

International Bovine Meat Agreement

TERMINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOVINE MEAT AGREEMENT

Decision pursuant to Article VI:3

The International Meat Council (the "Council") representing the Parties to the International Bovine Meat Agreement (the "Agreement"),

Having reviewed the functioning of the Agreement in accordance with Article IV:1(b) thereof and as a follow-up to the report of the Council submitted to, and endorsed by, Ministers at the Singapore Ministerial Conference,

Recalling that the Agreement had entered into force on 1 January 1995 for a three-year period ending on 31 December 1997,

Noting that, according to Article VI:3 of the Agreement, its duration shall be extended for a second three-year period, unless the Council, at least eighty days prior to 31 December 1997, decides otherwise,

Recalling that Parties had expressed doubts with respect to the continued usefulness of this Agreement in the post-Uruguay Round trading environment,

Noting that, following the establishment of the WTO, trade policy-related matters affecting meat and meat products as well as other agricultural products were regularly addressed in the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures,

Considering that the work of these Committees had clear priority over the work of the Council,

Noting that, as regards market information, Parties may, and increasingly did, rely on other sources of information, including information prepared by other national and intergovernmental bodies regularly evaluating meat market developments,

Considering the resource constraints faced by governments as well as the Secretariat,

Hereby decides:

- (a) to terminate the International Bovine Meat Agreement at the end of 1997; and
- (b) to request, in accordance with Article X:9 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement"), that the WTO Ministerial Conference delete the Agreement from Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement upon termination of the Agreement.