



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

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MINUTES

6th Meeting of the ECONOMIC BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN MEAT MARKET OBSERVATORY

Date: 6 March 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

Information from the Commission on the new experts meeting management system

The Commission provided a presentation of the new experts meeting management system (AGM). The new system relies on an on-line management tool, the AGM portal, which is accessible to all participants. The system ensures the planning and organisation of meetings, from the invitation up to reimbursement procedures.

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. Discussions showed that the EU beef market has regained its balance in 2017 after two difficult years. The moderation of production was the main reason for such regained balance and had a positive effect on prices. The situation remains reasonably positive but changes in demand patterns, more focused in processed meat than in primal cuts, may be leading to price convergence towards lower

levels. Despite the balanced market, specialised beef producers still report financial difficulties due to a low level of income. Such a situation is leading to the destocking of the suckler cows herd in certain Member States. Positive aspects are the still reasonable feed costs and the good export performance, with exports of live bovines remaining essential for the internal market balance.

Exchange of views pigmeat market situation

The exchange of views on the pigmeat market situation was based on a factual presentation by the Commission. Discussions showed that after a price decline following the reduction of exports to China, prices have increased again and the market remains also balanced. Nevertheless, the sector is concerned by a forecast increase in production and risks related to animal health which could compromise EU exports in a moment where the market balance is fragile.

Data and indicators on meat consumption: presentation from the Commission

The Commission provided a presentation on a methodology for the estimation of beef and veal production and consumption patterns in the EU. Such a methodology could also be used for other meats. Experts provided a positive feedback and considered it as a potential useful tool for market analysis.

Contributions from members of the Economic Board

Eurocommerce provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

Brexit and its impact on the EU beef and pigmeat markets: presentation from UECBV

UECBV provided a presentation on the possible impact of a hard Brexit in the EU meat sector.

4. Conclusions

Matters of concern for both sectors are the future evolution of feed prices and its potential negative impact on production costs and the current evolution of meat consumption patterns. Existing data indicate an overall decline.

Brexit remains a matter of extreme concern for both sectors as it creates serious uncertainties on the evolution of the respective markets. Experts unanimously pointed to developments in this area as essential in shaping the future of the EU sector and stressed the urgent need for appropriate preparedness.

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

The next meeting of the Meat MO Economic Board is scheduled for 12 June 2018.

< e-signed >

Director

List of participants– Minutes

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

Date: 6/03/2018

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