

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES prepared by the Chairman of the International Meat Council on his own responsibility

1. Since the 1985 report¹, the International Meat Council (IMC) has held two regular meetings on 12-13 December 1985 and on 12 June 1986. Both of these were preceded by meetings of the Meat Market Analysis Group (MMAG). At its June 1986 meeting, the IMC elected Mr. Michel van Meerbeke (Colombia) as Chairman and Mr. José Ramón Prieto (Spain) as Vice-Chairman. The MMAG re-elected Mr. Claes Hammar (Sweden) as its Chairman. Since last year's report, the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat has been signed by Nigeria, putting the number of signatories at twenty-seven, representing thirty-eight countries.
2. Both meetings discussed, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat, the functioning of the Arrangement, the bovine meat market situation and outlook, and questions of a policy nature of special concern to participants.
3. At its meeting in December 1985 and June 1986, a number of proposals, formal and informal, were discussed. Two proposals presented were concerned with facilitating, for the IMC, future assessments of the existence of a serious imbalance on the world bovine meat market within the existing framework and operation of the Arrangement, as well as facilitating the search for solutions. To this end both proposals suggest the identification of a certain number of objective criteria or indicators which might provide the factual basis for a determination of serious imbalance. Discussion on these proposals is continuing.
4. Another proposal concerned the preparation by the secretariat of a factual document setting out the various support and intervention mechanisms in different producer countries and how they work. On the understanding that these elements would be collected from information normally supplied to the IMC in the inventories concerning policy measures, the IMC agreed to this proposal.
5. Still another proposal concerned the enlargement of the data basis to include all non-participants in the Arrangement in order to have the most comprehensive picture possible of prospects for trade in bovine meat. It was decided to send a questionnaire to potentially interested GATT contracting parties and observers not signatories of the Arrangement on a trial basis and evaluate the results in June 1986. In that month it was agreed to continue the experiment until the end of the year since the results by June 1986 were not considered to be sufficiently conclusive.
6. The next meetings of the IMC and its subsidiary body, the MMAG, are set for 11-12 December and 8-9 December 1986, respectively.

¹L/5897 of 4 November 1985