Economy participated in the workshop. They represented the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.
6. Presentations were made by four visiting WFP staff members.
7. The presentations included WFP's mandate and mission, its commodity requirements, its funding policies and procedures, staff recruitment and commodity and non-food items procurement procedures, as well as a comprehensive briefing on the current situation in the Balkans.
8. The Agroinstitute of Nitra and the Board of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture provided the venue and support services. The Director of the Agroinstitute, Maria Kadlecikova, a former Slovak representative in Rome and currently Head of the Agricultural Committee of the Slovak Republic National Parliament, led a useful session on future avenues for cooperation between WFP and Central and Eastern European countries.
9. At the weekend, the Ministry of Agriculture arranged field visits to a local flour mill, a farm and a vocational school.
10. The workshop was evaluated on its final day. Participants were tested on the achievement of the workshop's detailed objectives and asked to record their suggestions for improvements, whether they achieved their own workshop objectives and their overall assessment of the workshop.
11. I am delighted to say that not only were the WFP objectives achieved at a high level but also those of the individual participants. All participants rated the workshop as either good or excellent and felt they had greatly benefited from and enjoyed the experience.
12. We look forward to increasing cooperation between WFP and the countries of the region—there are already signs of WFP gaining new contributions as a result of this initiative.
13. In concluding, I should like to thank the Executive Director, Ms Bertini, for her agreement to WFP co-hosting the workshop, and the presenters—Mr de Gaay Fortman, Mr Bailey, Mr Oshidari and Mr Menkveldt. They gave excellent presentations and showed their high personal commitment to making the workshop a great success.