



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 7/5/2006

GAIN Report Number: NL6019

Netherlands

Poultry and Products

Dutch Product Boards ask EC to ban Brazilian meat imports

2006

Approved by:

Roger Wentzel
U.S. Embassy, The Hague

Prepared by:

Bob Flach

Report Highlights: The Dutch Product Boards for Livestock, Meat and Eggs are urging the EC to stop all meat and egg imports from Brazil. Their opinion is based on a report of the European Food and Veterinary Office, which concludes that the Brazilian control system of residues cannot offer the necessary food safety guarantees. The PVE regards the matter as serious as Brazil can resume salted poultry meat exports to the EU under a reduced tariff rate as from June 27, 2006.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[NL]

In an official press release of June 30 and an official letter dated July 4, the Dutch Product Boards for Livestock, Meat and Eggs (PVE) demanded the European Commission (EC) to ban meat and egg imports from Brazil. The European farmers organization COPA will reportedly send a letter with similar content to the EC. Their opinion is based on a report of the European Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). The report (DG SANCO/7712/2005) describes the outcome of a mission carried out by the FVO in Brazil, from November 23 to December 1, 2005. The mission's attention was focused on the implementation of corrective actions and guarantees given by the Brazilian authorities in response to the recommendations made in the 2003 FVO mission report (DG SANCO/9047/2003). In the Executive Summary of the FVO report the following conclusions are stated:

- "The report concludes that most of the deficiencies found in 2003 have still not been rectified and many of the promised actions did not in fact happen. Consequently the present system of residues and veterinary medicine control is not adequate and can not be judged to offer guarantees equivalent to those provided for in Community legislation."

- "The export of honey to the EU in the absence of any testing, the export of eggs in the absence of any Commission approval of a residue control plan for this commodity, and the finding (outside the scope of the mission), that pig meat has been continuously exported to the EU throughout 2005 in contravention of Community animal health requirements, undermine confidence in the ability of the Central Competent Authorities (CCA) to guarantee that exported food of animal origin complies with Community requirements."

In the Executive Summary, the absence of control on exports of honey, eggs and pork are specifically mentioned as examples undermining the confidence of the FVO in the capabilities of the Brazilian CCA. The PVE are, however, most concerned about the food safety of Brazilian poultry meat. Their concern is not only based on the argument of unfair competition but also on the assumption that negative publicity about the safety of imported products could also harm the image of domestically produced poultry meat.

In their press release, the PVE argue that the matter is even more critical as the WTO obliged the European Union to lower import tariffs for salted poultry meat imports. As from June 27, 2006, Brazil can reportedly resume salted poultry exports under the HS code 02109939 with an Ad Valorem tariff rate of 15.4 percent of the Cost and Freight value, effectively about EURO 300 - 350 per MT. Before June 27, 2006, salted poultry meat imports were imported under the HS code 02071410 with a minimum tariff of EURO 1,024 per MT. The PVE estimate Brazilian exports of poultry meat to the EU at about 383,000 MT in 2005. With the lower tariff rate, the PVE expect that imports will increase further and completely fill demand for processed poultry meat, leaving only the market for fresh poultry meat for domestic farmers. According the PVE, the EC and Brazil are negotiating an import quota in order to control the anticipated flow of poultry meat imports.

The reports of the FVO can be downloaded from:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm