



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,
Ares(2017) 6766541

MINUTES

Meeting of the WORKING GROUP ON "BEEF & VEAL MEAT"
OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Date: 16/10/2017

Chair: Commission

Present: all Member States (NGO) were present, except for Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Ireland, Netherlands Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

1. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

2. Experts foresee for the EU-28:

- For 2017, a slight increase in production of 1,6% and a significant increase of prices for carcasses of male bovines and cows. Consumption (balance sheet) would remain stable (+0.7%).
- For 2018, production would stabilise but could still increase by +0,4%. Prices would decline for carcasses of male bovines and remain stable for cows. **Consumption** would stagnate (+0,3%).
- Experts agreed that production will moderate after ongoing restructuration of the bovine herd after the difficult years in the dairy sector. The decline in the slaughter of dairy cows this year is being compensated by a significant increase in the slaughter of heifers. The slaughter of males remains stable or in decline. Those elements had a positive effect on prices which will clearly rebound in 2017 but moderate in 2018. However, despite EU overall trends, in specific Member States the market may behave differently due to particularities (e.g. Ireland and Poland have a different evolution in production than other big players).
- Market balance is restored but with different prospects in different Member States.

- Experts also reached consensus on the fact that consumption evolution is a major concern for the sector. Patterns are changing. Consumption may increase at the catering segment but is declining at retail while preferences of consumers shift from prime cuts to lower value products (minced meat, etc.). Consumption is still mainly driven by price but there's a growing concern that future consumption would be strongly influenced by environmental and ethical and health concerns.
- Exports and feed costs are the most positive elements in the current situation. Exports are growing and experts are optimistic in relation to external markets opportunities in Asia (China mainly) and Africa. Exports of live animals to Mediterranean countries remain essential to balance the market. Respect of animal welfare legislation and prevention of animal health incidents is a key subject.
- Brexit and the effects of future trade agreements are big uncertainties in relation to market developments.

3. List of participants - Annex

e-signed
Luis CARAZO JIMENEZ
Head of Unit

List of participants– Minutes

WORKING GROUP ON "BEEF MEAT"

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	MEMBER STATES (ONG)	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVES
1	Belgium	DEPIEREUX AUDREY
2	UK	WYATT DUNCAN
3	GIRA	CLAXTON RUPPERT
4	Austria	EDER HELMUT
5	Hungary	ENDRODI GYORGY
6	Portugal	GODINHO DOMINGOS
7	Germany	KOHLMUELLER MATTHIAS
8	Spain	MORO MATILDE
9	Finland	MANNINEN MARJUKKA
10	France	MONNIOT CAROLINE
11	Denmark	NIELSEN CHRISTIE
12	Sweden	DIRKE MARIA
13	Italia	TOMEI FRANÇOIS
14	Poland	WIERZBICKI JERZY
15	Croatia	RADIC TAJANA
16	Slovenia	PODMILJAK MATJAZ
	<i>TOTAL</i>	16