



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

Brussels,
KK/fvn AGRI.DDG3.G3/1327975

MINUTES

Meeting of the ECONOMIC BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN MEAT MARKET OBSERVATORY

Date: 24 February 2020

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

Delegations present: all stakeholders were present.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Nature of the meeting

Non-public meeting.

3. List of points discussed

- Beef market situation
- Piguemeat market situation
- Sales and consumption of meat: presentations from EuroCommerce
- Information on market transparency for meats
- Information on the Commission's evaluation of EU rules on origin-labelling for meat

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

For the beef sector, discussions showed that the EU beef market is gradually regaining balance following the price drop of the summer 2019. The current and future evolution of internal EU consumption, economic developments around the coronavirus, the Farm to Fork Strategy and Brexit are matters of major concern. Stakeholders also noted the importance to provide actual data on beef production methods in the context of societal concerns related to climate change. Exports of live bovines remain essential for the internal market balance. Moderate production has improved price levels in almost all categories of carcasses and live animals, although prices remaining lower than in 2018.

For the pigmeat sector, discussions reflected the good market situation due the Chinese import demand. While increased exports could have stimulated production expansion, this did not materialise, notably because investments in pig farming face environmental restrictions and societal concerns. Stakeholders also noted that the sector needs a long term strategy for once the Asian production recovers.

A matter of concern remains the current evolution of meat consumption patterns in the European Union. In this respect, Eurocommerce provided a presentation on trends in sales of meat products from a retail perspective.

The Commission informed on the state of play of the implementation of market transparency Regulation (EU) 2019/1746 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1185 in relation to new notification obligations for meat and eggs from 1 January 2021.

Finally, the Commission reminded the members of the Economic Board of the ongoing public consultation on the evaluation of existing EU rules on origin-labelling for fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry.

5. Next steps

The Observatory will keep monitoring the situation and evolution of the beef and pigmeat markets paying particular attention to the challenges that the ASF situation, Brexit and other events of the kind pose for the immediate future.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 22 June 2020 (provisional date).

(e-signed)

Michael SCANNELL

List of participants– Minutes

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