Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

For discussion under agenda item No. 6 of the draft agenda, the following question has been submitted by SWEDEN.

Question

It is a well-known fact that transnational enterprises (TNEs) play an important rôle in world trade of some agricultural commodities. According to recent studies as much as 80-90 per cent of world grain trade is handled by five large TNEs.

There seems, however, to be less information available on the importance of TNEs in international meat trade, although reports in news media indicate that such enterprises are highly involved in production and exports of meat in some countries.

In order to better understand the functioning of international meat trade and markets Sweden would appreciate having some information from members of the Council on the rôle of TNEs in their production of and trade with bovine meat and if possible other meats as well as poultry. It would be interesting to hear from the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, European Economic Community, Japan, New Zealand, Uruguay and the United States.