

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/25

3 July 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

PARAGUAY

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 Arrangement. (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure.)

PART GPart G.1: Information on Domestic Policies and Trade MeasuresI. Production

Livestock breeding is a major activity of the national economy, which is essentially agriculture-based.

Livestock holdings account for 20,021,200 hectares (approximately 50 per cent of the country's total area). Beef production is the main component of the national livestock sector. According to the most recent agricultural production estimates (1990) produced by the Census and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding, cattle numbers stood at 8,254,000 head, while the preliminary data of the 1991 Agricultural Census show a cattle stock of 7,459,129 in 228,042 holdings, and an increase of 991,800 head as compared to 1981.

Total Value of Exports of Livestock Products

Year	US\$ '000	% of total value of exports
1989	115,895	11.36
1990	158,211	16.53
1991	79,063	10.81

Total Value of Beef Exports

Year	US\$	% of total value of exports
1989	94,299,599	9.24
1990	133,562,114	13.96
1991	53,078,330	7.26

Estimated national production indices:

- Slaughter rate	13.4 per cent
- Annual herd increase	1.5 per cent
- Adult mortality	2.0 per cent
- Loss between insemination and tagging	10.0 per cent
- Tagging percentage	50.0 per cent

- Slaughter age:	
(cultivated grazing)	2.3-3.5 years
(natural grazing)	4-5 years
- Annual availability	1,103,700 head
- Average dressed carcass weight:	
Male	209 kg.
Female	169 kg.
- Average dried carcass weight in packing plant, for export:	
Male	233 kg.
Female	184 kg.

In November 1991, the National Congress enacted Law No. 99/91 to amend and extend Law No. 675/77 establishing the National Animal Health Service (SENACSA) and Law No. 1289/87, supplementing thereto.

SENACSA is responsible for organizing and executing the National Animal Health Plan and any regulations for its implementation issued by the Executive, by means of a national animal-health campaign aimed essentially at controlling the following diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, brucellosis, tuberculosis, rabies, equine infectious anaemia, swine fever and Newcastle disease; and at preventing and controlling diseases and pests affecting cattle and other domestic and wild animals, as instructed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Cattle production is not subsidized by any State or private agency.

Sanitary Requirements for Meat Imports

In designating countries or areas of countries as potential suppliers of meat to Paraguay, particular attention must be paid to the following:

- (a) The health status of the livestock and other domestic and wild animals in the supplying country. Particular attention must be paid to exotic diseases and the general health environment of the country and the likelihood of its presenting any dangers for human and animal health in Paraguay.
- (b) The regularity and promptness with which the possible supplier country forwards information on the existence of contagious animal diseases in its territory, particularly the diseases in lists A and B of the International Office of Epizootics.
- (c) The regulations of the countries concerned on the prevention and control of animal diseases.
- (d) The structure and strength of veterinary services in the countries concerned.

- (e) The organization and enforcement of measures to prevent and control infectious diseases.

Slaughtering, Packing and Butchering Facilities

- (a) The meat supplier or suppliers may be Cycle one or Cycle two establishments, officially approved by the country of origin and accredited by the European Common Market.
- (b) The exporting country must supply Paraguay with the list of establishments meeting the requirements referred to in the previous paragraph.
- (c) Paraguayan inspectors must inspect any establishment that may export to Paraguay in order to check that the buildings meet sanitary requirements and that health and hygiene inspections are carried out, and to exchange findings with veterinary inspectors in order to standardize criteria for sanitary requirements.
- (d) There must be regular inspections of animal health and meat hygiene in the establishment or establishments concerned.

Fresh Meat

Fresh meat (chilled and frozen meat are considered as fresh meat) must come from:

- (a) Animals that have been in the exporting country for at least three months before slaughter or since birth if they are under three months old.
- (b) Cattle which have remained throughout the period in an area subject to regular vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease under official supervision.
- (c) Cattle from a holding (or holdings) where no cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been declared in the sixty days prior to their departure. Similarly, there must have been no cases of foot-and-mouth disease within a 25-kilometre radius of the holding in question in the thirty days prior to departure.
- (d) Cattle transported directly from the holding of origin to the approved slaughterhouse. They must not transit through cattle markets or any other holding centre, and must not come into contact with animals that do not fulfil the requirements set out in the previous paragraph.
- (e) Cattle found to be free from all symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease at the health inspection, including a mouth and hoof examination, carried out at the slaughterhouse within the twenty-four hours preceding slaughter.

1. Carcasses and/or fresh meat must come from an establishment or establishments which, if a case of foot-and-mouth disease is discovered, suspend(s) operations for the preparation of meat for export to Paraguay until all animals present have been slaughtered and the entire facility has been cleaned and disinfected under official veterinary supervision.
2. Carcasses must have been subjected to maturation at an ambient temperature of between +2 and +7°C for at least twenty-four hours.
3. Fresh boneless meat, in the case of imports of frozen cuts, must come from carcasses meeting the above requirement in order to be exported to Paraguay.
4. Chilled carcasses or meat for export to Paraguay must have an internal temperature of between -1 and +2°C in the deepest part of the muscles. Carcasses and meat found to have a higher temperature when checked at the authorized entry point to the country will be refused import authorization.
5. Frozen meat must be maintained at a temperature not exceeding -10°C. Meat found to have a higher temperature will be refused import authorization.

Transport

- (a) Fresh meat must be transported in vehicles equipped to produce and maintain the temperatures referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the previous chapter.
- (b) Vehicles or containers for meat transport must also fulfil the following requirements:
 1. The inside surface or any other part which may come into contact with the meat must be of corrosion-resistant material which does not affect the organoleptic qualities of the fresh meat or endanger human health. These surfaces must be smooth and easy to clean and disinfect.
 2. They must be properly equipped to protect the fresh meat against insects and dust and to facilitate drainage of liquids.
 3. For the transport of carcasses, half-carcasses or quarters, they must be equipped with non-corrosive hooks placed high enough to prevent the meat from touching the floor. This does not apply to hygienically packed frozen meat.
 4. Carcasses, half-carcasses and quarters, other than frozen meat packaged in accordance with hygiene requirements, must be hung throughout transport.

Sanitary Certificate

All fresh (chilled or frozen) meat must be accompanied by an official Sanitary Certificate from the exporting country in accordance with international requirements regarding trade in animals, and animal products, by-products and derivatives.

The Sanitary Certificate must be presented to the veterinary inspector at the inspection point for verification of trade requirements.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding establishes the point of entry and appoints the veterinary inspector or inspectors responsible for ensuring that the requirements have been met.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding must be actively involved, through the Sub-secretariat of Livestock Breeding, in import authorization procedures to ensure that national livestock and consumer health are protected.

II. Internal prices and consumption

Meat prices depend on market supply and demand. The government does not intervene in price-fixing.

III. Measures at the frontiers

See Annex I.

PART H

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

Paraguay does not have any bilateral or plurilateral agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals, which are subject to the existing international trading régime and any agreements concluded in the framework of MERCOSUR and CONASUR.