



# Meat MO Economic Board

22 June 2020

- o The 13th meeting of the Economic Board of the Meat Market Observatory (Meat MO) took place virtually on 22 June 2020, with the participation of experts from the meat supply chain.
- o The Commission's presentations on the beef and pigmeat markets (see Annexes I and II) provided the basis for the exchange of views.
- o For the beef sector, discussions showed the following: EU beef production increased slightly in the first quarter of 2020 but is likely to have decreased in the second quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the gradual lifting of lockdown measures from week 19, a moderate price increase has been observed in most MS. While acknowledging the swift opening of private storage aid for beef, some stakeholders called for reviewing its functioning in view of possible future use.

Future market developments will be affected by the strength of economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, the actions that will be taken under the Farm to Fork Strategy, the CAP budget that will be available under the MMF and how Brexit materialises.
- o For the pigmeat sector, discussions reflected the good trade situation due to the Chinese import demand. The stakeholders also expressed their concerns related to logistics and competition with the USA. The continued COVID-19 clusters in slaughterhouses and Chinese scrutiny over imported food remains a concern of stakeholders. Stakeholders also noted the need for an ASF preparedness strategy for trade if the disease cannot be confined in the current regions and would spread to important pig producing countries.
- 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, in particularly during the COVID-19 lock-down period.
- o While overall meat consumption may not be falling dramatically, consumer choices are likely to be affected by repeated attacks on the meat sector's sustainability, production methods and animal welfare practices. The use of "meat" designations for non-meat products is also influencing consumption choices and having a downward market impact.
- o The Commission reminded the members of the Economic Board of the ongoing public consultation on the evaluation of the EU agricultural promotion policy.
- o The Meat MO will keep monitoring the situation and evolution of the beef and veal, and pigmeat markets paying particular attention to the challenges that the ASF situation, Brexit and other events of the kind pose for the immediate future.
- o The next meeting of the Meat MO Economic Board is scheduled on 26 October 2020.