



Brussels,
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MINUTES

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

Date: 3 May 2021

Chair: Kai-Uwe Sprenger, Head of Meat Sector, AGRI.G3

Delegations present: All Organisations were present, except CELCAA (experts missing from NL, EL, LT and SI).

1. Approval of the agenda

No AOB points raised by participants.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was a non-public, electronically held meeting.

3. List of points discussed

(1) EU poultry and egg market situation

The Commission provided a presentation on the evolution of production, market prices, and trade in the Union and third countries and on the general state of play of the poultry and egg market situation in the Union.

(2) GIRA's presentation on the global poultry market

The GIRA's representative, Ms Dóra Pogácsás, presented the organisation's outlook on the global poultry market situation with a particular emphasis on the Covid-19 impact.

(3) 2021 poultry meat, rabbit meat and egg production forecast (on the basis of information received from the experts of the Working Group)

The experts of the Working Group provided information on the market situation and forecasts for 2021 for their respective Member States.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The experts concluded that in 2021 **EU poultrymeat production** is likely to decline by -2.8%, driven by production drops in major producing countries (PL, DE, FR and ES). This overall drop would consist of notable decline in broiler production (-2.8%), steep decline in turkey production (-5.5%) and a rise in duck production (+6.6%, although from a low base in 2020). **EU rabbit meat output** in 2021 should see again a notable drop (-7.3%), pulled down by declines in production in key producing Member States (ES, FR, IT, PL). The total **EU egg production** in 2021 should see a slight increase in 2021 (+1.6%) driven by marginal increases in the key producing Member States (FR, DE, ES, PL) while EU production of hatching eggs should drop marginally, mainly driven by sharp drop (-7.2%) expected in PL.

The experts note that the Covid crisis continues to present an important uncertainty for future market prospects. Persisting drop of demand from the foodservice sector has not been fully compensated by increased retail demand. Moreover, Covid-related measures represent additional costs for producers (due to sanitary measures, work absences, etc.). Widespread AI epidemics brought losses for individual poultry and egg producers and export restrictions on EU poultry and egg products that are expected to be lifted only gradually. At the same time, the sectors are under pressure due to increasing feed costs.

In the context of the general declining trend in caged egg production in the EU, several experts reported that prices for barn eggs are not remunerative enough to provide further incentives for shifting towards barn production systems. Furthermore, critical attacks of certain animal welfare NGOs are said to be shifting from caged systems towards barn egg systems. The upcoming ban of killing of male chicks in DE was also mentioned as an additional challenge. There is only a very limited market for hatched male chicks from those hatcheries that are unable to invest in the new sexing technology.

Concerning rabbit production systems, the experts are concerned over the possible outcome of 'End of the Cage Age' citizen's initiative as the bulk of rabbit meat produced in the EU still comes from caged systems. An abrupt ban of caged systems and quick transition towards non-caged systems could have a dramatic negative impact on viability of rabbit production in the EU.

5. Next steps

The conclusions of the Working Group will be reported to the Civil Dialog Group on poultrymeat and eggs of 17 May 2021.

6. Next meeting

To be determined.

7. List of participants

Annexed to these minutes.

Brigitte MISONNE
Head of Unit

List of participants– Minutes
Meeting of the WORKING GROUP ON POULTRY AND EGGS
Date: 3 May 2021

	MEMBER ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
1	COPA	12
2	CELCAA	0
3	FoodDrinkEurope	1
4	GIRA	1
	<i>TOTAL</i>	14