

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
IMC/INV/19
29 January 1981

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

ROMANIA¹

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).

¹ For replies to the statistical parts, see IMC/STAT/19.

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 45-50 per cent of total agricultural production.

Romania has approximately 5 million hectares of pasture and grasslands, which constitute the main source of the rough fodder needed to feed bovine animals.

At the beginning of 1980, the total number of bovine cattle was 6,513 million head, including 3,188 million cows, steers and heifers; and the number of bovine cattle per 100 hectares was 46 head, including 22 cows, steers and heifers.

At the end of 1979 the production of bovine meat amounted to 297,300 tons (dressed carcass weight equivalent) or 11.4 kgs. per capita.

The export of live animals, meat and meat preparations accounts for approximately one fourth of Romanian exports of agro-products, of which less than half is represented by bovine meat and meat preparations. At the end of 1979, exports of bovine meat amounted to 97,900 tons.

In 1979, exports of bovine meat from Romania represented approximately 2 per cent of world exports by volume.

To attain the objectives established for meat production and consumption, the agricultural production co-operatives and private producers (which have 44 and 41 per cent of the total number of bovine cattle respectively) 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 animals for breeding, establishes incentive prices and premiums aimed at increasing animal production, and looks after quantitative and qualitative improvement of the fodder base.

Purchase prices as well as the contractual prices established for the bovine cattle to be delivered to the State fund are established in the Official Bulletin of the Socialist Republic of Romania and vary, depending on the weight category and quality, between 10 and 14.5 lei/kg.

The measures adopted under Decree 410/1973 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 provides a larger quantity of meat.

Thus, premiums ranging from 200-500 lei per head are paid for young bovine cattle of superior weight delivered to the State by the agricultural production co-operatives; a premium of 300 lei is paid for each calf delivered by private farmers; to supplement fodder supply, private farmers in mountain and hilly areas are granted as much as 3 kgs. of maize per kg. of live weight.

Production is also stimulated by premiums added to the buying price, depending on period of delivery; thus, for young bovine cattle of 150 kgs. acquired from 1 January to 30 April, the price is increased by 0.50 lei/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 Bulletin of the R.S. of Romania, No. 136 of 20 November 1974).

Customs duties are published in the customs tariff of the R.S. of Romania, and amount to 2 per cent for live bovine cattle for breeding purposes, 10 per cent for live bovine cattle for slaughter and 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

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