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## 1. EU AgriFish Council - Meeting - 17-18th October 2022 - Main results

Please find below the main results of the meeting of the EU AgriFish Council on 17th & 18th October 2022, for what regards agriculture.

### 1. Market situation in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

The Russian invasion of Ukraine significantly disturbed global agricultural markets. The subsequent uncertainty was further deepened by the energy crisis driven by the disruption of gas supplies from Russia. The prices of key agricultural products and inputs increased significantly. Despite the partial unblocking of Ukrainian ports, positive outcomes of solidarity lanes and a consequent relative decline in general cereal prices over the summer, agriculture ministers voiced their concern about the high degree of unpredictability regarding the volumes of possible future agricultural exports from Ukraine, as well as storage capabilities.

Ministers furthermore stressed that EU farmers continue to face many challenges, including the rising prices on energy and fertilisers, adverse weather conditions, food price inflation and the impact of imports from Ukraine on their markets. They especially highlighted the significant issue of affordable fertilisers provisions in the agricultural sector, which is affecting both farmers and fertilisers producers, and is leading to a decline in productivity. As a result, ministers called for further EU measures, including the extension of state aid and the need for a higher ceiling. They additionally welcomed the Commission's announcement that it would publish a communication on fertilisers.

### 2. Trade-related agricultural issues

In light of the Russian war against Ukraine, agriculture ministers had an exchange of views on the impact of the war on the EU's trade in agricultural products and inputs, and its impact on food security.

Moreover, they exchanged views with regards to ongoing trade negotiations with third countries, including Mercosur and Australia. In this respect, they emphasised the need to continue to promote free trade and sustainable agriculture in the EU and globally, as well as to safeguard the competitiveness of the EU's agricultural sector and its producers. Furthermore, they stressed the need for the Commission to investigate the impact of free-trade agreements (FTAs) between third countries on the EU.

### 3. Other business

Ministers were informed about the joint declaration on EU carbon farming initiatives signed by the ministers of agriculture of the Visegrad Group countries, as well as Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Slovenia.

Furthermore, they argued for the need for an EU-wide end to the systematic killing of male chicks, as well as the importance of tackling co-financing constraints of phytosanitary and veterinary programmes.

They also discussed the possibility of using RENURE (recovered nitrogen from manure) products, as an alternative to chemical fertilizers, as well as the issue of organic protein feed from Ukraine.

Next meeting scheduled for 21st & 22nd November 2022 in Brussels.

## 2. EU agricultural markets short-term outlook - Autumn 2022 - Report

The short-term outlook for agricultural markets is published three times per year and is based on the latest data and information from market experts in the European Commission.

The latest report about Autumn 2022 was published by DG AGRI on 5th October. It indicates that EU agricultural production continues to be impacted by the consequences of the unjustified Russian war in Ukraine, by surging energy prices, increasing input costs and food inflation throughout the EU. In addition to geopolitical instability, the EU recorded one of the hottest summers in history, which significantly affected summer crops. Meteorological conditions have also been difficult for livestock producers and animals who suffered from heat stress and less feed. Despite obvious challenging conditions, the EU agricultural sector is standing strong. Food availability is not at risk in the EU.

For what regards meat products, livestock producers are among those being the most impacted by the record energy and input costs. Despite high prices for beef, pig meat and poultry, these difficult conditions limit the production in these three sectors.

In 2022, EU beef production will decrease by 0.6%, EU pigmeat production by 5% and EU poultry production by 0.9%. High prices also weigh down on EU exports of these products, with expected decreases by 1%, 17% and 2.2% in 2022 for beef, pig meat and poultry respectively.

The full report is accessible [here](#).

## 3. EU agri-food trade - Monitoring - Developments in July 2022

both EU agri-food exports and imports slowed down very slightly in value terms in July 2022, according to the latest monthly agri-food trade report published today by the European Commission. While the value of EU exports decreased by 2% compared to June and now stand at €19.2 billion, they still remain significantly higher than last year. EU imports also decreased by 2% in the same period, reaching €14.3 billion in July 2022. The EU trade balance is stable at €4.9 billion.

The latest monthly agri-food trade report also features a special focus on trade flows between the EU and the UK.

Please click [HERE](#) to have access to the 12-page report. More insights as well as detailed tables are available therein.

## 4. Animal Health Update – October 2022

Please click [HERE](#) to have access to the Animal Health Update for the months of October 2022.

## 5. AW – Commission Staff Document of the Fitness Check EU Animal Welfare legislation

The European Commission (DG SANTE) published on 4th October the **Commission Staff Document of the Fitness Check EU Animal Welfare legislation**. Please find the full 310-page document [here](#).

In a nutshell, the document concludes that based on the best available evidence, the existing EU animal welfare legislation continues to be a suitable response to the demands and problems for animal welfare at the time of its adoption. Despite the advancements, the majority of the issues, worries, and motivations it covers are still relevant today. Furthermore, current regulations do not adequately take into account rising societal expectations, ethical concerns, scientific and technical advancements, and upcoming environmental difficulties. As a result, existing and future needs cannot be adequately met by current EU animal welfare legislation.

### Some Key findings:

- The EU legislation has **improved** the **welfare** of many of the animals in the EU for those covered by specific legislation (pigs, calves, laying hens, broilers) but also regarding **transport** and **slaughter**.
- The level of welfare of animals **without targeted legislation** is **sub-optimal** (dairy cows and fish).
- Implementation of rules has had **differences** across the EU, as some provisions are **vague**.
- Differences are more important for farm provisions (in directives, then transposed to national rules) than in the field of **transport** and **slaughter** (on regulations). Rules have not been updated in 10 years.
- Enforcement of the current rules is **insufficient**, in particular for **transport** (long journeys, young and pregnant animals, and exports). Indicators for **monitoring improvements** in animal **welfare** are missing.
- AW legislation has brought **additional benefits** for animals and society, improving productivity per animals, enhancing ecosystems services and **reducing** the use of antibiotics (better public health).
- AW requires **additional costs** for operators, with a poor return. The citizen's expectations are different among MS. Return for operators can be improved by providing better **information to consumers**.
- There is room to increase the Common Agriculture Policy's and EU Trade Policy's influence in support of EU animal welfare goals.
- A transition **to more sustainable food systems** cannot be envisaged without changes in food consumption patterns (this means that a reduction of the consumption of animal products is foreseen).

The Fitness Check's findings will feed the legislative proposals that the Commission is expected to present by the end of 2023.

## 6. Food safety - Revision of EU rules on food contact materials – Public consultation – Deadline 11 January 2023

The EU Commission is reviewing the legislation on food contact materials. For this purpose, has launched a public consultation that can be find [here](#).

EU food safety policy includes rules on food contact materials (e.g. food packaging, kitchen and tableware and food processing equipment).

The initiative aims to modernise the rules, to:

- ensure food safety & a high level of public health protection
- reduce the presence and use of hazardous chemicals
- take account of the latest science & technology
- support innovation & sustainability by promoting safe reusable and recyclable solutions and help reduce the sector's environmental impact.

The consultation will be open until 11 of January 2023.

This is the second and final step of consultation on the revision of the Regulation; the Commission will then present its draft proposal for a revised law in Q2/ 2023.

## 7. Public Consultation - EFSA - Nitrosamines in food - Deadline 15th November

EFSA has launched a public consultation [HERE](#) on the human health risks related to the presence of N-nitrosamines (N-NAs) in food. **Meat and meat products are specifically** pointed out in the document. Stakeholders can contribute to the consultation until 22nd November 2022.

Please find [HERE](#) the link to access the draft opinion explained.

Please note that the conclusions shaped by this draft may have strong implications in the diets recommended by EFSA. Furthermore, this could also contribute to stricter guidelines and **labels** regarding meat consumption. It is very important to have it in mind, as we could miss the opportunity to provide more arguments to our feedback.

## 8. Germany bans exports of breeding animals to a list of third countries from July 2023

The German Ministry of Agriculture issued a communication to stakeholders announcing the ban on live ruminants for breeding exports to a list of third countries from 1st July 2023.

The decision concerns veterinary certificates for the following countries: Egypt (breeding cattle), Algeria (breeding cattle), Iraq (breeding cattle), Iran (breeding cattle), Israel (breeding sheep/goats), Jordan (breeding cattle and breeding sheep/goats), Lebanon (breeding cattle), Libya (breeding cattle), Morocco (breeding cattle), Tunisia (breeding cattle), United Arab Emirates (breeding cattle).

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture (BMEL) alleges animal welfare reasons for this measure, and stresses that several export certificates are available for exporting meat and germinal products.

BMEL had requested operators to provide proof from independent party of suitable points in third countries before renegotiating or updating veterinary certificates. As operators did not meet this requirement, certificates have not been updated or renegotiated since March 2021.

In addition, as stated this is also the reason why no veterinary certificate has been negotiated for fattening or slaughtering animals since 2010.

## 9. European Citizen Initiative: Protect the EU's Rural Heritage, Food Security and Supply. Need your help

We would like to inform you about the Citizens' Initiative "**Protect the EU's Rural Heritage, Food Security and Supply**", which opens for voting this week.

This **European Citizens Initiative** asks the EU to modernise its rural commitments to take into consideration the need for greater **food security, supply of agricultural** materials and protection for the **rural way of life** – its people, their values and livelihoods.

You can find it [HERE](#) on the European Citizens' Initiative website and on their own website [HERE](#).

For the initiative to be considered by the Commission, it needs to collect more than **one million signatures in one year** (deadline: October 2023) which requires a wide circulation. You can find [HERE](#) the link to sign.

If you wish, you can find [HERE](#) the promotional material to use for social networks, feel free to spread it on your social networks.

## 10. Meat data dashboards & Commodity Price Dashboard - latest updates

For your information, please receive below the links to the latest updates on the meat data dashboards made available for:

[BEEF](#)

[PIG MEAT](#)

[SHEEP MEAT](#)

## 11. List of approved EU and third country establishments

Please note that the webgate has changed. It includes both EU and third countries establishments but only modifications for third countries are highlighted here-below.

Please note that **even if a country is listed with establishments, it does not automatically mean that export from these countries is possible**. Many countries are still on the TRACES NT overview, such as Afghanistan or Bahrein, that are not included in the country approval list ([Regulation EU/2021/404](#), amended by [Regulation EU/2022/424 for Mongolia](#)) and RMP list ([Decision EU/2011/163](#)). See also [ENSCA PM 300](#)

To have access to the lists: [Click HERE](#).

New updates were published for:

Country	Section	Establishments	Published on
Brazil	<a href="#">Click here</a>	36	13/10/2022
Pakistan	<a href="#">Click here</a>	39	7/10/2022

## 12. Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

[2022.6038](#)

Meat and meat products (other...

food

Poor hygienic state of pig casings from Morocco

17 OCT 2022

Spain

border rejection notification

undecided

To access to the new RASFF Portal: [Click HERE](#).

You can also consult the RASFF alerts published before 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 [HERE](#).

NB: when searching, casings belong to the category "meat and meat products".