



Meat MO Economic Board

11 October 2019

- o The 11th meeting of the Economic Board of the Meat Market Observatory (Meat MO) took place on 11 October 2019, with the participation of experts from the various steps in the meat supply chain.
- o The Expert Group based its exchange of views on the beef and veal and pigmeat market situation on factual presentations from the Commission (see Annexes I and II).
- o 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.
- o 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 in the long run a strategy would be needed to prepare for the situation once Asian markets recover.
- o A discussion took place around evolution of red meat consumption patterns in the European Union.
- o 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, the participants of the Economic Board Meeting heard a presentation on beef market evolution in France during 2014 to 2017.
- o 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.
- o The next meeting of the Meat MO Economic Board will take place on in 24 February 2020¹.

¹ Provisional date