Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Inventory of Domestic Policies and Trade Measures and Information on Bilateral, Plurilateral or Multilateral Commitments

Replies to Parts G and H of the Questionnaire

ROMANIA

Revision

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 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).
PART G

Part G.1. Information on domestic policies and trade measures

Animal husbandry constitutes an important sector of the Romanian economy. The development of stock-farming, which has a long tradition in Romania, and of the meat and meat preparations sector is regulated by the provisions of the National Programme for Zoo-Technical Development and Increased Animal production. It is considered that stock-farming should represent approximately 45 per cent of total agricultural production.

Romania has approximately 4,470,000 hectares of pasture and grass-lands, which constitute the main source of the rough fodder needed to feed bovine animals.

At 1 February 1982, the total number of adult bovine cattle and calves was 6,302,900 head, including 3,090,000 cows, cow-buffaloes and heifers.

At the end of 1981, the production of bovine meat amounted to 222,500 tons (dressed carcass weight equivalent).

The export of live animals, meat and meat preparations accounts for approximately 20 per cent of Romanian exports of agro-products. At the end of 1981, exports of bovine meat amounted to 34,400 tons (dressed carcass weight equivalent).

To attain the objectives established for meat production and consumption, the agricultural production co-operatives and private producers are supported by the State, in accordance with the provisions of law relating to stock-farming and the improvement of breeds. For that purpose, the State allocates funds for the construction of new livestock facilities, grants loans under favourable conditions for the purchase of animals, organizes units specialized in matters of reproduction, imports pure-bred animals for breeding, establishes incentive prices and premiums aimed at increasing livestock production, and looks after quantitative and qualitative improvement of the fodder base.

New purchase prices as well as the contractual prices established for bovine cattle to be delivered to the State fund are published in the Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Romania and vary, depending on the weight category and quality, between lei 16.25 and 18.50/kg.

The measures adopted under Decree 395/26 of December 1981 have successfully aroused broad interest among all categories of stock-farmers; as a result, through the system of contractual commitment, young bovine cattle of greater weight and better quality are being obtained so that each animal slaughtered yields a larger quantity of meat.
Thus, premiums ranging from lei 300-600 per head are paid for young bovine cattle of superior weight delivered to the State by the agricultural production co-operatives and the State agricultural co-operatives; a premium of lei 300 is paid for each calf contracted to the State by private farmers, plus an additional lei 300 premium if the calf is from a heifer; to supplement fodder supply, agricultural production co-operatives and private farmers in mountain and hill areas are granted 125 kg. of concentrated feed for each animal weighing more than 300 kg., plus an additional 0.5 kg. for each kilogram of live weight.

Production is also stimulated by premiums added to the buying price, depending on period of delivery; thus, for young bovine cattle weighing more than 400 kg., purchased from 1 December to 30 April, the price is increased by lei 0.50/kg.

Upon application by members of co-operatives or private producers, long-term loans are granted for the purchase of breeding animals; these loans may amount to as much as 80 per cent of the cost of the animals acquired.

Production takes place in special units, approved for the purpose by State veterinary-health bodies, and is placed under their permanent supervision, in accordance with veterinary-health agreements concluded with various countries. In Romania, the veterinary-health system is governed by Veterinary-Health Law No. 80, of 20 October 1974 (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Romania, No. 136 of 20 November 1974).

Customs duties are at the rates published in the customs tariff of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and amount to 2 per cent for live bovine animals for breeding, 10 per cent for live bovine animals for slaughter, 9.75 per cent for bovine meat, and 15 per cent for meat preparations.
PART H

Part H. Information on bilateral or plurilateral agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals