Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL
FIRST MEETING
REPORT
Chairman: Mr. M.N. Gifford

1. The International Meat Council, established in conformity with Article V, paragraph 1, of the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat, held its first meeting on 7 February 1980.

2. The Council adopted the agenda as set out in GATT/AIR/1603 with the addition of an item concerning "Adoption of rules of procedure" and one concerning "Co-operation with other organizations".

3. The Council elected unanimously Mr. M.N. Gifford (Canada) as Chairman and Mr. J.C. Raimondi (Argentina) as Vice-Chairman.

4. Taking into account the decision arrived at by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session on 28 November 1979, the Council examined procedures to enable non-signatory countries as well as international organizations to follow the proceedings of the Council in an observer capacity. To this end, the Council adopted rules 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the rules of procedure, as annexed. The Chairman expressed the opinion that rule 13 concerning restricted sessions was fully applicable to rule 9 concerning subsidiary organs.

5. In accordance with rule 10 it was decided to invite interested non-signatory contracting parties to follow the continuation of the Council's deliberations in an observer capacity.

6. In accordance with rule 11, it was decided to invite the non-signatory non-contracting parties, Mexico and Panama, which had requested observer status in the Council, to follow the continuation of the Council's deliberations in an observer capacity.
7. In the presence of the government observers, the Council proceeded to adopt those rules of procedure, which had not yet been adopted, as annexed.

8. In connexion with the adoption of rule 9, one participant noted that nothing in the Arrangement prohibited subsidiary organs and therefore he suggested that the rule was unnecessary. However, this participant abstained from refusing the adoption of rule 9.

9. One draft rule concerning revision was deleted on the understanding that the Council retained the right to amend the rules of procedure at any moment.

10. The Council examined the draft questionnaire as presented in accordance with rule 15 (Parts A-F of the questionnaire) and rule 16 (Parts G and H of the questionnaire) of the rules of procedure. The questionnaire was adopted on the understanding that it may be revised in the light of experience gained.

11. The Council was informed of a request for observer status from the OECD and of a request for consultative status from IFAP. The Council authorized the Chairman to respond to these requests, inviting a representative from the OECD to attend the next meeting of the Council, should an item concerning the market situation and outlook of beef be on the agenda, and inviting IFAP to co-operate with the Council as concerns information. Moreover, the Council authorized the Chairman to invite the FAO, ECE and UNCTAD to the Council's next meeting on the same conditions as those for the OECD.

12. The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Thursday, 12 June and Friday, 13 June 1980. In this connexion, it was noted that the information requested according to rule 15 of the rules of procedure should be with the secretariat by 2 May at the latest.

---

1 Copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from the secretariat (internal numbers 2151 and 2019).
ARRANGEMENT REGARDING BOVINE MEAT

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 1

Each participant to the Arrangement shall indicate to the secretariat the name of one (or more) representative(s) at Geneva to whom communications are to be addressed. Any participant may make other arrangements for this purpose.

Rule 2

The International Meat Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The election shall take place at the first regular meeting of the year and shall take immediate effect. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected for a one-year term which may be renewed once.

Rule 3

The Council shall normally meet in June and December of each year. The dates of these meetings are fixed by the Chairman in consultation with participants. Notice of each meeting, together with the draft agenda established by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman shall be sent to the participants at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Rule 4

The Chairman may call a special meeting of the Council either at his own initiative, or at the request of a participant to this Arrangement at shorter notice than three weeks.

Rule 5

Unless the Council decides otherwise, all its meetings shall be private and its records treated accordingly.

Rule 6

At any time, the Council may decide to amend the agenda or to give priority to certain matters.
Rule 7

The text of Council decisions must be adopted in the course of the meeting at which the said decisions are made.

Rule 8

After each meeting of the Council, a draft report shall be sent to the participants. Any participant wishing to make corrections to the draft shall present them to the secretariat within thirty working days following the date of distribution of the draft. If within that period the secretariat receives no corrections, the report shall be deemed to be approved. The secretariat shall communicate to the participants any corrections received by it within that period. If no further remarks are made by any participant within fifteen working days following the date of circulation of such corrections, the revised report shall be deemed to be approved. Any new amendment proposal shall be subject to the same procedure.

Rule 9

The Council may establish any subsidiary organs that may be necessary, in particular for the purposes indicated in Article IV, paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Arrangement.

Rule 10

Representatives of contracting parties which are not signatories may follow the proceedings of the Council in an observer capacity.

Rule 11

Representatives of non-signatory countries not contracting parties, which participated in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and which are interested in following the proceedings of the Council in an observer capacity, should communicate a request to the Director-General of the GATT indicating their desire to do so. The Council shall decide on each request.

Rule 12

Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by signatories.

Rule 13

The Council may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.
Rule 14

The Council may invite, as appropriate, international organizations to follow particular issues of the Council in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international organizations to follow particular issues within the Council in an observer capacity shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Council.

Rule 15

The participants agree that the information to be provided under Article III of the Arrangement will be communicated on the basis of a questionnaire. This questionnaire has been adopted on a trial basis and may be revised in the light of data provided. Information not provided within the context of the questionnaire can be exchanged between participants.

The participants shall furnish the information requested in parts A-D of the questionnaire twice a year, at least six weeks before each June and December meeting. The information contained in parts E and F will be furnished on an annual basis, preferably for the June meeting.

(a) The information furnished for the June meeting shall include final data for the twelve-month period ended 31 December of the previous year as well as estimates for the current year and forecasts for the following year.

(b) The information furnished for the December meeting shall include as far as possible data for the current year, including December, either final data or revised estimates, as well as revised forecasts for the coming twelve-month period.

Rule 16

The participants undertake to provide within four months of the entry into force of the Arrangement or of the participants' acceptance thereof, information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments in the bovine sector (parts G and H of the questionnaire). Participants shall notify as early as possible, and in any case in June each year, any changes in such policies and measures that are likely to affect international trade in live bovine animals and meat.

Rule 17

The secretariat shall in accordance with Article IV:1 of the Arrangement establish half yearly analytical reports on the situation in the world bovine meat market, which shall be circulated to the participants not later than 1 June and 1 December of each year.
Rule 18

The secretariat shall in accordance with Article III of the Arrangement draw up, and keep up to date, an inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat and live animals, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations. This inventory shall be distributed to participants at the beginning of each three-year period, before the Council's June meeting, and meanwhile shall be revised progressively on notification.