The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be partly revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents will constitute the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Agreement (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure).

1For replies to the statistical parts, see IMC/STAT/8.
PART G

Part G.1 Information on Domestic Policies and Trade Measures

Cattle farming in Tunisia plays an important rôle in the agricultural sector.

In the last ten years, there has been a steady rise in numbers estimated at an average 4.5 per cent per year.

The cattle herd in 1980 is estimated at 950,000 head, including 510,000 cows and heifers.

Beef production rose from 16,540 tons in 1970 to 45,000 tons in 1980, or 41 per cent of the meat of all species slaughtered.

There are development plans in the agricultural sector, as regards stock farming, aimed at overcoming the deficit, estimated at 7,000 tons, or 6 per cent, in the country's beef production.

I. PRODUCTION

(a) Factors affecting meat production

(1) Insufficient production of fodder, due to difficult climatic conditions, hence high production costs.

(2) Inadequate genetic potential of animals, hence low meat productivity per animal.

(3) Inadequate integration of stock farming in the agricultural sector.

(4) Poor marketing network.

(b) Policies of the Government or other bodies likely to influence production

Various measures to encourage production have been adopted, including:

(1) Establishment of a feed lot project for fattening a large number of cattle.
(2) Legislative measures regulating the slaughter of cattle and prohibiting the slaughter of animals which have not reached the weight indicated in the regulations and of animals in calf.

(3) Reliance on imports of beef to make up the deficit and satisfy demand.

(4) Structuring of small family farms and orienting them towards the fattening of cattle for slaughter.

(5) Subsidizing of concentrated feed.

(6) Subsidizing of concentrated feed for fattening, and increasing the number of production plants.

(7) Medium-term loans at low interest rates and subsidies for the acquisition of cattle, and the construction of stables and for their equipment.

(8) Dissemination of information on modern fattening methods.

(9) Technical training of stock farmers and animal health services funded by the State.

(c) Support or stabilization measures

(1) The level of domestic production prices and remuneration for production are kept stable through the intervention of State bodies in the wholesale markets.

Intervention of the General Compensation Fund (Caisse Générale de Compensation) through price regulation.

(2) Production prices are reviewed annually in the light of fluctuations in production costs.

(3) Different subsidies at variable level for the acquisition of animals and inputs.

(4) Variable prices depending on the season with incentive supplements depending on how fat the animals are and their level of selection.

II. INTERNAL PRICES AND CONSUMPTION

(a) The average production price per kg. of beef is: D1.150, or US$2.75.

Consumer prices are US$2.15 to US$3.10 depending on the category of the cut.
(b) Steady improvement of consumer purchasing power and intervention of the State in consumer meat prices.

Increased sheep-meat prices due to decontrol have oriented consumers to beef, the price of which is still controlled.

(c) All Government measures are aimed at satisfying demand.

III. MEASURES AT THE FRONTIER

(a) Customs tariff:

01.02 - Live animals of the bovine species:

A. Milch cows ........................................ 10 per cent
B. Other ............................................. 30 per cent

01.04 - Live sheep and goats:

A. Domestic sheep ................................. 30 per cent
B. Domestic goats ................................. 50 per cent
C. Other ............................................. 30 per cent

02.01 - Meat and edible offals of the animals falling within headings No. 01.01 to 01.04 inclusive, fresh, chilled or frozen.

Each year, legislative texts are adopted exempting these products from all customs duties and levies.

(b) There are no exports of beef at present.

(c) The specific sanitary regulations applied at the frontier are in conformity with the provisions of the sanitary regulations of the IOE.

These measures are applied and sanitary control is exercised at the frontier by the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DSV) of the Ministry of Agriculture.
Part H. Information on Bilateral or Plurilaterial Agreements in the Field of Bovine Animals, Meat and Offals

Tunisia does not have any bilateral or plurilateral commitments in the beef sector.