



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and Observatories  
The Director

Brussels,  
AGRI.DDG3.G3/7098793

**MINUTES**

***Meeting of the ECONOMIC BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN MEAT MARKET  
OBSERVATORY***

***Date: 11 October 2019***

Chair: Michael Scannell, Director/ [REDACTED], Head of Sector

Delegations present: all stakeholders were present.

**1. Approval of the agenda**

Agenda was approved.

**2. Nature of the meeting**

Non-public meeting.

**3. List of points discussed**

- Beef market situation
- Pigmeat market situation
- Estimation of beef and pork availability for human consumption in the EU
- Sales and consumption of meat: presentations from EuroCommerce and COCEGA

**4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

For beef and veal, discussions showed that the beef market continues to be very fragile. Some signs of price recovery have been noted but they are very modest. Stakeholders repeated their strong concerns in relation to Mercosur and other agreements with third countries.

For pigmeat, discussions showed that, while there has been a strong increase in pig prices and rather stable production costs in the wake of booming Chinese import demand, a further possible increase of production is limited by environmental legislation and society expectations towards animal welfare. Processors recalled their concerns as regards high pigmeat prices. Stakeholders also noted that an EU exit strategy from the Chinese market would be needed, once the latter has recovered.

A matter of concern remains the current evolution of red meat consumption in the European Union. In this respect, EuroCommerce provided a presentation on trends in

sales of meat products from a retail perspective. The Commission presented the latest information on estimated volumes of beef and pork which are available for human consumption in the EU. Finally, a representative of COCEGA made a presentation on beef market evolution in France during 2014 to 2017.

## **5. Next steps**

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 consumer behaviour towards consumption of meat and agreements with third countries pose in the immediate future.

## **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 24 February 2020 (provisional date).

(e-signed)

Michael SCANNELL

List of participants– Minutes

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