

Brexit Implications for Meat Trade

MMO remote meeting 22nd February 2021

- contributions via Cormac HEALY

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union – UECBV



What we have so far

- Trade & Cooperation Agreement very welcome
- No Tariffs / No Quotas ...but trading environment significantly changed
- 7 weeks in - volumes of trade are lower (caution / some stockpiling)
- Problems evident – no longer frictionless trade
- Some trade flows restricted due to COVID-19 impact
- Concern about next phases (1st April, 1st July)
- Cost of trade has increased (up to 40%)



Experience of trading operations

ROI/EU ↔ UK:

- Product moving ok from ROI to UK (just Customs formalities)
- Real issues with return journey / backloads

ROI ↔ Continental EU (Direct route):

- Operators favouring direct route as much as possible (avoids all new paperwork/checks)
- Significant expansion in capacity. More needed (particularly for accompanied RoRo)

ROI ↔ Continental EU (Landbridge/Transit):

- More challenging but a necessity. Groupage really problematic.
- In addition to paperwork and new processes, transit guarantee required

NI ↔ ROI & NI ↔ GB:

- No border on Island of Ireland. Trading free-flow
- Significant issues for NI/GB trade flows at present



Concern around next phases

- UK Border Operating model – phased entry
- 1st April: Export Health Certificates required for EU to UK meat trade
- 1st July: product must enter UK via BCPs and subject to checks
- Aspects of certs to be clarified
- Massive certification undertaking for businesses and authorities
- Preparedness? Resources? TRACES?
- Potential for significant disruption. Intensive work ongoing.



Trade Specialised Committee on SPS measures

- Much to examine in the Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA)
- SPS Chapter - comprehensive
- Potential to review frequency of identity and physical checks
- Enhanced cooperation on animal welfare, sustainable food systems, antimicrobial resistance and on electronic certification
- EU – UK veterinary agreement? Could ease trade friction.
- Trade Specialised Committee on SPS measures – establishment, co-chaired, agenda
- Chilled mince, chilled meat preps, triangular trade, groupage



Conclusions

- EU-UK TCA delivered tariff/quota free outcome, which was most important
- Nevertheless, trading environment has changed substantially (added cost & delay)
- Works against our just-in-time delivery system (no longer frictionless)
- Groupage in real trouble
- More changes to come – certification 1st April, SPS control checks 1st July
- Improvements can be made (Trade Specialised Committee on SPS)





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Thank you very much for your attention!