



Brussels,  
KK/fvn agri.e.3(2023)684449

## MINUTES

### JOINT MEETING OF THE «CDG ANIMAL PRODUCTS – PIGMEAT SECTOR» AND The EXPERT GROUP FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, in particular concerning aspects falling under the CMO Regulation - subgroup Animal Products

#### European Pigmeat Reflection Group – Closing Meeting

Meeting via videoconference on Wednesday 18 January 2023 from 10:00 to 13:00

Chair: AGRI.E3 - Animal Products

Delegations present:

- All Member States were present, except CY, EL, HU and LT.
- Copa-Cogeca, ECVC, CEJA, EEB, CELCAA, FoodDrinkEurope, FESSASS, IFOAM

#### 1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

2. Nature of the meeting - The meeting was non-public.

#### 3. List of points discussed

##### 3.1. Opening remarks by AGRI E3 Head of Unit

The Chair thanked all members for their involvement and work during the meetings of the Group and for the quality and wealth of information exchanged.

##### 3.2. Presentation and discussion of the Group's report

During 10 months of discussion, there were 65 presentations (34 stakeholders, 11 academic, 8 Member State authorities, 12 Commission representatives from DG AGRI, DG COMP, DG SANTE and DG ENV). The topics were addressed under three major sub headings: 1) socio-economic dynamics of the sector, 2) environment and climate challenges, 3) animal health and welfare considerations.

The agendas, minutes, presentations and documents relating to each meeting of the European Pigmeat Reflection Group were made available on the Civil Dialogue Group on Animal Products page and on a dedicated webpage on Europa.

A draft report was shared with the group on 12 December 2022 and members of the group had until 3 January 2023 to send their comments. Eight answers were received: three from stakeholders/NGOs (BEUC, EEB, COPA-COGECA) and five from MS (DK, IE, BG, PL, FR).

A detailed presentation was made of all discussed topics and of the 26 recommendations of the Group. Interaction with the Group was ensured by a series of questions to participants, using a “Slido” poll to capture replies.

### **3.3. Handing over of the Group’s report to Commissioner Wojciechowski**

Commissioner Wojciechowski thanked the members of the Group for the work they have done in the last 10 months. Some of the problems and challenges that the EU pigmeat sector was facing when the work started are still relevant, notably African Swine Fever, high input costs, the closure of certain markets and a the dependence on certain export outlets. But there are also some major improvements to signal, in particular with regard to EU pigmeat prices that reached record levels very quickly after the setting up of the group in 2022. In general, pigmeat consumption and production are expected to slightly decline over the next 10 years (by 2032). Commissioner Wojciechowski reminded the measures taken by the Commission to support EU farmers affected by high energy and feed costs, including activating the agricultural crisis reserve for the first time. Commissioner noted that one worrying trend is that farmers are getting older and farms are disappearing, including pig farms. The results of the latest agriculture census published by ESTAT, comparing the situation in 2020 with 2010, showed that all farm types declined, and the total number of farms decreased by 3 million (-25%). The Commissioner accepted the invitation of the Group to share the report of the Reflection Group with the EP COMAGRI and the Council.

### **3.4. Discussion (oral and written interventions)**

Several MS and stakeholders expressed their opinion about the final report.

**COPA-COGECA** thanked the Commission for initiating and organizing the Reflection Group. COPA-COGECA highlighted the necessity to follow up the recommendations in view of the future development of the sector.

**UECBV** highlighted that trade is key and is part of circular economy.

**FoodDrinkEurope** asked for clarification of the role of animal nutrition and the need to address AMR. On environment and climate challenges, FoodDrinkEurope recommended to take in account competition between crops for feed and energy production. They also suggested to include in the report a recommendation “for the sector to become more sustainable and consider all possible leverages, including nutrition, genetics and animal health” (to point 2 in the block on socio-economic dynamics). FoodDrinkEurope believes that legislation on deforestation and imports of pigmeat from third countries should also to be considered to avoid distortions of competition.

**DK** repeated the request to address the need for an EU welfare label. A market driven EU animal welfare label could contribute to greater market transparency and a fairer compensation for livestock with higher animal welfare levels. Recommended actions must not conflict with the well-functioning market.

Lithuanian representative of **COPA** informed that a pig welfare scheme has been created in LT but it is not attractive to farmers because the support is too small and it can be received only after a year. COPA asked for adjustment of the scheme in LT.

**IFOAM** highlighted that knowledge transfer in the pig sector is still insufficient.

**EEB** is of the opinion that there is a need for reduction of livestock in order to adapt to planetary boundaries (available arable land for feed/food and land for biodiversity). **EEB** strongly disagrees with the promotion of biogas from pig slurry. ASF is seen as one more evidence that intensive production would be unsustainable. **EEB** is favourable to small scale and free range production and opposes intensive production and export orientation.

#### **4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

**M. Scannell**, deputy DG of DG AGRI, pointed out that many issues discussed by the Group are also relevant to agriculture in general. Manure management is very important in the context of high fertiliser prices and availability in connection with the war in UA. We should look at strengths provided by the sector in relation to circularity. Another important issue is the use of processed animal proteins and animal by-products. The measurement of sustainability in intensive or extensive models of pig production is an issue for further discussion.

**Mr W. Burtscher**, Director-General of DG AGRI, closed the meeting by thanking all the participants for their commitment in preparing the report and recommendations. It was a good idea to have gathered together stakeholders and representatives of MS. The reflection group was a great opportunity to listen to each other. In terms of substance of the Group's work, recommendations are fully comprehensive and cover all elements linked to sustainability. One of the key issues is the source of feed and reduction of reliance on import from third countries. The EU has 50 million hectares of grassland but also part of arable land is not fit for producing food crops. It is rationale that these resources be used for providing feed for animals. We need to look at a proper balance between animal and plant proteins. It will be part of an upcoming Strategic Plan for proteins. There are a lot of elements linked to sustainability. Social acceptability is linked to all types of farming, including pig farming.

#### **5. Next steps**

Commissioner J. Wojciechowski will articulate the relevant follow-up to the Group's report and proposed recommendations.

#### **6. Next meeting**

It was the last meeting of the Group.

#### **7. List of participants**

Attached.

(e-signed)  
Pierre BASCOU

List of participants– Minutes  
**JOINT MEETING OF THE**  
**«CDG ANIMAL PRODUCTS – PIGMEAT SECTOR» AND The EXPERT GROUP**  
**FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, in particular concerning**  
*aspects falling under the CMO Regulation - subgroup Animal Products*  
**European Piguement Reflection Group – Closing Meeting**  
**Meeting via videoconference on Wednesday 18 January 2023 from 10:00 to 13:00**

MEMBER STATE	MINISTRY OR ORGANISATION
AT	BML
BE	SPWARNE
	Vlaamse overheid
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture
DE	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft
DK	Danish Agricultural Agency
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs
ES	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
FI	Min Agri
FR	PermRep
	FranceAgriMer
	Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Souveraineté alimentaire
HR	Ministry of Agriculture
IE	DAFM Ireland
IT	MIPAAF
	Mipaaf
LU	ASTA
LU	Service d'économie rurale
LV	Ministry of Agriculture
MT	Public Abattoir, Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, Malta
	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
	Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

PT	MAA-GPP
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU
SE	Board of Agriculture
SI	MAAF
	Ministry
SK	Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic

	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)
	European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)
	European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)
	European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
	European farmers (COPA)
	European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)
	Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire (FESASS)
	FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)
	IFOAM Organics Europe