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).

Note: This document has been revised in accordance with the three-year rule contained in Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure, and replaces all previous IMC/INV/19/... documents.
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 must represent over 40 per cent of total agricultural production.

In 1981, Romania had 4,438,200 hectares of pasture and grasslands, which constitute the main source of the rough fodder needed to feed bovine animals.

To attain the objectives established for meat production and consumption, the agricultural production co-operatives and private producers are supported by the State, in virtue 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 specializing in matters of reproduction, imports pure-bred animals for breeding, establishes incentive prices and premiums aimed at increasing livestock production, and deals with the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the fodder base.

The 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, Nos. 110-111 of 26 December 1981, and they vary depending on weight category and quality, between lei 16.25 and 18.50 per kg.

The measures adopted under Decree 395/25 of December 1981 and in operation since 1 January 1982 provide a strong incentive to 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, which means that each animal slaughtered yields a larger quantity of meat.

The amendments and additions made to the decree in question in March 1983 are concerned with improving the system of premiums and incentives to stock-farming in the State agricultural units and co-operatives, and by individual farmers. These measures provide greater stimulus to the expansion of stock-farming. Thus, apart from production, contract and purchase prices, producers enjoy the following price supplements and premiums: for animals of more than 400 kg. live weight delivered during the period 1 December to 30 April, a premium of lei 0.5 per kg. is paid. For each calf produced on their farms and reared for at least six months, whether for breeding or for traction, private producers
receive, under contract with the State, a premium of lei 400. State farms and co-operatives fulfilling 85 per cent of the breeding indices enjoy a premium of lei 400 for each calf born and reared for at least six months. Where this percentage is exceeded, a supplement of lei 100 is paid for each calf produced and reared for at least six months. In addition, private producers, State farms and co-operatives receive a premium of lei 100 for each healthy calf produced from their heifers, provided it is reared for at least six months.

To make up the essential fodder supply, agricultural co-operatives and private farmers in mountain and hill areas are given a grant of 125 kg. of concentrated feed for each young bovine animal weighing more than 300 kg., plus an additional 0.5 kg. for each kilogram of live weight.

On application by members of co-operatives and 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 purchased.

Meat production is carried on in special units approved for the purpose by State veterinary-health bodies, and is under their permanent supervision, in accordance with veterinary-health agreements concluded with a number of 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