

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/15/Rev.1  
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Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: French

## 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

#### TUNISIA

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 GPart G I: Information on domestic policies and trade measures

Cattle farming continues to play an important role in the agricultural sector, particularly in the northern regions of the country where 80 per cent of the cattle herd is located because of existing fodder potential and the proximity of urban centres to handle the disposal and processing of the meat and milk produced.

Since 1979, however, as a result of unfavourable weather conditions combined with stagnating producer prices for milk and meat, the cattle herd has been declining considerably by about 5.34 per cent each year in relation to the level recorded in 1977. This decline has been as follows:

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Cattle herd	479,000	428,000	345,000	349,000	351,000

This downturn has been reflected in a reduction in meat output, as may be seen from the following table:

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Net meat	37,000	39,500	32,000	32,000	33,000
Purchases	5,550	5,900	4,800	4,800	5,000
Total bovine meat	42,550	45,400	36,800	36,800	38,000
% in relation to production	35.4	37.8	35.6	33.3	33.8

In view of the disincentives to expansion of stock farming, certain promotion measures for this sector were established under the Sixth National Plan. These measures are of a technical, economic, legislative and fiscal character.

At the technical level, the emphasis will be on improving the genetic potential of live stock by:

- Increasing the proportion of pure-bred, high-performance stock, to be raised from 50,000 female animals in 1981 to 101,000 in 1986, by importing 35,000 heifers and retrieving 16,000 from cattle farms in Tunisia.

- Extension of artificial insemination to all stock-farming areas by establishing 68 new centres during the period covered by the Plan.
- Strengthening of the cross-breeding project.
- Consolidation of performance control and herd book registration.
- Strengthening of the heifer-raising centre at EL Habibia and establishment of other centres to select the best calves (male and female) intended for breeding.
- Assistance to stock farmers with a view to better integration of cattle-raising in each farm unit. Development of material assistance, installation of demonstration lots for fodder crops, sanitary facilities, etc.

At the economic level:

- Periodic adjustment of producer prices for milk and meat in the event of any increase in any of the cost price components.
- Grant of credits and subsidies for the purchase of livestock, establishment of fodder crops, construction of stock-farm buildings and purchase of adequate equipment.
- Subsidization at the level of concentrated animal feedingstuffs.

At the legislative and fiscal level:

- Updating of legislative texts covering FOSDA credits and subsidies in relation with real prices.
- Reduced customs duties and production taxes on imports of bovine animals for breeding, stock-farming equipment, fodder crops and raw materials for inclusion in concentrated feedingstuffs.

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 yield.
3. Inadequate integration of stock farming in the agricultural sector.
4. Poor marketing network.

(b) Policies of the Government likely to influence production

The principal measures taken to encourage production are:

1. Improvement of fodder quality and productivity through the establishment of technical facilities (Valorization Offices) in all parts of the country, with a view to introducing fodder crops that are more productive and suited to the weather conditions of each region.
2. Improvement of genetic potential through generalization of artificial and natural insemination services, performance control, and the organization of fairs and competitions with prizes awarded to the best stock farmers.
3. Incentives to the establishment of marketing and supply structures.
4. Material and technical assistance to stock farmers for the fattening of bullocks.
5. Legislative measures regulating the slaughter of cattle and prohibiting the slaughter of animals which have not reached the required average weight and of animals in calf.
6. Sanitary facilities through the organization and financing of prevention drives against the major bovine diseases.
7. Grant of credit and subsidies to stock farmers.
8. Maintenance of artificial insemination services free of charge.
9. Subsidization of inputs for stock farming: fodder seeds, fertilizers, concentrated feedingstuffs.

(c) Support or stabilization measures

1. Three revisions of domestic producer prices in 1981 and early 1982, to make these prices remunerative for stock farmers.
2. Stabilization of consumer prices through intervention of the General Compensation Fund, at the level of bovine meat and imports as necessary to hold down prices.
3. Exemption from customs duties and reduced rate of production tax on imports of meat and dairy products.

4. Grant of subsidies at various levels of production on breeding animals, equipment, inputs and constructions.
5. Periodic review and adjustment of criteria and rates for granting credits and subsidies to the sector.

## II. Internal prices and consumption

(a) The producer price of beef increased from D 1.375 (\$2.45) per kg. to D 1.590 (\$2.85) in 1982. For categories 2 and 3, consumer prices have been maintained at D 1.200 (\$2.14) and D 1.500 (\$2.68) respectively. Only the prices of choice cuts have been increased, from D 1.800 (\$3.21) to D 2.200 (\$4.00).

(b) Two improvements in consumer purchasing power through wage increases in 1981 and 1982, and maintenance of intervention by the General Compensation Fund for beef only, the price of which is controlled.

(c) The above-mentioned Government measures are adequate for satisfying domestic demand for beef.

## III. Measures at the frontier

(a) Customs tariff:

01.02 - Live animals of the bovine species:

A. Milch cows	26%
B. Other	30%

01.04 - Live sheep and goats:

A. Pure-bred sheep for breeding	30%
B. Pure-bred goats for breeding	26%
C. Other	30%

01.02 - Meat and edible offals of the animals falling within heading Nos. 01.01, 01.02, 01.03 or 01.04, fresh, chilled or frozen.

Each year, legislative texts are adopted exempting all these products from customs duties and lowering the rate of production tax on them.

(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 Livestock Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

PART H

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

Tunisia has been a member of the International Office for Epizootics since its establishment.

Tunisia has not entered into any bilateral or plurilateral commitments in the beef sector.