



Brussels, 27th July 2011
UECBV Ref: 1.246

AEMB – Board – Meeting of 13 July 2011 – Minutes

The AEMB Board met in Brussels on 13th July 2011 under the chairmanship of Mr. Kingma.

PARTICIPANTS

AEMB: Mr. De Haan, Mr. Dodds, Mr. R. Doyle, Mr. Focant, Mr. Jouant, Mr. Kingma, Mr. Proust, Mr. Spellman, Mr. Tenèze, Mr. Wright

Excused: Mr. Diaz Alvarez, Mr. Rousseau

Secretariat: Mr. Mériaux, Mr. Noga

ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Approval of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the minutes of the [meeting held on 29th April 2011](#)
3. Market price reporting:
 - 3.1. Presentation by the French Federation;
 - 3.2. Exchange of views on the market price reporting systems and their publication in force in the other Member States.
4. Animal welfare during transport:
 - 4.1. Presentation on the impact study of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005;
 - 4.2. Exchange of views on the impact, on animal transport, of the German and Dutch interpretative measures concerning the space above the animal's head;
 - 4.3. Status report about a good practice guide for transport of slaughter cattle (assessment of fitness for transport).
5. Information on the consultation of national experts and economic operators on the future of EU beef production.
6. Information on the AGM 2012 draft programme. Setting of the conference theme.
7. Confirmation of the next meeting date (28th November 2011 in Eineth, Ireland. Topic: Waste water treatment).
8. AOB.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved after a point is added under A.O.B.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the [meeting held on 29th April 2011](#)

The minutes are adopted. The adoption is preceded by two questions of the Dutch delegation:

- What is the procedure fixing the annual membership fee?
Answer (after checking the articles of association):
 - The General Assembly fixes a flat rate by delegate. For 2011, the flat rate is fixed at 863 euro.
 - Each country has the right to one delegate by 500,000 animals marketed on its markets (article XI of the articles of association).
- Is the number of delegates limited?
Answer: the articles of association provide for a minimum number (one delegate per country) and a maximum number (six delegates per country) [article XI, 3rd paragraph].
Consequently, for 2011:
 - the minimum membership fee is of 863 euro;
 - the maximum membership fee is of 5,177 euro.

The Board decides to put down the procedure for establishing the annual AEMB membership fee on the agenda of the meeting of 28th November 2011.

3. Market price reporting

3.1. Presentation by the French federation

The French delegation explains that, for budget-related reasons, the French authorities decided to review the market price reporting and dissemination system in the cattle and sheep sectors.

Before the review, the system was based on two networks: the companies' network and the livestock markets' network.

The draft reviewed system excluded the livestock markets' network, despite the reliability and the usefulness of the information it offered the sector.

Several actions, coordinated by the inter-branch organisation, obtained an amendment of the draft.

Consequently, the revised system, which will be in force this autumn, will be based on the same two networks, but reformed:

- the companies' network will be subject to state control, just like the second network;
- the markets' network will simplify and update its quotation sheets and will reorganize the price collection, in order to improve credibility.

3.2. Exchange of views on the market price reporting systems and their publication in force in the other Member States

In the other Member States, the livestock markets participate in the publication and the dissemination of market prices.

In the case of over-the-counter markets (Belgium, Netherlands), a quotation commission collects the data which is then published. This data is the reference for stock farmers upon the sale of their animals, irrespective of the marketing system.

In the case of auction markets, all prices are sent to the competent authorities by means of a computer, who then publish them (United Kingdom), or are available right after the sale and disseminated weekly (Ireland). They are the reference for stock farmers.

4. Animal welfare during transport

4.1. Presentation on the impact study of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

The UECBV secretariat starts by giving a [presentation](#) on this issue and says that the results of this study together with the EFSA scientific opinion ([link](#)) will be used by the EU Commission services in the Commission report to the European Parliament and to the Council. The report will concern the impact of Regulation (EC) no. 1/2005 on the welfare of animals being transported and on the trade flows of live animals within the enlarged Community and will be published in September 2011. The UECBV representative continues by underlining the main conclusions and recommendations of the study:

- The implementation and infringement penalties within the EU should be harmonized and communication between Member States should be improved.
- Good practice guides should be encouraged, especially if initiated by operators in the live animal production and transport system. Compliance is likely to be greater if the initiative comes from the organizations themselves.

The UECBV secretariat representative concludes by saying that in the light of the future report and the foreseen discussions and inputs from the European Parliament, Member States and stakeholders, the Commission will consider which actions are appropriate to address any identified problems.

4.2. Exchange of views on the impact, on animal transport, of the German and Dutch interpretative measures concerning the space above the animal's head

The UECBV representative introduces this point by giving a short [presentation](#). He underlines the fact that the Dutch authorities intend to use the requirement of ceiling height of minimum 25cm above the head for the transport of cattle older than a year destined for slaughter, irrespective of the destination: territory of the Netherlands or another Member State. On the other hand, Germany will enforce similar requirements only for transport beginning and ending on its territory.

The chairman says that the discussions on the requirements for other species/other types of transport (e.g. animals destined for fattening) didn't yet start in the Netherlands but this is only a question of time.

The participants exchange views on different types of double deck trucks operating in their countries which will be allowed/ forbidden for the transport of animals. All the participants agree that the impact of such requirements significantly increases transport costs.

The UECBV representative mentions that the Danish operators took the Danish government to the EU Court of Justice because of the Danish national standards regarding space allowances. The discussions in the EU Court of Justice are scheduled for September 2011 and the decision is expected during the first quarter of 2012.

4.3. Status report about a good practice guide for transport of slaughter cattle (assessment of fitness for transport)

The UECBV secretariat representative gives a short [presentation](#) of the guidelines. He says that the next step is the presentation of the guidelines at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, Animal Health and Welfare Section (September 2011).

The Irish representative says that he is against such a guide because of the pictures which can be used against the farmers and the transport operators. He concludes by saying that the Animal Welfare NGOs are using every possible way in order to stop the transport business and that they are using the industry in order to reach their goals.

The UECBV representative says that the pictures in the guide were changed several times in order to find the most moderate situations prohibiting the transport of the animals. He says that the pictures are essential in order for the transport operators to understand and use the guide. He continues by saying that these pictures are available on the internet and that Animal Welfare NGOs don't need the guidelines in order to campaign against transport.

There is a lot of pressure from the public and from the European Parliament on the transport issue. The industry and the transport sector need to show the work done in order to improve the welfare of transported animals. He concludes by saying that it is much better to collaborate today with the moderate Animal Welfare NGOs than fight with the extreme ones tomorrow.

The French representative says that in France a similar guideline didn't have an impact on the sector (it was disseminated only for transport operators).

5. Information on the consultation of national experts and economic operators on the future of EU beef production

The UECBV secretary general:

- describes the beef market situation and outlook. The main characteristics are:
 - relatively high prices;
 - production costs diminishing the farmers' margin;
 - surplus external trade thanks to dynamic exports.
- analyses the crisis affecting the European beef sector, mainly caused by the high production costs and the drop in competitiveness;
- informs the Board of the main conclusions of the reflection group convened by the EU Commission services upon request of the commissioner, who will draw up a report and will present it at the meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers on 19th July 2011.

Several questions are asked concerning the competition from other meats, the next Commission legislative proposals regarding the CAP reform and the agricultural budget.

6. Information on the AGM 2012 draft programme. Setting of the conference theme.

The British delegation confirms the dates of 17, 18 and 19 May, as well as the venue: Cumbria, Lake District (closest airport: Manchester). They regret that the dates do not suit the French federation. The choice of dates was motivated by the constraints of the British agenda and by the hotel availabilities.

The British delegation describes the provisional programme:

- 17 May:
 - arrival;
 - possibly a visit to a livestock market (7.00/15.00) function of the number of participants registered;
- 18 May:
 - visit of a market and of stock farms;
- 19 May:
 - morning: visit of a market;
 - afternoon: Board meeting / General Assembly;
 - evening: gala dinner.

The Board will subsequently determine the main theme of the General Assembly.

In the meantime, the members suggest themes in view of the final selection:

- measures against climate change and their impact on stock farming;
- the electronic identification of cattle;
- the CAP reform and the evolution of the premium regime;
- disease control and eradication – impact on the activity of livestock markets;
- the marketing of food products by the markets: advantages, challenges (forum of different market structures: livestock markets, wholesale food markets, fish auction markets, fruit and vegetable markets, auction flower markets, etc.). The objective is to bring markets together in view of an exchange of experience and to build their future.

7. Confirmation of the next meeting date (28th November 2011 in Eineth, Ireland. Topic: Waste water treatment)

The Board confirms:

- the date and venue of the next meeting (28 November 2011 in Eineth, Ireland – Shanon airport);
- the main theme of the meeting, namely waste water treatment by the livestock markets.

In this respect, after the favorable opinion of the Irish delegation, the Board approves the suggestion of the British delegation to invite, on the one hand, a supplier of waste water treatment equipment and, on the other hand, the director of a British market having installed this equipment. The Irish delegation will also invite some market directors and equipment suppliers.

The Board also approves putting down the following issues on the agenda:

- the prevalence and control of the bovine disease "PSOROPTES" in the different Member States;
- the electronic identification of cattle (proposal of the EU Commission);
- Community decision-making;
- the finalization of the programme of the General Assembly;
- the procedure for establishing the annual membership fee.

8. A.O.B.

The British delegation asks the secretariat about the advisory groups and AEMB participation.

As an answer, the secretariat explains that:

- agricultural advisory groups are either horizontal and structured by theme (CAP, rural development, promotion, quality), or sectorial and structured by products (beef, sheep meat, pig meat, fruit and vegetables, dairy, etc.);
- the veterinary legislation advisory group is horizontal and composed either of sections (animal health, biological security) or of thematic working groups (animal welfare during transport).

The UECBV participates in the advisory group meetings either directly or indirectly, through a European sector organisation of which the UECBV is a member and to which it pays a membership fee (CELCAA – European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade).

The AEMB Board would like the AEMB to participate in the advisory group meetings each time its interests are concerned. The example of the electronic identification of cattle is mentioned.

The agenda being exhausted, the chairman thanks the members and closes the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 28th November 2011.