



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

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MINUTES

8th Meeting of the ECONOMIC BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN MEAT MARKET OBSERVATORY

Date: 2 October 2018

Chair: Jens Schaps, Director

Delegations present: All stakeholders were present.

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

Agenda and minutes were approved

2. Nature of the meeting

Non-public meeting

3. List of points discussed

- Beef market situation
- Piguement market situation and state of play of African Swine Fever
- Data and indicators on meat consumption: presentation from the Commission
- Analysis of the meat supply chain in the European Union in the context of the market transparency initiative: presentation from the Commission.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

For beef and veal, discussions showed that the EU beef market remains in a difficult situation. The severe drought, in certain Member States, of last summer has led farmers, faced with a shortage of fodder, to some destocking. The increase in production in the first half of 2018 is putting pressure on prices and, therefore on margins as production costs have increased. A positive aspect is the good export performance. New market outlets are being open and exports of live bovines remain essential for the internal market balance.

For pigmeat, discussions showed that African swine fever remains a threat for the EU market balance, while the Chinese import demand in the wake of the confirmation of several outbreaks of ASF is expected to increase. For the time being, pig prices remain under pressure both due to an increase in production in the first half of the year, as well as due to a stable level of exports in the same reference period. Furthermore, considering the drought that has affected certain Member States, costs of production are expected to increase in the coming months. UECBV provided a presentation on pigmeat cuts prices and their evolution.

A matter for concern for the Expert Group is the current evolution of meat consumption patterns. Existing data indicate an overall decline. Experts stressed the importance of an appropriate monitoring and study of meat consumption trends. On this aspect, Eurocommerce provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

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 an 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 the animal health situation and Brexit will pose in the immediate future.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 22 February 2019 (provisional date).

< e-signed >

Jens SCHAPS

List of participants– Minutes

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

Date: 2/10/2018

Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS
CEJA	4
CLITRAVI	4
COGECA	2
COPA	4
ECVC	4
EUROCOMMERCE	1
UECBV	4