

CDG ANIMAL PRODUCTS**Pigmeat sector****28-10-14**

State of play of the ongoing EU debate on the Commission's Official Controls

1. **The EP adopted its opinion at first reading in April 2014.** The EP adopted several changes; the main ones are:
 - Changes to meat inspection rules that would require the **permanent presence** of the official veterinarian during *ante-* and *post-mortem* inspection (for the Commission this is disproportionate and unjustified, no sufficient flexibility in small slaughterhouses with discontinued slaughter),
 - **Limits** to the possibility of involving slaughterhouse staff during official controls on white meat (poultry and lagomorphs) - (not in line with the outcome of the recent impact assessment on the revision of meat inspection rules and with EFSA opinions on how to address risks in this area)
 - **physical checks at borders on products of animal origin** should be carried out by an official veterinarian, as decisions on those consignments – (again more prescriptive than the COMM proposal)
 - Repeal of **mandatory official control fees** - Possibility instead for MS to collect fees to recover some of the costs incurred – (COMM disagrees as this would perpetuate and worsen the current situation, whereby fees are collected in a non-uniform manner that allows discriminatory treatment)
 - MS **prevented from charging fees on primary production** (including farm processing)
 - **Allowed to exempt SMEs only if they so decide** (deletion of the mandatory exemption for microbusinesses proposed by COMM)
 - **plant reproductive material (PRM) and the contained use of GMOs** are not within the scope of the proposal anymore

2. **EU Council:**
 - The Greek Presidency produced a compromise text for a number of articles after technical examination of the proposal. Discussions have continued in the Council under the Italian Presidency and a number of divisive points are further debated, like for example veterinary controls and fees for official controls.
 - The Italian Presidency hope to reach a compromise text by the end of its mandate