



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate G – Markets and Observatories
The Director

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MINUTES

7th Meeting of the ECONOMIC BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN MEAT MARKET OBSEVATORY

Date: 25 June 2018

Chair: Jens Schaps, Director

Delegations present: All stakeholders were present.

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

Agenda and minutes were approved

2. Nature of the meeting

Non-public meeting

3. List of points discussed

Exchange of views on the beef and veal market situation

The exchange of views on the beef and veal market situation was based on a factual presentation by the Commission on production, prices, margins, trade and world market situation. Discussions showed that the EU beef market remains in a fragile balance. The increase in production in the first half of 2018 is putting pressure on prices. Specialised beef producers in certain Member States remain in financial difficulties due to a structural low level of income. The increased production, the destocking of holdings, the low level of births and the good export performance could lead to an undersupply situation in 2019. Positive aspects are a certain increase in the demand, due to the improved economic situation, and the good export performance. New market outlets are being open and exports of live bovines remain essential for the internal market balance.

Brexit TRQ apportionment

The Commission provided information on the apportionment of meat tariff rate quotas included in the WTO schedule of the Union following the Brexit.

Exchange of views on the pigmeat market situation

The exchange of views on the pigmeat market situation was based on a factual presentation by the Commission on production, prices, margins, trade and world market situation. Discussions showed an extended pessimism across the sector in relation to the market situation. Concerns are focused on the increase in the production, the declining demand and the reduction of exports to a major outlet like China. The price evolution is worrying and can lead to a market unbalance in the coming months. UECBV provided a presentation on pigmeat cuts prices and their evolution.

Information point on Market Transparency Initiative

The Commission provided information on the state of play of the Market Transparency Initiative. The member organisations expressed support to the initiative.

Data and indicators on meat consumption

The Commission provided a presentation on a methodology for the estimation of beef and veal and pigmeat production and consumption patterns in the EU and preliminary results on beef and veal. Eurocommerce provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

4. Conclusions

A matter of concern is the current evolution of meat consumption patterns. Existing data indicate an overall decline. The member organisations stressed the importance of an appropriate monitoring and study of the European consumers' behaviour in order to better meet their demands. The organisations also voiced the importance and relevance of market transparency and the need to have appropriate data to carry out well informed market analysis.

The risks related to animal health remain also as a major concern for the sector. The African swine fever evolution is, according to the sector, threatening EU exports in a moment where the market balance is very fragile.

Brexit remains a matter of extreme concern as it creates serious uncertainties on the evolution of the respective markets.

5. Next steps

The Observatory will further analyse the structure of production and consumption. The methodology suggested by the Commission will be the tool to achieve such analysis.

The Observatory will keep monitoring the situation and evolution of the beef and veal and pigmeat markets paying particular attention to the challenges that Brexit will pose in the immediate future.

6. Next meeting

2 October 2018

< e-signed >

Jens SCHAPS

List of participants– Minutes

***Expert Group ECONOMIC BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN MEAT MARKET OBSEVATORY***

Date: 25/06/2018

Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS
CEJA	3
CLITRAVI	3
COGECA	4
COPA	4
ECVC	3
EUROCOMMERCE	2
UECBV	4