

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/15/Rev.7

1 June 1992

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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).

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/15/... documents.

PART G

Part GI: Information on Domestic Policies and Trade Measures

I. Introduction

Cattle farming in Tunisia remains concentrated in the north of the country (80 per cent of the cattle herd) where generally favourable weather conditions contribute to enormous fodder potential. However, 18 per cent of this herd is concentrated in the organized sector (State and quasi-public farms). The remainder is scattered in the centre and south in irrigated areas around surface wells.

The trend in herd size during the period 1983-1990 is as follows:

Unit: 1,000 head

Year	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Cattle	599	613	641	624	666	634	625	622	696

The decline in herd size as from 1988 was the result of two successive drought years. Numbers have been rising again since 1991, when there was an increase of 4,000 female animals compared with 1990.

Bovine meat production has fluctuated between 31,400 tonnes in 1983 and 40,900 tonnes in 1991. The rate of coverage of domestic consumption requirements has thus risen from 66 to 75 per cent.

II. Factors affecting meat production

There are technical, commercial and legislative factors.

1. Technical factors

- shortage and poor distribution of feed supplies;
- inadequate impact of genetic improvement programmes;
- weakness of extension programmes;
- inadequate agronomic and zootechnical research;
- premature slaughtering;
- poor valorization of slaughter animals;

- poor distribution of the cold chain;
- lack of suitable equipment in most slaughter-houses;
- large-scale clandestine slaughtering;
- lack of classification and categorization of bovine meat.

2. Economic factors

- Complexity of the distribution circuit (cumulation of links in the producer/consumer chain: cattle dealers, wholesale butchers, butchers).

3. Legislative factors

- Clandestine slaughtering continues in spite of being banned by Law 66-64.

In view of the scale of demand for beef and the inadequacy of local production, Tunisia has continued to rely on imports in order to meet the shortfall.

Imports over the period 1987/1993 are summarized in the following table:

Unit: tonnes

Years	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992*	1993*
Beef imports	15,000	12,500	15,500	15,000	15,000	14,000	13,000

* Estimates

Under the Eighth Plan the sector is to be developed so as to achieve self-sufficiency in 1996.

The measures taken are of various kinds:

Technical measures:

- improvement of the local herd by cross-breeding;
- encouragement of fattening centres;
- integration of cattle farming into all agricultural development companies;
- encouragement of valorization of slaughter cows;

- strengthening of extension services:
 - participation of educational and research services in the extension programme;
- extension of artificial insemination, which is to be strengthened in the organized sectors;
- sanitary coverage for the entire herd;
- increased food resources:
 - in fodder production, by the extension of areas sown instead of left fallow, introduction of high-yield varieties and improvement of forest and non-forest common grazing land;
 - as regards concentrated feeds, by improving quality and by the gradual replacement of maize by barley and triticale.

Altogether, these measures will stimulate meat production and ensure an average annual rise of 3 per cent in the cattle herd (see table below):

Year	1991	1996
Bovine meat	40,900 tonnes	52,100 tonnes
Herd size	696,000 head	732,000 head

Economic measures:

- liberalization of local bovine meat prices for both production and consumption;
- categorization of bovine meat;
- elimination of the consumer price subsidy for bovine meat;
- overhauling of the Ellouhoum Company in order to improve its performance;
- creation of service companies with the aim of reducing production and marketing costs for cattle-farming products;
- grant of credit to farmers for the construction of stock-farming buildings and the acquisition of specific equipment and for the introduction of fodder crops.

Legislative and fiscal measures:

- updating of the legislation governing credits and subsidies granted to stock-farming in line with real prices;
- revision of the customs régime for imports of bovine meat;
- unification of slaughter fees.

III. Internal prices and consumption

(a) Producer and consumer prices of domestic bovine meat have been liberalized since September 1990.

(b) Consumer prices for imported fresh bovine meat rose from D 3,500 to D 4,200 per kg. for boneless meat and from D 2,700 to D 3,000 per kg. for meat with bone on 24 June 1991.

IV. Measures at the frontier:

- Live animals of the bovine species:
 - In-calf heifers 17 per cent tariff
 - Bullocks 27 per cent tariff
- Meat and edible offals:
 - Meat 27 per cent tariff
 - Offals 43 per cent tariff

It may also be mentioned that:

- at present Tunisia does not export any category of meat;
- the specific health regulations applied at the frontier are in conformity with the provisions of the health regulation of the I.O.E.;

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 of Epizootics since its establishment.

Tunisia has not entered into any bilateral or plurilateral commitments in the bovine meat sector.