GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
IMC/INV/19/Rev.5
25 November 1986

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

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

Reply 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 should represent more than 40 per cent of total agricultural production.

Romania has approximately 4,438,000 hectares of pasture and grass-lands, which constitute the main source of the rough fodder needed to feed bovine animals.

In January 1984, the total number of adult bovine cattle and calves was 7,039,000 head, including 3,095,000 cows, cow-buffaloes and heifers.

At the end of 1984, the production of bovine meat amounted to 233,600 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 1984, exports of bovine meat amounted to 38,600 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 9 and 20/kg.

The measures adopted under Decree 10 of 1 March 1984 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 of lei 400 are paid to members of agricultural production co-operatives and private stock-farmers for each calf born on individual farms if they have reared it for at least six months (under contract with the State, and intended for breeding or, where relevant, for traction) plus an additional premium of lei 100 if the calf is from a heifer. Premiums of lei 400 are also paid to socialist agricultural units which achieve 85 per cent of the planned breeding target for the administrative region concerned, in respect of each calf born and reared for at least six months, plus an additional premium of lei 100 for each calf born on farms which exceed the planned breeding targets. In addition, these farms receive premiums of lei 100 for each calf from a heifer. Producers in mountain and hill areas are granted concentrated feed (150 kg. of feed each year for each animal weighing not less than 350 kg. live weight, plus 0.5 kg. for each kg. of live weight in excess of 350 kg.).

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

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