



Brussels,  
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## MINUTES

### *MEETING OF THE CDG ANIMAL PRODUCTS – PIGMEAT SECTOR»*

**Meeting via videoconference (Interactio)  
On Friday 05 November 2021 from 10h00 to 15h30**

Chair: AGRI G3 Animal Productss

Delegations present: all NGOs were present, except AnimalhealthEurope, Bee Life, BEUC, BirdLife, EFA, EFFAT, EFNCP, EMB, EPHA and ERPA

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Commission informed that revised rules of procedure had been adopted for the Civil Dialogue Group Animal Products at its meeting of 18 October 2021 (subsection Beef and Veal), following the extension by Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1112 of the current mandate of CDGs until the end of 2022. It was confirmed that even if CDGs are now chaired by the Commission, the agenda will continue to be drafted in close cooperation with stakeholders. The agenda, prepared in that way, was adopted.

### **2. EU pigmeat market overview (production, prices, trade)**

The Commission presented the most recent market data. EU production in 2021 increased compared to 2020. Pig carcass prices and piglet prices have been going down steadily for more than 4 months. Producer margins are below the average historical remainder, negatively affected by high production costs and low pig prices. The EU trade balance is positive. While China remains the EU's most important export destination, its demand is decreasing.

Stakeholders highlighted the difficult market situation, in particular for Member States with ASF, and the consequences of decreasing exports. Participants asked to review the calculation of remainders and include costs for piglet production. On the stakeholders' plead for the Commission to look for solutions and support for the sector, the Commission outlined the possibilities in rural development programmes and State aid.

### **3. EU animal feed market overview**

The Commission gave an overview of the feed market situation. International Grains Council projects world total grains production at an all-time high of 2,290 million tonnes (+3.6% year-on-year) driven by expected record wheat and maize harvests. However,

consumption, boosted by strong demand for feed use in particular, is also forecast at a new peak. At the same time, stocks in major exporting countries are expected to tighten. Poor harvests of several major crops in Canada, as well as much lower maize production in Brazil than initially projected, coincided with a sudden and sharp increase of Chinese feed imports, especially of maize and barley. Among others, these elements have contributed to a significant increase of cereals prices during past 12 months. Given the rapidly increasing prices for fertilizer and other inputs, the outlook is rather uncertain for the 2022/23 production cycle. World soya beans production is forecasted at a record level in 2021 with demand also reaching new highs. Moderately higher stocks and good harvests in the major producers limited price increases. Supplies are however much tighter for rapeseed and sunflower seed and prices increased sharply year-on-year.

#### **4. The sustainability of the Italian pig industry**

The topic was presented by Prof. G. Pulina from the University of Sassari. The Italian pig industry is almost totally directed towards the production of heavy pigs. This implies that environmental impacts are higher per kg live weight sold, due to longer cycle lengths and higher slaughter weight. The greatest scope for reducing impacts comes from higher productivity, reduction in carbon footprint of feed, precision feeding, especially for proteins and adoption of biogas on the farm.

#### **5. ASF – State of play**

First, the Commission gave an overview of the ASF evolution globally and the current situation in the EU, where it is since 2014 and has been kept under control (although the latter was challenged by participants). Nevertheless, ASF remains a challenge in certain areas of several MS. Examples of EU initiatives to prevent, control and eradicate ASF were presented. The Commission also gave an overview of the EU policy developments since 21/4/2021 (animal health legal framework and special ASF control rules).

Subsequently, the Commission updated the participants on the state of works related to market access for pork. South Korea lifted suspensions from Belgium; Japan for both Belgium and the Czech Republic. Singapore recognises regionalisation from Hungary and Germany. Vietnam approved imports from several MS. There is no tangible progress on lifting current trade restrictions in China, but the Commission continues to pursue the matter with high priority.

#### **6. Update on the CAP reform and the Farm to Fork Strategy**

The Commission presented the timeline of implementing the CAP-reform and its interconnection with the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. Working groups with Member States' experts are preparing secondary legislation. Member States are developing their CAP plans, Commission comments on the plans will be publicly available. Several studies (*i.a.* JRC) have shown benefits and impacts of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. The Commission highlighted the wide range of possibilities to stimulate sustainable pigmeat production within the new green architecture of the CAP where 25% of the budget for Pillar I is reserved for payments under eco-schemes and 35% of the budget for Pillar II for environment and climate actions.

(e-signed)  
Michael SCANNEL

List of participants

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ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
<b>AnimalhealthEurope</b>	---
<b>Beelife</b> Bee Life-European Beekeeping Coordination	---
<b>BEUC</b> Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs	---
<b>BirdLife</b> Stichting BirdLife Europe	---
<b>CEJA</b> European Council of Young farmers	3
<b>CELCAA</b> European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade	7
<b>COGECA</b> European agri-cooperatives	6
<b>COPA</b> European farmers	7
<b>ECVC</b> European Coordination Via Campesina	1
<b>EEB</b> European Environmental Bureau	2
<b>EFA</b> Eurogroup for Animals	---
<b>EFFAT</b> European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions	---
<b>EFNCP</b> European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism	---
<b>EMB</b> European Milk Board	---
<b>EPHA</b> European Public Health Alliance	---
<b>ERPA</b> European Rural Poultry Association	---
<b>EuroCommerce</b>	1
<b>FESASS</b> Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire	1
<b>FoodDrinkEurope</b>	8
<b>IFOAM</b> Organics Europe	1
<b>Expert</b>	1