

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/23/Rev.4
18 December 1992

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: Spanish

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

COLOMBIA

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 constitutes 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/23... documents.

PART C

Information on National Policies and Trade Measures

I. Production

(a) Description of the country's bovine meat sector

Cattle farming in Colombia is 89 per cent extensive and 11 per cent semi-intensive. In total, there are 716,713 farms with an average area of 24.38 hectares and the cattle herd consists on average of 22.7 million animals in a farmed area of 17,476,326 hectares. In 1990 the total value of bovine-meat production was Col\$34,195 million.

The cattle sector represents 35.5 per cent of total agricultural production. At present, production re-activation policies are being introduced, since cattle farming is passing through a critical period as a result of the climate of violence affecting rural areas in particular.

(b) Government policies and measures

As concerns its direct and indirect policies, the Government is currently implementing a national system of classification and grading of bovine-meat carcasses and cuts based on yield and general quality standards, the aim of which is to establish differential price scales that will not only stimulate production and improve the production process but also help to modernize marketing and encourage consumption.

Within this framework, the stock-farmers' associations, meat-packing plants and Livestock Funds can establish their own structure to divide up the meat market into segments, taking into account the disposable income of consumers. The Ministry of Agriculture is supporting the initiatives that the private sector is taking in this respect.

The modernization of the system should result in better prices for the producer, with payment related to quality, and stable prices for the consumer differing according to type and quality. In the medium term, the economic incentives should favour investment and improvements in technology and lead to an increase in productivity.

II. Production, marketing and domestic consumption policies, special credit facilities

Law 16 of 1990 created the National Agricultural Credit System and FINAGRO with a view to streamlining procedures and freeing-up the flow of funds. In 1991 the credit programme amounted to Col\$61,706 million, which was 31.2 per cent more than in the previous year; of this total cattle-farming's share was 74.8 per cent.

Promotion of technical development and livestock health

The task of controlling and eradicating foot-and-mouth disease continues, with the aim of expanding the disease-free area (URABA) by reinforcing the ICA-USDA Programme, for which in 1991 the Government of the United States provided Col\$842 million and the Colombian Government a similar sum. The goal is to cover the whole North Coast region, thereby enabling the meat-packing plants of Barranquilla, Cartagena and Monteria to satisfy international health inspection standards for meat exporting purposes.

With respect to other diseases, prevention and control campaigns are being undertaken on other diseases such as brucellosis, rabies and tuberculosis.

The Ministry of Health and the relevant Municipalities are responsible for sanitary inspection both of live animals and of carcasses in the various slaughterhouses; prior authorization by the ICA (Colombian Agricultural Institute) is required for the movement of live animals. The Ministry also has a sanitary inspection unit for export slaughterhouses.

III. Measures at the frontier

(a) With regard to Colombia's present tariff policy, as shown in the table in the Annex, it should be mentioned that over the last two years there have been successive changes. These have resulted from the internationalization of the country's economy and from bilateral negotiations conducted with neighbouring countries, such as Venezuela, with which the Harmonized Common Tariff has been in operation since February. It is planned to implement the Harmonized Tariff with Ecuador in October. Very solid foundations have also been laid for extending negotiations along these lines to countries such as Mexico and Chile. Apart from this, Colombia has some tariff preferences with the United States.

(b) The principal support measure for bovine meat exports is the Tax Refund Certificate (CERT), which in the case of meat in all forms is assessed on the total amount of exports effected. The percentage of such refunds is granted for each product or tariff line. The table in the Annex shows the level of refunds for the tariff headings for live animals and meat.

Another factor affecting the level of exports is agricultural research and technology transfer, to drive the change needed by national agriculture. The programme in this field will seek to generate technologies at lower production costs, improve productivity and make the sector more competitive. Highly important is the implementation of the National Technology Transfer System (SINTAP) through the municipalities, aimed at a closer relationship between users and their municipal technical assistance units, which have been developed to make efficient use of the financial and technical resources available at the local level.

As regards recently created institutions for export promotion, mention may be made of BANCOLDEX (Foreign Trade Bank), whose purpose is to finance projects for the export of new products and expand external markets through credit. The Ministry of Agriculture recently established the National Livestock Commission as an advisory body to facilitate co-operation among all operators engaged in this activity and to carry out marketing modernization programmes through specific projects in such areas as information and markets, meat cuts and classification, integrated marketing companies, network of industrial meat-packing plants and training of staff needed for the implementation of the Modernization Programme.

PART H

Information on Bilateral or Plurilateral Agreements in the Field of Bovine Animals, Meat and Offals

Pursuant to the Government's philosophy of opening up the economy to international markets, the agricultural sector has been strongly involved in the integration process with other countries and markets such as the G3, with Mexico and Venezuela, and the Andean Group. To that end it has incorporated participatory mechanisms, for instance with the private sector. Likewise, it has been involved in the process of formation of economic groupings, such as MERCOSUR, and the harmonization efforts for a common agricultural policy and the adoption of a common external tariff and common positions in international forums for negotiations on economic and sectoral policies, such as international commodity agreements, and particularly on the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, in which for the first time the United States Government has offered room for multilateral negotiations on trade, investment and debt.

ANNEX
CERT AND NANDINA CUSTOMS TARIFF HEADINGS (COLOMBIA)
LIVE ANIMALS, MEAT AND MEAT OFFAL

		Tariff	Cert
0102909090	Live bovine animals	10	0.0
0103920090	Live swine	10	0.0
0201100000	Meat of bovine animals, carcasses and half-carcasses, fresh or chilled	20	0.0
0201200000	Meat of bovine animals, cuts with bone in, fresh or chilled	20	0.0
0201300000	Meat of bovine animals, boneless, fresh or chilled	20	0.0
0202100000	Meat of bovine animals, carcasses and half-carcasses, frozen	20	0.0
0202200000	Meat of bovine animals, cuts with bone in, frozen	20	0.0
0202300000	Meat of bovine animals, boneless, frozen	20	0.0
0203110000	Meat of swine, carcasses, and half-carcasses, fresh, chilled or frozen	20	0.0
0203120000	Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in, frozen	20	0.0
0206100000	Edible offal of bovine animals, chilled or frozen	20	0.0
0206210000	Tongues	20	0.0
0206220000	Livers	20	0.0
0207100000	Poultry, not cut in pieces, fresh, chilled or frozen	20	0.0
0302000000	Fish, fresh or chilled	20	5.0
0304100000	Fish fillets, chilled	20	5.0
0304200000	Fish fillets, frozen	20	5.0
0407009000	Eggs	20	5.0
0207220000	Turkeys for consumption	20	0.0
0104101000	Birds for breeding	5	0.0
0104109010	Pure-bred birds for crossing	10	0.0
0104109090	Other	10	0.0
0105110000	Fowls of the species Gallus domesticus (weighing less than 185 g.)	5	5.0
0105190000	Other	5	5.0
0105910000	Fowls of the species Gallus domesticus	10	0.0
0105990000	Other	10	0.0