



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and Observatories

Brussels,

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE “WORKING GROUP ON "PIG MEAT" OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON "ANIMAL PRODUCTS”

Date: 12/4/18

Chair: Commission – Raluca RUSU (DG AGRI.G.3)

Present: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK, Elisa Husson & Tonći Ukas (observers COPA,), Pascual Martinez (observer CELCAA), Richard Brown (additional expert, GIRA)

1. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

2. List of points discussed

- a) **Pig production** in 2018 is expected to increase by 1,2% compared to 2017. High pig prices in the 2nd half of 2016/first half of 2017 encouraged restocking of herds. This has been as well confirmed by the November/December Livestock Survey results which shows an increase in the breeding herd of 1.4% and 2% in the total pig population (December 2017 vs. December 2016).
- b) **Prices** are expected to decrease in 2018, but they should maintain a level which is above the 2016 levels at least for the first half of the year, whereas after summer prices might be under levels seen in 2016 and 2017. The evolution of the prices will be influenced by the domestic demand – if it picks up once the barbecue season is starting – as well as by the performance of the EU exports. Two factors are certain: there will be more pork supplies on the world market as not only EU, but also USA and Canada had foreseen increases in their pig production; and there will be fierce competition from the three main world pigmeat exporters on the Asian markets, apart from China.
- c) **Consumption** is reported to be lower in fresh pig meat in several Member States (BE,DE, FR, ES, AT), whereas in some other Member States (ES, IT, PL, UK) it is increasing in processed products.
- d) **Exports:** The volumes exported to China in 2017 have decreased since the Chinese demand reduced (while its pigmeat production gets more and more

industrialized). At the same time there is more competition on the world market coming from USA, BRA and CAN, at much lower prices. The recent increase by 25% in the Chinese tariffs on the US pork imports might create short and medium-term opportunities for the EU exports. Nevertheless, there might be stronger competition from US and CAN on the other Asian markets (Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Philippines).

- e) **African Swine Fever** remains the main risk factor for the EU pigmeat sector.
- f) A GIRA representative made a presentation on the **Chinese pigmeat demand** in 2018: currently China is confronted with very low pig prices, which is an indication that domestic supply is comfortable; world pig prices are expected to remain in 2018 highly dependent on CN import demand strength; until the moment of the imposition of the Chinese tariffs on the US pork, there were expectations that EU would have to face strong competition from the US pork exports, but now the trade war between US and China might actually create opportunities for the EU pork exports. CN has become an incredible important actor in the world pork trade and pig price formation around the world.
- g) **Next meeting**

The chairwoman explained that the next meeting of the Working Group will take place in spring 2019, in Brussels. In the meantime, the experts have been asked to contribute to the forecast questionnaire to be sent by email in autumn 2018.

3. List of participants - Annex

(e-signed)

Luis CARAZO JIMENEZ

List of participants– Minutes

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

DATE: 12/4/18

	MS (ONG)	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVES	
1	AT	Johann	SCHLEDERER
2	BE	francois	HUYGHE
3	BG	Bozhidar	IVANOV
4	CZ	Jan	STIBAL
5	DE	Matthias	KOHLMÜLLER
6	DK	Karsten	FLEMIN
7	EE	Einar	JAKOBI
8	ES	Miguel Angel	HIGUERA
9	FR	Michel	RIEU
10	GR	ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ	ΔΙΔΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ
11	HR	Tomislava	HODALIC

12	HU	Gyorgy	ENDRODI
13	IT	Maurizio	GALLO
14	LT	Algis	BARAVYKAS
15	NL	Johan	VAN DIEPEN
16	PL	Jan	DOMINIAK
17	PT	António	TAVARES
18	RO	Adrian	IORGULESCU
19	SE	Margareta	ÅBERG
20	SI	Jernej	VRTACNIK
21	UK	Bethan	WILKINS
22	additional expert, GIRA	Richard	BROWN
23	observer CELCAA	Pascual	MARTINEZ
24	observer COPA	Elisa	HUSSON
25	observer COPA	Tonći	UKAS