

MINUTES OF COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON BEEF AND VEAL ON 9/04/14

PRESENT: Chevalier (Chairman), Schutz, Börger, Eder, Haahr, Borin, Verset, Kicinski, Dakowski, Narro, Del Castillo, Basto, Picarra, Laxäback, Toivanen, Kinsella, Burns, Davidson, Gallagher, Adam, Sleight, Garbutt, Conisbee, Davies, Buczinsk, Daul, Fleury

SECRETARIAT: Andugar, Azevedo, Bignami, Valle, Gyorffy

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

→ The group adopted the agenda [VB\(14\)1579 \(rev.1\)](#). Two AOB points were introduced: exchange of views on the costs with the identification and registration of bovines, slaughter costs, fuel costs etc. (NL) and on national approach concerning the maximum number of movements per animal which triggers penalties for farmers (UK).

Item 2: Approval of the minutes

→ The group adopted the minutes of the previous meeting [VB\(14\)2517 \(rev.2\)](#).

Item 3.1: Exchange of views on the beefmeat market

→ In opening the roundtable discussion, the Chairman informed about the election of Mr Jean Pierre Fleury as Chairman of the FNB, France.

A majority of delegations mentioned a slight fall in prices and a reduction in production. Suckler cow herd has fallen across the EU. Demand is also fragile. Members also expressed concerns about the impact of the CAP on the sector.

The Chairman concluded that in all member states, there is a decrease in prices or a tendency for decrease and the group should raise its concerns in the Commission Advisory Group.

The Secretariat presented the medium and long-term perspectives for the beef sector which show a slight increase of production and consumption on medium term and a decrease on long term, an increase in imports and a slight decrease in exports.

The group agreed for the need of a discussion on the future of the livestock sector in Europe in order to maintain a competitive livestock system in Europe. EU should not accept its production to go down as a justification of imports. These could have severe economic and social losses in rural areas. The French delegation suggested working on an action plan touching the wide diversity of systems across the EU, the constraints, the applicable standards, renewable energies, in a concerted manner.

The Chairman concluded by the need to define a European strategy for the beef and veal sector which should also be focused on external opportunities and the promotion of European standards of production.

Item 3.2: CAP – presentation of the main provisions in relation to the beef sector in the delegated acts.

→ The Secretariat informed about the adoption of the delegated acts.

The Chairman opened a roundtable discussion on the CAP implementation. France will give coupled support for suckler cows on the basis of new historic references, there will be a premium for dairy cows. Portugal will grant between 13%-18% to suckler cow, sheep and goats, milk cows. Austria will use more the measures in the second pillar. The Secretariat asked the members to give their feedback on the table concerning the national implementation of the CAP provisions [PAC\(14\)2758 \(rev.1\)](#).

The Chairman concluded by underlining the importance of supporting European beefmeat production, including suckler cow production and that the implementation of the CAP at national level should be followed closely.

Item 3.3: Electronic identification of cattle and deletion of the voluntary beefmeat labelling – state of play or presentation of the final agreement.

→ The Secretariat presented the result of the vote of the EP Plenary on 2nd April [NPN\(12\)866 \(rev.3\)](#).

There was no discussion on this point.

Item 3.4: Implementation of regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers – labelling of origin for meat when used as an ingredient – information and exchanges of views

Item 4: Update on origin labelling for fresh sheep meat, goat meat, pig meat and poultry meat

→ The Secretariat presented this point [COM\(13\)10238 \(rev.1\)](#).

The Council and the EP had internal discussions on labelling of origin for meat used as an ingredient but the elections stopped a little bit the process.

The Chairman underlined the importance to have transparency towards consumers.

On rules concerning the origin labelling for other species, the Secretariat informed that a different labelling model was approved (“reared in” and “slaughtered in”). This could have an impact on beef labelling in the future.

Item 3.5: Bilateral trade negotiations with Canada – quota management for beefmeat.

Item 3.6: Bilateral trade negotiations with US and Mercosur – update from the COM on the state of play and contribution from advisory group members.

→ The Secretariat presented these points [BILAT\(11\)4411 \(rev.10\)](#).

Japan: no exchange of tariff offers has taken place. China: some positive developments took place as far as BSE restrictions are concerned (especially for Romania, Hungary, Baltic countries). Turkey: imports have been blocked, contradictory to the spirit of the association agreement. The Secretariat asked the members for their opinion on the Commission wish to file a case at WTO against Turkey. The group did not consider this as the right approach due to the heavy and long procedures. Russia imposed restrictions on pigmeat and dairy products, for now no restrictions on beefmeat.

On CETA, TTIP, the group expressed serious concerns due to the big differences in the production systems, use of antibiotics, hormones, being against a “first come, first served” approach.

The Secretariat underlined that the beef sector is considered a sensitive sector. These agreements bring opportunities but also challenges. For Copa-Cogeca, the first priority is to solve non-tariff barriers, no tariffs will be discussed until an agreement is reached on BSE.

The French delegation shared data of a study conducted in France on the use of antibiotics in USA.

The Chairman concluded by the need to put the focus on the European production model.

Item 5: The « Clean Air for Europe » Programme (revision of the national emissions ceilings directive 2003/35/EC) – information

Item 6: The EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies – information

→ The Secretariat gave a presentation [VB\(14\)3127 \(rev.1\)](#). The Secretariat requested the members to provide feedback on the draft position as far as the inclusion of methane in the NEC Directive is concerned.

Item 3.7: Information on the new set of tests to be performed by MS in order to verify the presence of horsemeat DNA in processed food.

→ The Secretariat presented this point [NCN\(14\)1245 \(rev.1\)](#).

Item 3.8: Animal cloning – state of play.

→ The Secretariat referred to the two proposals for Directives [COM\(13\)10306 \(rev.1\)](#) and [COM\(13\)10307 \(rev.1\)](#).

Item 3.9: Animal health law – state of play.

➔ Point not discussed.

Item 7: AOB

➔ The Secretariat asked the members to provide written comments on the requests made by the Dutch and the UK delegation.

The Chairman thanked the participants for attending, the interpreters for their work and closed the meeting.
