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MINUTES

Meeting of the « WORKING GROUP ON "PIGMEAT" OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON "ANIMAL PRODUCTS"»

Date: 29 April 2019

Chair: Mrs Raluca RUSU (AGRI-G-3)

Organisations present: All delegations were present, except Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland and Slovakia.

1. Approval of the agenda (and of the minutes of previous meeting¹)

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed

1. Presentation from GIRA

A GIRA representative made a presentation on the **Global pigmeat Outlook: ASF crisis in China...and Asia**: currently China is confronted with a real crisis in the pigmeat sector given the rapid ASF expansion throughout the whole China. The outbreaks have affected mostly backyard production, but also some of the commercial holdings. The clear effect of this crisis is that the meat import demand will be boosted in the months to come. There is already a big production fall in CN, Vietnam and other vulnerable countries. A shift in the demand for other meats (poultry) has already been noted. There will be a rise in pig prices around the world, as an effect of the fact that the global pig supply will not be able to fill the gap left by the production fall in Asia. The imports by China will not be able either to fill the gap in supply left after all the culling due to ASF.

2. EU pigmeat market situation

The Commission representative delivered a presentation on the current EU pigmeat market situation. The presentation will be made available to the experts via email as well as via Circabc.

¹ If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

3. 2019 pig meat production forecast (on the basis of the pig population survey of November/December 2018 and on the basis of information received from the experts of the Working Group)

The experts present in the meeting presented their forecast for 2019 in terms of GIP as well as prices evolution.

The following points were noted as regards the latest and future developments for the EU pigmeat market:

- **Pig production** in 2019 is expected to slightly increase by 0.6% compared to 2018. Low pig prices in 2018 have discouraged the restocking of herds. This has been as well confirmed by the November/December Livestock Survey results which shows a decrease in the breeding herd of 2.9% and 1.2% in the total pig population (December 2018 vs. December 2017).
- **Prices** are expected to increase in 2019. The evolution of the prices will be influenced heavily by the Chinese import demand and provided that no further Member States are affected by African swine fever.
- **Consumption-wise** there is a fear that important volumes exported to China as well as increases in EU pig prices will affect irreversibly the European pigmeat consumption in the longer term.
- **Exports:** Data available for the first months of 2019 confirm the boost in the export demand, in particular to China and other Asian markets. The EU pigmeat is currently the most competitive on the Chinese markets given the still existing increased tariffs for the US pork exports.
- **African Swine Fever** remains the main risk factor for the EU pigmeat sector.
- **Overall, there is currently optimism in the EU pigmeat market**, but producers remain cautious since the expected increases in pig prices might not take place at the same pace and with the same magnitude for all the Member States: the reason being that not all the Member States have holdings authorised to export to China, and within a Member States not all slaughterhouses are authorised to export to China.

4. A.O.B

The chairwoman informed that Judit Krommer will take over the pigmeat sector as of 1st May 2019.

4. Next meeting

The chairwoman explained that the next meeting of the Working Group will take place in spring 2020, in Brussels. In the meantime, the experts have been asked to contribute to the forecast questionnaire to be sent by email in autumn 2019.

5. List of participants - Annex

(e-signed)
Luis CARAZO JIMENEZ
Head of Unit

List of participants– Minutes

WORKING GROUP ON "PIGMEAT"

Date: 29 April 2019

MEMBER STATE	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME
Austria	SCHLEDERER	Johann
Belgium	HUYGHE	Francois
Czech Republic	STIBAL	Jan
Denmark	FLEMIN	Karsten
Estonia	JACOBI	Einar
Finland	MANNINEM	Marjukka
France	HUSSON	Elisa
Germany	KOHELMULLER	Matthias
Greece	DIDANGELOS	Georgios
Hungary	ENDRÖDI	Gyorgy
Lithuania	BARAVIKAS	Algis
Netherlands	VANDIEPEM	Johan
Portugal	TAVARES	Antonio
Romania	IORGULESCU	Adrian
Slovenia	VRTACNIK	Jernej
Spain	HIGUERA	Miguel-Anguel
Sweden	HANSSON	Axel
United Kingdom	WILKINS	Bethan

GÍRA	BROWN	Richard
Observateur	DUFLOT	Boris
Observateur	SANCHEZ	Thomas
Observateur	SCHEJA	Martha