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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and Observatories
G.3. Animal products

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MINUTES

Meeting of the WORKING GROUP ON POULTRY AND EGGS OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Date: 13 November 2017

Chair: Commission

Experts from all Member States were present, except: Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Netherlands, Sweden, Lithuania, Belgium, Slovenia, Slovakia and Luxembourg.

1. Points discussed

1.1. Poultry Market Situation

The Commission presented an update on market situation and forecasts, based on inputs by participants.

Total EU poultry production is expected to increase by 1.8% between 2016 and 2017, and by 1.9% between 2017 and 2018. This is slower growth compared to previous years. Growth is driven by broilers (+2.7% and +2.3% respectively).

The EU trade balance remains positive in volume, but negative in value.

The Commission also gave an update on import restrictions still in place in third countries following the last episodes of avian influenza.

1.2. Eggs Market Situation

The Commission presented an update on market situation and forecasts, based on inputs by participants.

Egg production decreased by 0.4% between 2016 and 2017, but it is expected to increase by 3.2% between 2017 and 2018.

Market prices have been increasing since August 2017, following shortages spot market prices have gone up by 57% compared to 2016. The Fipronil incident in August is only one impact factor for the price increase. Also seasonal trends and

high world market prices play a role.. The trade balance remains positive for the egg sector.

1.3. Russian Poultry Market

The consultant GIRA presented the main features and actors of today's poultry market in Russia.

Russia is close to become self-sufficient and could become net exporter in the future. This will impact global trade flows..

1.4. Exchange of views on market trends

The experts highlighted the following main points:

- Duck and geese production have been severely affected by avian influenza in the winter 2016-2017 and the concerned Member States have increased the bio-security measures. Recovery is expected in 2018.
- Several experts mentioned problems with poultry exports following AI related import bans applied in the course of 2017 by trading partners.
- The Fipronil incident impacted the egg sector in several Member States, leading to shortages of eggs. However, consumer confidence was not significantly affected.
- Some experts noted that egg producer prices bound by longer term contracts remained in fact much lower than those on the spot market
- On a longer-term trend, following retailers request, the demand for non-cage eggs is on the increase in several Member States.

2. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The Commission informed about the new format of the questionnaires for data recording in preparation of the expert group and reminded about the deadlines to be respected in order to circulate complete updates in time before the meeting.

3. Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held in spring 2018, the date is still to be confirmed. Experts are invited to send the filled-in questionnaires in due time.

4. List of participants - Annex

e-signed
Luis CARAZO JIMENEZ
Head of Unit AGRI-G.3

