MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP ON PIGMEAT ON 7 May 2014

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Schwarz (points 1 & 4) and Mr. Brand (points 3,5,6,7,9,10,11,12) and the EU Commission services (point 2).

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2013

The agenda for the meeting was approved with the inclusion of two additional items: "the future of DG AGRI advisory groups (AOB)" and "Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) and prevention measures". Point 8 was removed. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved after an amendment of the point 3 upon the request of the delegate of the association for the environment protection.

2. Elections Advisory Group

The Commission representative informed on the rules of elections. The two years mandate for President and Vice-President of the Advisory group on Pig meat came to an end and therefore the three positions must be decided during the Advisory Group. According to article 5 § 3 of Commission Decision 2004/391/EC of 23 April 2004 on the advisory groups dealing with matters covered by the common agricultural policy, the President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Nonetheless, the mandate of the new Chairmanship will end on 30th June 2014 due to the new rules of the Civil Dialogue Groups entering in force on 1st of July 2014.

Mr. Brand, European Livestock and Meat Trade Union, was elected as Chairman of the advisory. Mr. Tamas Eder, representing the processing meat industry, and Mr. Schlederer's, representing producers were elected as Vice-Chairmen.

3. Internal Market - Latest information on the market situation for pig meat forecast and feed market update

a) Latest information on the market situation for pig meat forecast

A representative from the Commission's services (Unit C3 of DG AGRI) presented the pig meat market situation, following the slides sent out to the members of the AG prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA. The key points presented were as follows:

Pig meat consumption in kg per capita is expected to decrease by 0.6% in 2014, after falling by 0.3% in 2013. The total number of animals slaughtered is forecasted to decrease by 1.0% in 2014 compared to 2013. Pig meat production has been decreasing since 2012 due to structural adjustments made by producers to comply with Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs.

Weekly EU prices for pig carcasses are currently recovering following the traditional drop in consumption during the autumn/winter and the first impacts of the Russian ban on importing pig products from the EU. The pork prices are still lower than the 2013 prices, at the same period, but higher than the price average of the last five years. Prices are expected to continue following this upward trend until the end of the summer (high season) and to remain above the 2009-2013 average. The recent recovery in pig prices reflects a slight decrease in production, a seasonal increase in consumption (compared to the same period last year) and a positive situation for EU exports to countries other than Russia (for example Korea and Japan).

In 2014, total EU exports in carcass weight are set to decrease. The true extent of this expected drop will depend on the duration of Russian restrictions on EU pig products. It will also depend on the EU's ability to seek alternative markets for the products affected by the ban.

In 2013, the largest markets for EU exports in terms of product weight were Russia with 747,233 tonnes (24%), China with 665,495 tonnes (21.5%), Hong Kong with 387,126 tonnes (12.5%) and Japan with 231,601 tonnes (7.5%). Live animal exports fell by 35.9% in 2013 and this trend is likely to continue in 2014 (14.7%).

He concluded is presentation by calling for contributions from the experts of the forecast group, underlining the importance to have data from all the member States in order to have reliable statistics.

A representative from the Commission's services (DG AGRI) presented the market situation for cereals, oilseeds and protein crops. Detailed information on the presentation was available on CIRCA. A representative of the Commission services (DG AGRI) presented the prospects for Agricultural Markets and Income in the EU 2013-2023.

Exchange of views on market situation

The representative of meat processing industry thanked the Commission for introducing slides concerning the market situation of processed pig meat products. This representative asked the Commission whether the prospects for Agricultural Markets and Income in the EU 2013-2023 shouldn't assume frequent scenarios of political problems, diseases and other issues as free trade agreements. We also asked the reason why per capita consumption of pork is expected to decrease a little but the total consumption in the EU is expected to grow a little bit. He continued his presentation by noting that the Commission painted a very rosy scenario of the sector but he advert that the sector should be prepared to face more fluctuations in the market.

The producers representative underlined the disappointment of the pig breeders and fatteners. They were expecting a reasonable price level in 2014 and a recovery from the loss of the previous years. Unfortunately, the Russian issue hindered their expectations. At the same time, EU is still negotiating FTAs with Canada, Mercosur and USA that will bring more pork on the market.

The Commission representative clarified that this exercise is about projection and not estimations, therefore there is a high degree of uncertainty. The data has been obtained from OECD and FAO outlook. The author can't use any information that hasn't materialise yet, therefore the current negotiations of trade agreements were not taken in account as negotiations haven't been concluded and the provisions are not yet known. The representative of meat processing industry noted that the prices of pigmeat in 2013 were good, but that means that the price of raw materials for the processing sector was high and therefore this segment suffered a lot.

4. African Swine Fever (ASF) – State of Play and exchange of views on the impact of the ASF on the EU pork market and on the EU pork export. Three topics: animal health situation, market situation, trade

The Commission presented the animal health, trade and market implications from the detection of African Swine Fever cases in wild boars in Poland and Lithuania. In total since the end of January, only 4 cases have been identified in regions close to the Belarus borders, and no domestic pigs have been contaminated at this point. Taking into account the location where the carcasses of the wild boars were found (border area), the most plausible explanation of the occurrence of ASF in wild boars in Poland and Lithuania is the trans-border movement of wild boars.

The EU Management Committee approved an emergency aid package to help and compensate farmers in Poland and Lithuania affected for the effects of the Russian ban on European pork imports. This is the first time that the crisis management tool under the CAP has been used.

An EU Decision providing financial support for 2014 to combat the disease was also endorsed. The new rules, that consolidate all existing national emergency preventive measures into one legal act, differentiate the zones by level of risk: a) higher risk because of endemic disease in pigs and wild boar in Sardinia (Italy), b) a re-demarcation of the infected area in Lithuania and Poland along borders with Belarus where the disease is present only in wild boar and c) a buffer zone adjacent the infected area in Poland and Lithuania to further prevent the spread of the disease. The restrictions applied depend on the level of risk: a) very stringent restrictions in Sardinia, b)

general restrictions in live pigs, semen and pig meat in the infected area in Poland and Lithuania with sustainable and safe derogations if risk mitigation measures (testing, bio-security) are applied and c) light restrictions applicable only to live animals accompanied by surveillance in the buffer zone. The financing provided to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland is for surveillance, bio-security, targeted awareness campaigns, and compensation to farmers for early slaughtering and emptying low bio-security backyard farms at risk. These control measures will apply until at least 31 December 2017.

Russia and the EU have so far failed to reach an agreement on a new certificate. On 8th April 2014 the EU has launched a case in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against the Russian Federation on imports of pigs, fresh pork and certain pig products from the EU. In requesting consultations, the EU would formally initiate a WTO dispute. Consultations give the EU and Russia the opportunity to discuss the matter and to find a satisfactory solution without resorting to litigation. If consultations do not reach a satisfactory solution within 60 days (deadline 8th June), the EU may request the WTO to set up a panel to rule on the legality of Russia's measures.

There are some reports of sharp rise in prices in Russia and some product shortages. Meanwhile, the Commission has contacted other trade partners that have imposed some trade restriction, such as Ukraine, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Singapore.

Exchange of views

Several representatives from the sector expressed their concerns on the implications of the Russian ban to EU pig meat. In particular, Poland and Lithuania producers representatives expressed their gratitude to the Commission for launching exceptional market support measures in the areas affected by sanitary restrictions but presented the request for further actions. According to these representatives the compensation provided is not adequate to the losses of producers. In fact only producers inside the contaminated area are receiving compensation. Another representative informed the market price is losing a 10-15 per cent.

Furthermore these representatives recalled that the arrival of ASF to EU territory was anticipated two years ago and expressed their disappointment for the lack of preventive measures taken, with the exception to surveillance and detection. They expressed their wish that better preventives measures would be taken in the future. For example they encouraged the Commission to establish a coordinated EU approach to the hunting of wild boars. They also proposed the co-financing of the extraction of all domestic pigs in low biosecurity farms inside of the infected area.

The representative of producers asked the Commission to find a quick solution to the trade restriction imposed by several countries but in particular by Russia. He also noted that is very important that alternatives markets are found and in particular he underlined the importance of the promotion measures.

The representative of meat processing industry asked the Commission to be attentive as the current positive market situation in the fresh meat segment can mislead on the real situation. The current prices are being affected by another disease (PEDv) that has conditioned North American exports. This representative informed that there is a collapse of the lard market, as big quantities of this product were sent to Russia and now have to stay in the EU. The industry is stocking big quantities of pig products but alerted that stocks will be full in a couple of months. The representative wished that EU will manage to stop the propagation of the disease in the border. He concluded his intervention by encouraging the Commission to search for new markets and opportunities and speed up the promotion programmes.

The representative of European Livestock and Meat Trade noted that Russia doesn't accept the regionalisation proposed by the Commission and believes that the WTO case will take 2 or 3 years to be finalised. Consequently when the WTO case would be concluded the current

market share in Russia would have been hugely reduced, even if the EU would win the case. According to this representative the EU could accept bilateral certificates in order to allow Member States that are not affected by the disease to resume exports to Russia. He continued his intervention by asking if the Commission is planning to open WTO cases against the other trade partners that have imposed trade restriction on pig meat.

The Commission representative noted that the market is showing some signals of recovery and he will monitor the situation before considering any further market measure. According to his data there is some room for further stocking. The Commission representative listed a series of actions taken so far, including the adoption of regulation on private personal through ports and airports, adoption of contingency plans, audits veterinarian advise provided by FVO. Concerning the population of wild boar he noted that according to the opinion of EFSA the hunting pressure on wild boar population should remain the same in order to avoid movements of infected animals. The Commission informed that has offered support to Russia and Belorussia on how to control and eradicate the disease, but hasn't received any positive feedback. The representative clarified that is working to find a negotiated agreement with Russia and that the Commission is open to stop the WTO case if a solution is found meanwhile.

PEDv Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) and prevention measures

The Commission informed on the main conclusions of the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) meeting that took place the day before and the preventive measures being put in place at EU level. The key points presented were as follows:

The Commission confirmed that no live pigs would be sent to the EU from the US and Canada in the following 30 days, therefore the Commission decided not to take any immediate measure. This measure would be re-evaluated in the next SCoFCAH meeting. Spray dried blood and blood plasma of porcine origin intended for the production of feed for farmed porcine animals and entering the EU territory have to be treated up to 80 ° C and storage 6 weeks at room temperature, in order to inactivate the virus. The OIE general session meeting would take place the week after.

The Commission has requested the US to disclose all information surrounding its outbreak of the virus (including characteristics of the strain & sanitary measures taken to combat it).The representative also informed on the last developments of the PEDv outbreaks in the US and Canada. The US Department of Agriculture announced that Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) is now reportable. The number of positive cases of PEDv had reached 5,790 by April, with 29 states affected. Although the numbers of new cases reported has slowed slightly from the peak of over 300 per week, they remain substantial. The market impact in the US of the diseases continues to be severe. Pig prices in the US have stabilized but are still rather high (50% higher than they were at the start of the year). The slaughtering have been down by 5% on year earlier levels, although record weights are offsetting this to some extent. However, most forecasts suggest that the shortfall in throughputs will increase further as the year progresses.

In addition to the US, cases of the new strain of PEDv have been reported from Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, the Dominican Republic, China, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. In response, China & Brazil have both introduced temporary bans on live pig imports from the US.

Exchange of views

A representative from the producers presented the main conclusions of a veterinarian visit to the US "PEDv - lessons to learn for all of us", following the slides sent out to the members of the AG prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA. The key points presented were as follows:

EU producers have been following the recent outbreaks of the new strain of this virulent disease, i.e. Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea, in the US and Canada very closely, and are alarmed by the potential risk of it spreading to the EU pig population and the devastating consequences this virus could have on EU pig production.

An acute outbreak in a naïve herd usually results in a mortality rate of 80-100% of the suckling pigs. If we take into account the recent tests on the presence of PEDv antibodies

carried out in the UK, the initial prevalence of antibodies to PEDv was very low (12%), suggesting that current UK herds would suffer high mortality if infected with this virus. Additionally, learning from the experience in China, those herds that have been in contact with past versions of this virus would be unlikely to have immunity against this new virus type.

- Europe needs to keep virulent strains of PED out
- Urgent need to review risk assessments on potential for entry
 - US has had 4 separate new viruses linked to Asia
 - Unless know route of entry EU vulnerable
- Europe needs to step up preparedness
 - Diagnostics; contingency plans for containment;
 - Reportable?
- Learn from US and Asia on effective on-farm controls
 - Controlled exposure of sow herd to provide colostral immunity
- A representative of producers enquire on potential compensation measures.

The Commission clarified that currently PEDv is not included in the list of diseases eligible for compensation, as it hasn't arrive to EU territory. Furthermore, the cooperation with International Organisations is crucial. The OIE has an important role to play in assuring transparency and monitoring epidemiological developments.

The representatives of producers urged the Commission to take precautions and preventive measures as soon as possible due to the potential risk of it spreading to the EU pig population and the devastating consequences this virus could have on EU pig production. In this context, it is essential to increase awareness of appropriate biosecurity measures at all levels, from competent authorities to operators

Furthermore, producers with the support of the other stakeholders present at the meeting, proposed that a joint industry/Commission expert group be set up to share knowledge and provide inputs on relevant measures, as well as to prepare a contingency plan, aiming to prevent, control and in the worst case eradicate this disease. We believe that open and ongoing dialogue is essential at this stage. The expert group should identify any diagnostic tools available on the market and any on-farm tests for the presence of PEDv antibodies, including education and raising the awareness of operators and veterinarians on how to reduce the risk of infection. The group could also promote updated biosecurity measures, examine and assess any risk associated with feed, identify knowledge gaps and any research activities. We believe that EFSA could provide valuable assistance in this respect.

Lastly, producers believe that farmers cannot be left alone to shoulder the responsibility and costs of measures to control such a virus and its consequences. The Commission must commit to providing the necessary funding to both operators and local authorities in order to implement an effective prevention and control policy.

The Chairman concluded by noting that the sector is very worried about the situation and urged the Commission to follow this very close and take all the preventive measures as possible.

5. Promotion of pig meat – Roundtable within stakeholders to present their priorities in terms of promotion

A representative from the Commission's services presented the recent developments concerning new scheme of promotion that will apply from 2016 onward. Meanwhile, a strategy will be laid down, based on criteria that will be in line with those mentioned during the meeting.

Exchange of views

The representative of producers informed that supports efforts to make the promotion policy more market and consumer oriented. They have identified the following challenges and strategies:

The EU pig meat and processed pig meat products shall be given an appropriated financing for communication and promotion both on the internal market but more important on countries outside the EU. In the opinion of the producers, the promotion of pig meat products shouldn't be restricted to PGI's. The sector sees as essential that co-financing is made available for

generic promotion of EU pig meat on countries outside the EU (in high growth and/or strong purchasing power markets) in order to match the current world demand for fresh and frozen meat. Furthermore, information on country of origin can't be used outside the EU but in certain cases it would be beneficial, for illustrative reasons, to be able to use brands (obviously under strict conditions). Our main challenge is to have a set of promotion tools available as some of our main competitors.

<u>Increasing market access</u>: In contrast to the stabilization of the consumption in the EU internal market, the pigmeat sector sees increasing opportunities in high growth markets (especially China) and in strong purchasing power markets that are net importers of certain agricultural goods (e.g. Japan).

<u>High Standards</u>: Promotion should highlight the high investments and the (hard) work done by sector to achieve high level of standards in terms of food safety, environment, animal health and welfare.

<u>Development of cooperation processes</u> aimed to bring together all stakeholders (starting from pig-farming coming up to the marketing of processed products) on a communication and marketing strategy, is considered important.

In addition producers see high potential on a multi-Member State pork promotion campaign that would help consumers to understand the animal welfare benefits of stall-free pork production. Therefore the administrative framework for multi-country programmes should be made less bureaucratic and more flexible.

6. Labelling of Origin

Presentation of the report of meat used as an ingredient Roundtable: Discussion with the Advisory Group

A representative of the Commission informed that the Commission proposal for *mandatory indication of country of origin or place of provenance for unprocessed meat of pigs, poultry, sheep and goats* was approved last December 2013.

Labelling of Meat used as an ingredient

The adopted Regulation n° 1169/2011 on food information to consumers foresees that the European Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council which will evaluate the possibility to extend mandatory origin indication of the "country of origin" or "place of provenance" for meat used as an ingredient (see article 26.6 of the Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011). The Commission representative informed that the report has been approved and in order to increase transparency the Commission will publish the report prepared by an external consultant. This analysis includes all meats such as rabbit, horse meat and game and other major meats. The rules of origin for meat used as primary ingredient can't be more detailed than those for unprocessed meat. The Commission representative informed that the final report will be sent to the European Parliament and Council in order to initiate an informed discussion.

The objectives of the report were the following:

- To assess consumers' attitude towards mandatory origin labelling for meat used as an ingredient;
- To examine the feasibility of such labelling; and,
- To analyse the costs and benefits of the introduction of such measures, including the legal impact on the internal market and the impact on international trade.

For the purposes of the report, the following scenarios were highlighted:

- Scenario 1 Maintain origin labelling on voluntary basis;
- Scenario 2 Introduce mandatory origin labelling based on (a) EU/non EU or (b) EU/third country;
- Scenario 3 Introduce mandatory origin labelling indicating the Member State or third country.

For the determination of origin under scenarios 2 and 3, different modalities have been studied for the three main categories of the products concerned in an increasing order of processing:

- Category I: Meat preparations and products made from mechanically separated meat:
- Category II: Meat products:
- Category III: Multi-ingredient foods with meat ingredient(s):

Exchange of views

The representative of meat processing industry noted that the introduction of mandatory origin labelling indicating the Member State or third country will be disadvantage for small enterprises. In addition it's against the spirit of the internal market and doesn't provide any advantage in the world market. According to this representative the introduction of such requirements would represent an economic problem giving the example of the labels which are printed every two years, and now will be printed with short period notice.

The representative of European Livestock and Meat Trade informed that is not in favour of the introduction of mandatory origin labelling indicating the Member State or third country.

The representative of producers informed that no formal position has been adopted. Half of the representative of producers were in favour and half against the introduction of Introduce mandatory origin labelling indicating the Member State or third country.

The Commission noted the position of each representative and informed that has to consulted all stakeholders. The Commission representative acknowledge that this a controversial issue and reminded that it's up to the Council and the parliament to take the next decisions.

7. Information and discussion on the implementation of the directive 2008/120/EC on protection of pigs

A representative from the Commission's services (DG SANCO) presented the state of play concerning the implementation of the directive 2008/120/EC on protection of pigs. The key points presented were as follows:

The Commission has set up a small drafting group with 4 member States: Denmark, France Netherlands and Germany. The objective of this group is to draft guidelines to help producers to implement the directive. Last Tuesday 11th March, the Commission has presented the first draft of the guidelines for the provision of manipulable material to pigs and tail docking. The Commission has received many comments from stakeholders and Member States and is now preparing a second draft to be published in June. The next meeting will take place on 1st July 2014 and the Commission will present the last draft that should include one section on the indicators based on EFSA opinion expected to be published in May 2014 - "Multifactorial approach on the use of animal and non-animal-based measures to assess the welfare of pigs". The representative of the Commission called for photos which the Commission could be permitted to use in order to better illustrate the guidelines.

Exchange of views

The producers representative noted that Copa-Cogeca believes in market-oriented European animal welfare and encourages the development of guidelines, aiming to help and train producers to implement the provisions of the Council Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs, on a voluntary basis. A good level of welfare for pigs is of the utmost importance to European producers. The non-compliance creates a situation of unfair competition. In the last year, EU livestock producers have made huge efforts and invested heavily to comply with Council Directive 2008/120/EC which lays down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. EU pig producers need to be able to recover the additional costs from the marketplace to ensure the sustainable production of pigmeat in the EU. We strongly believe that individual Member States should be working with their farmers to develop workable and more effective solutions that would fit the specific production and climatic conditions of each European region. He concluded his intervention informing that a detailed report based on technical analysis summarizing the position of EU pig producers on the content of the guidelines, has been concluded and sent to DG SANCO. This document provides several pictures that can be used by the Commission.

8. State of play of the implementation of the action plan on animal welfare 2012-2015: activities carried out so far.

The point has been removed from the agenda.

9. State of play of the ongoing EU debate on the Commission's proposals on Animal Health

The Commission provided a written contribution. The Parliament adopted a position on the Animal Health proposal in its first reading in the plenary session on 14th and 15th April. We understand that it will be available on the Parliament website in due course. The Council is still working on its position and the Greek Presidency is hopeful of finalising a position by the end of its term at the end of June.

Following Parliamentary elections, we expect that we may be able to commence trilogues in the autumn. You can find the EU proposal at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animal-health-proposal-2013_en.htm http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0260:FIN:EN:PDF) and the European Parliament 1st reading agreement (document 7) at the following link: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bTA%2b20140415%2bTOC%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN

10.Presentation of the final report "Analysis of the costs and benefits of setting a target for the reduction of Salmonella in pigs at slaughterhouse level".

The Commission representative presented the final report "Analysis of the costs and benefits of setting a target for the reduction of Salmonella in pigs at slaughterhouse level".

11. Information on Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the cloning of animals of the bovine, pig, poultry, goat and equine species kept and reproduced for farming purposes and on Proposal for a Council Directive on the placing on the market of food from animal clones.

The Commission representative informed on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the cloning of animals of the bovine, pig, poultry, goat and equine species kept and reproduced for farming purposes and on Proposal for a Council Directive on the placing on the market of food from animal clones and the rationale behind two proposals instead of one. The two proposals were submitted to the EP and the Council in December 2014. The Council held one working group that had more essential discussions. The EP designated neither the relevant committee nor the rapporteur because of the elections.

A producers delegate supported the approach of the EU Commission that focussed on the cloned animal instead of the descendants of the cloned animal. Any other approach will lead to a trade war.

12. AOB

12.1 Reform of the advisory groups

The producers representative informed that DG AGRI is undertaking a revision of the DG AGRI advisory groups and recalled the letter sent by the Advisory Group to Mr. Plewa. He noted that the advisory groups on meat will be assembled in one large Civil Dialogue Group. The representative of the producers asked for more details concerning the reform of the DG AGRI adviser groups. He also stated that the advisory groups are a fundamental forum of discussion with the Commission and the relevant stakeholders. The sector has profited from this collaboration and would like to keep a specialised group per products and species.

The Commission representative informed on the timetable and referred additional comments to the meeting between Commission and representatives of European organisations that would take place in June 2014

12.2 TTIP (FTA negotiation with the USA).

Several delegations asked for an exchange of views on the state of play with regard to the TTIP. The EU Commission services replied the issue was on the agenda of the last advisory group on the international aspects of the CAP and comprehensively discussed. If the advisory group on pig meat has specific questions, they will be passed to the competent services for a reply.

End of the meeting 17:00

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