

EUROCOMMERCE QUESTIONNARY FOR THE POINT

6.2.2 Exchange of views on the animal welfare label scheme in Denmark and the Netherlands (concept and impact on the market)

Input of Mr Frans VAN DONGEN NL

In the Netherlands a three star system for animal welfare labelling has been introduced.

What are the main issues regarding welfare criteria?

The first star includes among others more space, no castration, short animal transport.

The second star includes in addition straw bedding, covered outdoor possibility, no tail docking.

The third star includes in addition large indoor space and outdoor (grassland) possibility for sows.

How are farmers reimbursed for extra elements?

The farmer is making contracts with the slaughterhouse and the slaughterhouse pays a bonus. This is part of open competition.

Market share (if available)?

The first star is actually the minimum requirement for pig meat sold unprocessed in Dutch retail shop. So it has a 100% market share for the Dutch fresh pig meat market.

The third star has a 5% market share.

Presentation towards consumer?

The Dutch animal welfare organisation (owner of the 3 star system) is strongly communicating the system to the public. Individual retailers are communicating the label on the meat to their customers.

How are controls organised and financed?

Controls are incorporated in the Controls of the Dutch integrated quality scheme for pigs. And paid by the participants in this scheme.

Are the schemes open to producers from other EU-countries?

Yes any producer or group of producers can ask for using the one, two or three stars of this system, when guaranteeing that they comply with the conditions.