



**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 Thursday 16 March 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**

#### ***Pigmeat market situation***

Discussions showed a moderate optimism. The domestic market supports reasonable prices and the exceptionally good export situation contributes to producers' price recovery and a re-balancing of the market. Low feed costs and a favourable exchange rate had also a positive impact on the sector. The sector's concerns relate to its high dependence on exports to China. Diversifying export markets remain a priority for the EU pigmeat sector. Eurocommerce provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

#### ***Future AGRI portal on market data (pigmeat pilot): presentation from the Commission***

DG AGRI services presented a pilot project for a new web portal with data on prices, production and trade flows.

#### ***Data sourcing for improved market transparency: presentation from the Commission***

DG AGRI services provided a presentation on data sourcing and market transparency. The Group exchanged views on the use of available data and on possibilities to improve market transparency along the supply chain. Sound data on consumption and wholesale prices for meat were identified as the most important data need.

#### ***Beef and veal market situation***

Discussions showed that the EU beef market seems to regain balance following a very difficult year 2016. However pressure on producer prices remains and a considerable number of EU producers are facing serious financial difficulties. The current and future evolution of internal EU consumption and the impact of FTAs and Brexit are matters of major concern. Positive aspects are relatively low feed costs and good export performance. Exports of live bovines are essential to partially relieve tension on the internal market. Eurocommerce provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

## **5. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

Overall, as in the meeting of October 2016, the members of the Economic Board expressed growing concern on declining trends in meat consumption. That poses a major challenge for the future of both sectors. Exports are essential for market balance. Efforts to gain and improve market access must continue. Impacts of future FTAs and Brexit must be carefully assessed.

## **4. Next steps**

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

## **5. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Meat Market Observatory Economic Board is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 June 2017.

(e-signed)  
Jens SCHAPS

# List of participants

Name	First name	Organisation
		CEJA
		CEJA
		CEJA
		CEJA
		CLITRAVI
		CLITRAVI
		CLITRAVI
		CLITRAVI
		COGECA
		COGECA
		COGECA
		COGECA
		COPA
		COPA
		COPA
		COPA
		ECVC
		ECVC
		ECVC
		ECVC
		EUROCOMMERCE
		EUROCOMMERCE
		UECBV
		UECBV
		UECBV