



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: The market situation for pig meat in light of the Russian import restrictions

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Delegations will find in Annex a document submitted by the Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, France, Hungary, Poland and Romania delegations, and supported by Estonia and Austria delegations, to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 15-16 December 2014.

Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, France, Hungary, Poland and Romania supported by Estonia and Austria would like to draw attention to the fact that the European export of pig meat since February 2014 has been severely restricted as the biggest import market, the Russian Federation, closed down purportedly because of concerns related to isolated cases of African Swine Fever. Even though this caused immediate concerns the European market for pig meat remained stable in the short run, partly because of an expectation of a temporary closure of the Russian and partly due to the absence of other international players. Since August 2014 the situation has however worsened following the wider Russian import restrictions on agricultural products from the European Union and other countries.

3,3 % of the EU pig meat production was exported to the Russian Federation, and during the last months prices on the pig meat market have fallen significantly and are now well below the prices of last year as well as the 5-year average. Thus, the situation has reached a critical stage and must be addressed. The Commission has swiftly taken market measures in the fruit and vegetables sector and in the dairy sector following the Russian import restrictions. Previously 1,4 % of the EU dairy production was exported to the Russian Federation.

Opening of alternative markets is the only long term solution to this problem. The Commission services are now working closely together with experts from both Member States and industry to open up markets and solve technical trade barriers to gain full benefit of existing trade arrangements and exploring new markets. Even though the Member States recognise the big effort made by the Commission in this context, this effort cannot help the European market for pig meat in the short run.

In conclusion Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, France, Hungary, Poland and Romania supported by Estonia and Austria would request the Commission to continue to monitor the market situation closely across all agricultural sectors in Europe including pig meat and to introduce a temporary support scheme for private storage to ease the market situation for pig meat in Europe until alternative market outlets can be found.