

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/18/Rev.3

22 February 1993

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

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

URUGUAY

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 are 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 Arrangement. (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/18... documents.

PART G

Part G.1 - Information on Domestic Policies and Trade Measures

I. Production

(a) There have been no important changes in the number of producers, types of farm and proportion of the gross domestic product, nor in production output compared with previous reports.

(b) Policies in the sector

There is no price policy and prices are completely free.

Credits are available from the Bank of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay (BROU) and private banks.

The BROU deals with credits specifically for stock rearing, for example, for buying livestock, installation costs, purchasing breeding stock, keeping cows for breeding, etc.

The Agricultural Plan, utilizing funds from the World Bank, grants special long-term loans in this sector for production projects and buying animals, creating infrastructures, pastures, etc. In November 1992, these funds were exhausted and are not currently available. These credits can be rescheduled in a basket of products (meat and wool).

There are no special tax provisions for cattle farmers.

There are official campaigns for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, mange and lice, brucellosis and tick-borne disease. Uruguay has been declared free of foot-and-mouth disease following vaccination and has not had any cases of the disease for over thirty months. These campaigns are carried out by the veterinary services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The National Meat Institute (INAC) plays a special rôle in ensuring quality standards by certifying the commercial quality of exports of meat and meat products. INAC was established by Law No. 15,605 in 1984 as a non-State public body with responsibility for proposing, monitoring and implementing the national meat policy decided upon by the Executive.

(c) There are no stabilization programmes of any type.

II. Internal prices and consumption

(a) There are no policies on internal prices or promotion of consumption.

III. Measures at the frontier

(a) The following table shows imports of beef and live animals:

	Global Duty Rate	MERCOSUR
<u>Live bovine animals</u>		
Pure-bred bovine animals	10%	3.90%
Heifers up to two teeth	0%	0%
Other	24%	9.36%
<u>Meat and offal</u>		
Bovine meat	17%	6.63%
Offal	24%	9.36%
<u>Sausage meat</u>		
Total	17%	6.63%

(b) There are no non-tariff measures.

(c) There is a single tax of 5 per cent on the export value of bone-in meat and live animals.

There is also a refund of taxes on exports as follows:

Boneless meat, frozen and chilled	2 per cent on f.o.b. value
Boneless meat, salted and dried	3 per cent on f.o.b. value
Corned beef	6.7 per cent on f.o.b. value
Cured and cooked meat	6 per cent on f.o.b. value

Beef dried, cut into slices, cooked, seasoned, smoked (beef jerky)	633.27 US\$/ton
Beef extract	3.3 per cent

These amounts correspond to the refund of indirect taxes payable at the production stage.

(d) The sanitary regulations in force are the same as those described in previous reports and they are contained in Decree No. 525/981, which is annexed.

(e) There are no barriers to the import of meat or live animals, provided that they meet the hygiene and sanitary standards.

The export of live animals for the replenishment of stock (young bulls and bullocks not apt for slaughter) necessitate prior authorization by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Part G.2 - Notification of policy changes

Refunds of indirect taxes on exports, which had been abolished in 1990, were reinstated in July 1991 at the levels shown in paragraph (c) above.

As from March 1993, it will no longer be necessary to seek an authorization from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the export of bullocks for slaughter and calves (the measure remains in force for young bulls).

In January 1993, the tariff system will also change. Tariffs which are currently set at 24 per cent will decrease to 20 per cent and tariffs currently at 17 per cent will fall to 15 per cent, while raw materials will be subject to a 6 per cent tariff. On the same date, tariffs for countries belonging to the MERCOSUR will be reduced by another 7 per cent, in accordance with the timetable fixed in the Asunción Treaty.

PART H

Part H. - Information on Bilateral or Plurilateral Agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals

During the past two years there have been no changes.