



# Meat MO Economic Board

**30 May 2022**

- o The 19th meeting of the Economic Board of the Meat Market Observatory (Meat MO) took place on 30 May 2022, with the participation of experts from the meat supply chain.
- o The exchange of views on the beef, veal and pigmeat market situation was based on the Commission's factual presentations (see Annexes I and II).
- o For pigmeat, the Meat MO noted that EU prices have significantly improved. Nevertheless, current high prices cannot sufficiently compensate for increasing costs, in particular for feed, putting pressure on farmers' margins.
- o Participants pointed out that production might be affected in the longer run. Inflation and changing consumer behaviour were mentioned as decisive factors. Participants also expressed concerns about the spread of African Swine Fever, taking into account recent outbreaks in Italy and Germany, located far from other infected zones.
- o For the beef market, the Meat MO highlighted exceptional high prices due to tight supply, good demand and limited imports. The substantial increase in input costs, in particular for feed and fertilisers, is putting pressure on beef producers, in particular in the grain-finishing systems.
- o The Meat MO noted that the beef sector's export performance – excluding the UK - was positive in 2021, while imports have substantially decreased for the second year in a row. Participants stressed that exports will become even more important for the sector in the future and improved access to third country markets is vital.
- o The Meat MO expressed concerns in relation to the evolution of the situation in Ukraine and its impact on feed availability worsening the current situation.
- o The Meat MO discussed the world and EU cereals, oilseeds and proteins market situation (Annex III) and possible consequences of the war in Ukraine. Special focus was put on the Commission's action plan to establish 'Solidarity Lanes' to help Ukraine exporting its agricultural produce. The Meat MO highlighted the many uncertainties surrounding feed production and prices.
- o 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 (Annex IV).
- o The Commission reminded that the mandate of the Meat MO was to expire and a call for applications to set up a new expert group was launched.
- o The next meeting of the Meat MO is scheduled for 26 October 2022 (tbc).