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European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Follow up of sanitary embargo by Russian Federation on pork products -Request from the Belgian delegation

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Delegations will find attached an information note received from the Belgian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 16 November 2015.

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**Follow up of sanitary embargo by Russian Federation on pork products**

The pig sector in Europe is facing a major crisis and no immediate improvement of the situation is expected. During the Extraordinary September Council, several member states urged the Commission to get in contact with the Russian Federation in order to get a view on the possible export of certain pork products not falling under the political embargo but just under the sanitary embargo. The conclusions of the extraordinary Council of begin September were clear and a follow-up on this is needed to foresee a solution in short term.

The lack of a technical agreement on the review of the sanitary certificate led to the stop of nearly all the exports of EU pork and pork products to the Russian Federation. The list of the products concerned by this sanitary embargo encompasses live pigs, fresh/chilled/frozen pork, fat, lard, offal and products excepting the heat-treated products to at least 72°C for 30 minutes. Several products were not and are still not in the scope of the political embargo: live pigs, pork fat, lard and offal. The current value of the fat/lard is at average 0.40€/kg in the EU, while it amounts to 1.50€/kg in the Russian Federation. It is assumed that, without the sanitary embargo, EU pork fat/lard exports to the Russian Federation would have performed as well as in the previous years, i.e. 350.000 t/year, taking into consideration the needs for these products in this country. The loss due to the sanitary embargo for the EU pork industry can therefore be estimated to 385 million euro in 2015. A resumption of EU exports to the Russian Federation would translate into an increase of the price in the pig sector ranging between 0.05€/kg and 0.1€/kg live weight, benefitting to all pig farmers in the UE, whether or not they have access to the Russian market.

Belgium would like to ask the Commission which steps were taken since 7 September to find a solution to this situation. We acknowledge the huge efforts made to open new markets for the European pork products. Nevertheless, as demonstrated above, the resumption of the export for these products to the Russian Federation remains a key parameter for the sector. Being committed to the whole European pig sector, we'll support any action which can lead to the opening of the market without weakening our international positions and would urge the Commission to explore all possible options to achieve this goal.