



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 3 October 2016
(OR. en)

12870/16

AGRI 530
AGRIORG 84

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: The need to implement a comprehensive support programme in the pigmeat sector in Poland in connection with the market effects of applying the veterinary restrictions due to African swine fever
- Request from the Polish delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a note from the Polish delegation on the above subject to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 10 October 2016.

The need to implement a comprehensive support programme in the pigmeat sector in Poland in connection with the market effects of applying the veterinary restrictions due to African swine fever

The recent occurrence of new outbreaks of African swine fever in holdings keeping pigs results in a very difficult situation for the producers in the restricted zones, but also in the increasing uncertainty for the entire pigmeat sector in Poland.

As a result of the application of animal health and veterinary measures, trade in piglets and fatteners and their transport is temporarily restricted in these areas. As a result of the introduced restrictions, fatteners grow excessively and develop fat tissue. In addition, the lack of continuity of sales in these holdings generates additional costs of protracted keeping of animals, significant losses in revenue and adversely affects the profitability of production.

In holdings covered by the veterinary restrictions, welfare of pigs in pigsties is at risk. The production process is continued, which due to the impossibility of selling fatteners, entails a risk of the excessive density of animals in livestock buildings.

Losses are also suffered by slaughterhouses and processors having a difficulty in acquiring raw material. Processors buying animals from areas subject to restrictions have to process excessively grown pigs with lower lean meat content and in case of surveillance and protection zones they have to bear the costs of organisation of suitable transport, special slaughter and processing conditions, disposal of some of the products under required conditions as well as they are forced to subject meat to heat treatment. Meat from certain areas cannot be sold outside of the area, outside of Poland or outside of the European Union which causes decrease in profitability of sales and makes sales of some products impossible due to lack of demand on proper market.

Poland takes measures aimed at preventing the spread of ASF virus into the remaining part of Poland and the European Union, which is not easy, inter alia, due to the proximity of Belarus and Ukraine, where ASF is widely spread.

Bearing the above in mind, Poland requests to use all possible forms of support from European Union budget, including support from market, from rural development and from veterinary resources , in order to limit the effects of the situation and to prevent its further deterioration.

Poland has prepared a comprehensive support programme in the pigmeat sector, taking into account, inter alia, the element of exceptional measures of market support and compensation for not keeping pigs in holdings with the low level of biosecurity and expects support on the part of the European Commission and of other Member States in a difficult situation in which the Polish pigmeat sector found itself. The objective of all efforts and measures taken by Poland is to inhibit the spread of the African swine fever within the European Union.

Without comprehensive support with the participation of European Union budget Poland is not able to cope with the problems which concern the whole European Union.
