



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and Observatories

Brussels,

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE "WORKING GROUP ON "Beef Meat" OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON "ANIMAL PRODUCTS"

Date: 16/4/2018

Chair: Commission – Joaquim ORDEIG VILA (DG AGRI.G.3)

Present: AT, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, UK, Pascual Martinez (CELCAA), Rupert Claxton (GIRA), Rauli-Jan Albert (COPA)

1. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

2. List of points discussed

EU beef and veal market situation

The Commission provided a presentation on the evolution of market prices, production and trade in the Union and third countries.

Global beef market overview

An expert from GIRA (Mr Claxton) provided a presentation on the beef market situation in the world including information on the evolution and prospects of global prices, production and trade.

EU Beef and veal production and price forecast

The experts explained the market situation in their respective Member States and presented their forecast for production, prices and consumption.

For 2018, EU experts expect a slight increase in the production (+0,13%) and an increase of prices of +1,31% for carcasses of male bovines and of +3,83% for cow carcasses. Consumption (balance sheet) will remain stable (+0.40%).

For 2019, EU experts expect that production would decrease by -0,47%. Prices would have a moderate increase for carcasses of male bovines (+0,48%) and decline for cow carcasses (-0,52%). Consumption would continue to be stable (+0,31%).

3. Conclusions

Experts agreed that the market is balanced and in reasonably good shape. The improvement of the economic situation in many Member States is favouring and increased demand for beef. There is a general optimism despite the challenges of the sector. However, France is an exception in such optimism. In that Member State, specialised beef producers are suffering from financial difficulties and the sector is going through a painful restructuration. Destocking is taking place and a reduction of the herd is expected

Experts also reached consensus on the fact that consumption evolution is a key subject for the sector. Patterns are changing. Consumption may increase at the catering segment but is declining at retail while the preferences of consumers shift from prime cuts to processed products. Consumption is still mainly driven by price but future consumption would be strongly influenced by environmental and ethical and health concerns. Consumers may be willing to pay more for more quality.

Exports and feed cost are the most positive elements in the current situation of the sector. Exports are growing and the experts are optimistic in relation to external markets opportunities in Asia (mainly China) and Africa. Exports of live animals to Mediterranean countries remain essential to balance the market. Respect of animal welfare legislation and avoiding animal health incidents is a key subject.

Brexit and the effects of future trade agreements are the big uncertainties in relation to market developments.

4. Next steps

The summary forecast results will be circulated to the experts

5. Next meeting

The Commission reminded the experts that, under the new organisation of Civil Dialogue Groups and Working Groups, only one meeting will be organised per year. Therefore, the next meeting of the Working Group will be in spring 2019. However, an update of the experts' forecasts will be requested and collected by the Commission in autumn 2018.

6. List of participants - Annex

(e-signed)

Luis CARAZO JIMENEZ

List of participants– Minutes

**WORKING GROUP ON "BEEF MEAT" OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON
"ANIMAL PRODUCTS"**

DATE: 16 04 2018

Name	First name	MS
EDER	Helmut	AT
VRÁBLÍK	Miroslav	CZ
KOHLMÜLLER	Matthias	DE
Bentsen	Oliver	DK
MORO	Matilde	ES
BACKMAN	Tarja	FI
MONNIOT	Caroline	FR
WYATT	Duncan	GB
RADIĆ	Tajana	HR
ENDRODI	Gyorgy	HU
Burke	Joe	IE
TOMEI	François	IT
VERHOOG	David	NL
WIERZBICK	Jerzy	PL
GODINHO	Domingos	PT
DIRKE	Maria	SE
PODMILJSAK	Matjaz	SI
ALBERT	Rauli-Jan	Observer COPA
MARTINEZ	Pascual	Observer CELCAA

CLAXTON	Rupert	Additional expert GIRA
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