

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/15/Rev.3
13 July 1984

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

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).

PART GPart G.I Information on domestic policies and trade measuresIntroduction

Owing to what it produces in the form of meat and milk, cattle farming is the most important branch of Tunisia's animal husbandry. It is concentrated mainly in the north (80 per cent of the cattle herd), where favourable weather conditions contribute to year-round fodder potential.

In the centre and south of the country, cattle farming is limited to irrigated areas close to the major urban centres (Sousse and Sfax). Since 1978, the cattle herd has registered a decline due to unfavourable weather in 1978 and 1979, the stagnation of producer prices for milk and meat and inadequate milk-collecting facilities.

This decline is of the order of 5.5 per cent in relation to the 1977 cattle herd. The number of female units (F.U.)¹ of the cattle herd has varied as follows:

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
								Estimate	Estimate
Number	479,000	428,000	345,000	349,500	351,000	321,000 ²	334,000 ²	342,800 ²	353,400 ²

Obviously, this downturn has been reflected in a reduction in meat production, as may be seen from the following table:

Year	(tonnes)								
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982 ²	1983 ²	1984 ²	1985 ² Estimate
Meat proper	37,000	39,500	32,000	32,000	29,640	24,293	23,630	25,670	28,560
Offal	5,550	5,900	4,800	4,800	4,446	4,287	4,170	4,530	5,040
Total bovine meat	42,550	45,400	36,800	36,800	34,086	28,580	27,800	30,200	33,600
% of total meat production	35.4%	37.8%	35.6%	33.3%	31.4%	23.8%	26.5%	24.25%	25.2%

¹ A female unit = an in-calf heifer, or a cow which has calved at least once and is accompanied by 0.8 head - 1 F.U. = 1.8 head of cattle.

² According to most recent surveys by the Directorate for the Plan and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture.

However, in view of the big domestic demand for bovine meat and milk, the Sixth Plan provides for a substantial expansion of cattle farming with a view to the attainment of the country's self-sufficiency in meat and to an appreciable reduction of its milk imports. The measures envisaged are of three kinds:

1. Technical measures

(a) Improvement of the genetic potential of the cattle herd by

- extension of artificial insemination and cross-breeding;
- increasing the proportion of pure-bred stock, to be raised from 50,000 F.U. in 1981 to 101,000 in 1986, by importing 35,000 in-calf heifers and selecting 16,000 from Tunisian cattle farms;
- strengthening of the Performance Control Service and the Herd-book Registration Service;
- Organization of fairs and competitions.

(b) Encouragement of the inclusion of cattle farming in crop farms by granting credit and subsidies for the establishment of optimum conditions for success and the creation of supply and marketing networks.

(c) Strengthening of information and technical assistance services for cattle farmers.

(d) Strengthening of the El Habibia heifer-raising centre, and creation of other centres for the selection of male and female calves suitable for breeding.

(e) Health coverage for the entire cattle herd.

2. Economic measures

- Periodic updating of producer prices whenever there is an increase in production-factor costs. Thus, there were consecutive increases in May and November 1982, February 1983 and March 1984 (the price of beef increased between May 1982 and March 1984 from D 1.590 (\$2.52) to D 2.000 (\$2.74) per kg. and that of milk from D 0.180 to D 0.200 per litre in November 1982).

- Extension to stock-farmers of sources of financing, including substantial subsidies, for the acquisition of livestock, construction of stock-farm buildings, purchase of relevant equipment and introduction of fodder crops.

- Encouraging the creation of service co-operatives with a view to reducing the production and marketing costs of cattle-farming products.

3. Legislative and fiscal measures

- Updating of legislation on governing credit and subsidies to stock-farming as required by real prices.

- Creation of an agency to promote agricultural investment and of a development bank to encourage agricultural ventures.

- Exemption from taxes on imports of bovine animals for breeding purposes, stock-farming equipment, fodder-crop seeds and the raw-material components of concentrated feeds.

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 agriculture sector.
4. Poor marketing network.

(b) Policies of the Government to influence production

The principal measures taken to encourage production are:

1. Improvement of fodder quality and productivity through the establishment of technical facilities (Development Offices) in all parts of the country, with a view to introducing species of fodder that are more productive and suited to the weather conditions of each region.
 2. Improvement of genetic potential through the generalization of artificial and natural insemination services and of performance control, and the organization of fairs and competitions with prizes awarded to the best stock-farmers.
 3. Encouragement of the establishment of marketing and supply structures (Service Co-operatives and Milk Collection Centres).
 4. Material and technical assistance to stock-farmers for the fattening of bullocks.
- .. Legislation regulating the slaughter of cattle and prohibiting the slaughter of animals that have not reached the required average weight and of female animals in calf.

6. Health coverage through the organization and financing of prevention drives against the major bovine diseases.
7. Granting of credit and subsidies to stock-farmers.
8. Continuation of artificial insemination services free of charge.
9. Subsidization of inputs for stock farming: fodder seeds, fertilizers, concentrated feeds.
10. Promotion of the creation of large cattle-farming units.

(c) Support or stabilization measures

1. Two adjustments of domestic producer prices in 1982, to make them remunerative for stock-farmers.
2. Stabilization of consumer prices through action by the General Compensation Fund at the bovine-meat level, and imports as necessary to restrain price rises.
3. Exemption from customs duties and reduction of the production tax for imports of meat and dairy products.
4. Granting of subsidies at various levels of production, for breeding animals, equipment, inputs and construction.
5. Periodic updating of the criteria and rates for credit and subsidies to the sector.

II. Internal prices and consumption

(a) The producer price of beef rose from D 1.850 (\$2.55) per kg. in 1984 to D 2.000 (\$2.74) in 1984. Consumer prices for categories 2 and 3 were fixed at D 1.400 (\$1.92) and D 1.700 (\$2.32) respectively. Only the prices of choice cuts were increased, from D 2.200 (\$3.01) to D 2.500 (\$3.42) as from March 1984.

(b) There were two improvements in consumer purchasing power through wage increases in 1981 and 1982, and continued intervention by the General Compensation Fund for beef only, whose price is no longer subject to tax since 1 December 1982.

(c) The above-mentioned Government measures serve to satisfy the domestic demand for beef.

III. Measures at the frontier

(a) Customs tariff:

01.02 - Live animals of the bovine species:

A.	Milch cows	27.5 per cent
B.	Other	31.5 per cent

01.04 - Live sheep and goats:

A.	Pure-bred sheep for breeding	31.5 per cent
B.	Pure-bred goats for breeding	27.5 per cent
C.	Other	31.5 per cent

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.	31.5 per cent
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Each year, legal texts are adopted exempting all these products from customs duty and lowering the rate of the production tax on them.

(b) There are no exports of beef at present.

(c) The specific health regulations imposed at the frontier are in conformity with the provisions of the health regulations of the IOE. These measures are applied and health 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.