ARGENTINA

7. Argentina does not have any direct price regulation or support programmes of the domestic cattle industry, or income support programmes for cattle producers. The beef market (and exports) have nevertheless been more or less affected through the years by the Government's general economic policies. The latest economic programme with an impact on the bovine meat sector was implemented by the Government in June 1985. In order to underpin this stabilization programme against inflation, the Argentinian authorities fixed maximum selling prices for slaughter cattle in the domestic market. This measure was suspended in February 1986.

AUSTRALIA

8. There are no support or intervention mechanisms concerning bovine meat. The bovine meat industry operates essentially in a free market situation where levels of production, consumption, exports and prices are determined by the interaction of cattle supplies with demand by processors catering for the domestic market, by exporters and at times, by producers for re-stocking. Australian producers can alleviate income instability to some extent by taking advantage of income averaging provisions for taxation purposes which are available to all primary producers. In addition, under the Income Equalisation Deposits Scheme producers are encouraged to set aside funds during high income years for use during low income years. Under the Scheme, tax is not paid on these deposits in the year they are lodged but an income tax liability arises when the deposits are repaid to the producer.
AUSTRIA


10. The Austrian Meat and Livestock Commission was set up to achieve the objectives laid down in the "Cattle Act". It is entrusted, inter alia, with the monitoring of the market situation and foreign trade. The Meat and Livestock Commission may conclude contractual arrangements with authorized dealers providing for purchase storing or processing of beef. Such arrangements must be agreed to by the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and by the Federal Minister of Finance. Supplementary payments for storage costs are made in the framework of intervention measures. The Meat and Livestock Commission decides on sales of "intervention meat" according to prevailing demand on markets.

11. Due to regionally different structures in cattle-raising areas, transfer payments are made as an equalization measure.