



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

Brussels,
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Minutes of Meeting of the Expert group for the Meat Market Observatory on Tuesday 13 June 2017. Brussels, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 130, room 11B

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved by the Group

2. Nature of the meeting: non public

3. List of points discussed

Beef and veal market situation

Discussions showed that the EU beef market regained its balance following a very difficult year 2016. However, producer prices lag behind the five year average. The Group reiterated major concerns like the impact of Brexit and future FTAs on the sector. Stable feed costs and excellent export opportunities have been highlighted as contributing positively to the current situation of the sector. Exports of live bovines remain essential to keep market balance. **DG AGRI** services provided statistics on trade in beef between the EU-27 and the UK. **UECBV** presented elements that should be considered in the upcoming Brexit negotiations. **Eurocommerce** provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

Pigmeat market situation

Discussions showed that the sector is currently enjoying very good prices, with production costs and feed stable. Nevertheless, the sector remains concerned as regards the high dependence on exports to China. Moreover, the pace of these exports has been slowing down in recent months, while the EU pigmeat sector sees its competitiveness eroded on export markets due to high prices. In this respect, diversifying export markets remains a priority for the EU pigmeat sector. Concerns over the effects of Brexit on the EU pigmeat sector were expressed as well. **DG AGRI** services provided statistics on trade in pigmeat between the EU-27 and the UK. **UECBV** presented elements that should be considered in the upcoming Brexit negotiations. **Eurocommerce** provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

Margin consultation in the pig sector (case study from Belgium): presentation by ECVC

ECVC presented the Belgian supply chain agreement for the pig sector reached in August 2015 following the pig sector crisis

Data sourcing for improved market transparency: presentation by the Commission

DG AGRI services provided a presentation concerning data sourcing for improved market transparency. The Group exchanged views on the use of the evolution of unit value for beef and pigmeat products subject to intra-EU exchanges in this sense.

Data sourcing for improved market transparency: presentation by UECBV

In the context of improving market transparency UECBV presented its newly developed index to monitor prices of pork cuts on a weekly basis. The Group exchanged views and acknowledged the usefulness of such an index, while also highlighting the limitations of such an exercise that lies in the scarcity of the represented markets as well as the limited comparability of different pork cuts across EU Member States.

Promotion work programme for 2017 and information and promotion programmes for meat: presentation by the Commission

DG AGRI services provided a presentation on ongoing information and promotion programmes for meat, as well as the promotion work programme for 2017.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

Overall, as in the meeting of March 2017, the members of the Economic Board highlighted the importance of exports in keeping both beef and pigmeat markets balanced. Efforts to gain and improve market access must continue. Impacts of Brexit and future FTAs must be carefully assessed.

5. Next steps

Publication of the meeting summary and the presentations on the Meat MO website.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Meat Market Observatory Economic Board is scheduled for Tuesday, 3 October 2017.

(e signed)
Jens SCHAPS

Participants

Organisation	Number
CEJA	4
CEJA	
CEJA	
CEJA	
CLITRAVI	4
CLITRAVI	
CLITRAVI	
CLITRAVI	
COGECA	4
COGECA	
COGECA	
COGECA	
COPA	4
COPA	
COPA	
COPA	
ECVC	4
ECVC	
ECVC	
ECVC	
EUROCOMMERCE	2
EUROCOMMERCE	
UECBV	3
UECBV	
UECBV	