



Brussels,
agri.e.3(2024)4817095

MINUTES
Meeting of the CDG ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION - PIGMEAT
on 28 May 2024

Chair: DG AGRI.E.3 – Animal Products

Nature of the meeting: Non – public - Hybrid / Interactio

List of points discussed

First session – Pigmeat market exchanges

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The chair welcomed participants and recalled the need for member organisations to keep their entry into the Transparency Register up to date.

The agenda was adopted.

2. EU Pigmeat market presentation

The Commission presented the most recent market data. Over recent weeks, EU pig prices have been stable, with minor fluctuations. Piglet prices have started going down, in line with the seasonal trend. Both pig and piglet prices remain significantly higher than the historical average.

Early 2024 saw an increase in pig production compared to last year, to be viewed in the context of a downward production trend in the EU over recent years, with significant reductions in 2022 and 2023.

EU pigmeat exports decreased in the first 2 months of 2024, particularly to China and Japan. This contrasts with increased shipments to the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam, and a slight rise to the UK. Despite these gains, the total export volume has fallen, impacting the EU's presence on the world market. Overall, the EU's main competitors supply at lower pigmeat prices, undercutting the EU's competitiveness. EU imports are low and the main supplier to the EU remains the UK.

Participants expressed concerns about EU trade with China, cereal prices and deforestation rules.

3. World Pigmeat market

GIRA gave an overview of the global pigmeat market situation. 2024 is a year of uncertainty, as despite steady recovery from the inflationary spike of 2022-23, widespread national elections lead to changeable political outlooks. The European pig sector has stabilised for now, but remains out of step with the US; high European prices vs low US prices, mean tough competition on export markets, exacerbated by weak Chinese import demand.

Second session – Issues of relevance for the animal production CDG

4. Revised Industrial Emissions Directive – livestock-related elements

The Commission introduced the revised Industrial Emissions Directive which extends the scope in pigs and poultry farms and introduces tailor-made simplified requirements for permitting, emission reporting and inspections. The technical details of the requirements will be set out in an upcoming Implementing act, to be developed in an inclusive process with farmers, taking into account, inter alia, the economic aspects of abatement techniques. These new requirements will apply from 2030.

In the ensuing debate, participants expressed very strong concerns about the practical aspect of new capacity calculation (piglets and aggregation rules), the implementation costs of the new regulation, the administrative burden, and the unbalanced approach towards third countries. The Commission assured that communication with the sector is ongoing and that all relevant concerns will be addressed to achieve a smooth transition to the new regulatory framework. The approach towards 3rd countries will be addressed in the assessment scheduled for 2026.

5. Market access to 3rd countries

The Commission updated CDG members about the state-of-play regarding market access for EU pork in third countries, notably key export markets as China and other Asian countries (Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam).

In this context the Commission highlighted the importance of recognition of regionalisation/zoning for ASF and the Commission's engagement with third countries in the matter.

The Commission answered questions about engagement on regionalisation at EU or Member States' level, regionalisation vs compartmentalisation, and the current situation with Australia, Philippines and Vietnam.

6. Agriculture and Food Chain Observatory

The Commission presented the EU Agri-Food Chain Observatory (AFCO) which is being set up by DG AGRI. The Observatory aims to bring increased transparency on prices, structure of costs and distribution of margins and added value in the food supply chain, while respecting confidentiality and competition rules, and building trust between all stakeholders throughout the chain and public authorities.

It will take the form of an informal expert group and bring together representatives from Member State authorities and stakeholder organisations, selected through a public call for applications.

Members will exchange information based on available data, evidence and facts, to establish a common diagnosis of the situation. Their work will complement the work of the existing Market Observatories.

The selection of members is ongoing. The first meeting of the expert group is planned for mid-July.

7. Sustainability of food production

AnimalhealthEurope made a presentation on the subject, showing that animal health provides a sustained societal contribution, improved economic impact, and reduced environmental impact. The reasons were presented in detail and illustrated with practical examples applied to pig production.

Challenges and solutions to implement better animal health as an ally for policy making were explored, specially focusing on vaccine development, efforts coordination and the case of African Swine Fever.

AnimalhealthEurope incentivised CDG participants to brainstorm on possible methodologies for better implementation, starting by giving 2 suggestions: an operational platform for coordination and collaboration in prevention, detection, and control of animal diseases, as well as vaccine banks through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

A debate started about the positive approach to sustainability, disease outbreaks, trade agreements and tools available in the EU. It was clarified that most of the data presented is the result of a study commissioned with Oxford Analytica, for which the references are in the last page of the presentation. The distinction between [animal health products that are authorised and commercially available](#) was made, as well as the difference between the marketing authorisation of a vaccine and the authorisation for vaccination. More information on the marketing authorisation process can be found [here](#) or directly on the [EMA Website](#).

8. Contribution of former foodstuff to circular and sustainable livestock systems

EFFPA (European Former Foodstuff Processing Association) gave an introduction to former foodstuff processing, where suitable residual flows from food manufacturers and retailers are used as an ingredient for animal feed production. Former foodstuffs (e.g. misshaped bread, incorrectly flavoured chocolates) are a highly appreciated ingredient in pig feed nutrition, serving as an alternative feed ingredient to grains (e.g. wheat, barley), however with a far lower carbon footprint. There is room for increased use of former foodstuffs in pig feed in Europe, driven by increased geographical acceptance and understanding of former foodstuffs as well as sustainability concepts that are underpinned by circularity.

9. AOB - none

Next meeting

The next CDG on Animal Production is scheduled on 17 September 2024

List of participants

Organizations that were present (see the enclosed list)

List of participants– Minutes
Meeting of the Civil Dialogue group on ANIMAL PRODUCTION - PIGMEAT

on 28 May 2024

ORGANISATIONS
AnimalhealthEurope
AVEC - Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU Countries
CEJA - Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs / European Council of Young Farmers
CELCAA - European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and AGRI-Food Trade
COGECA - European agri-cooperatives / General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives of the European Union
COPA - "European farmers / Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations of the European Union
EFFPA
EFPPA - European Fat Processors & Renderers Association
EuroCommerce
EFA - Eurogroup for Animals
FEFAC - European Feed Manufacturers Federation / Fédération européenne des fabricants d'aliments composés
FEFANA - EU association of Speciality Feed Ingredients and their mixtures
FESASS - Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire
Fooddrink Europe
GIRA
IFOAM - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Regional Group
IPIFF - International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed
ORIGINEU - Organisation pour un réseau international d'indications géographiques

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