

Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
UECBV Ref: 5015 - DRAFT

## **RE: Labelling – Meeting in DG AGRI – Mandatory indication of the origin – Regulation (EU) No 1337/2013 – Implementation – Guidelines**

**Background:** On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014, a restricted UECBV delegation met the competent DG AGRI services in order to have an exchange of views with regard to the EU work with Member State (MS) experts to finalise the specific guidelines on implementation related to [Regulation \(EU\) No 1337/2013](#) laying down rules for the application of [Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry. This regulation mandates labelling the place of rearing and slaughter, but not the place of birth, contrarily to the existing EU labelling for beef, which also includes place of birth. The EU Commission (COM) plans to publish its guidelines in the summer of 2014. The UECBV consultation allowed the meat industry representatives to have a direct exchange with the COM services and delivered some clarifications; a summary of them is reported below under bullet point format.

- **Scope of the guidelines**

The draft guidelines will be to guide the MS through the traceability system to be set up for live animals. They will focus on neither meat, nor meat as an ingredient.

The goal is to find simple solutions for MS to verify compliance of the points set out in the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1337/2013](#) with regard to live animals.

- **Check of information on countries, weights and ages**

The Regulation provides that farmers will certify names of countries (of birth or rearing), age at slaughter (6 months and 4 months for pigs and 6 months for sheep and goats), sharp weight pigs (30 kg rearing, 80 kg to slaughter).

*For pigs, there is no individual identification system allowing receiving a birthdate. Consequently, action should be taken without that information.*

Therefore, the COM foresees (for verification):

- ❖ A correlation table between age and live weight, based on averages.
- ❖ Respect of average weights for pork batches and not for each pig. All MS should develop tools for verification with farmers (via records, invoices ...)

- ❖ The compliance checks will be conducted at farming level. Example: on invoices, piglets may be described via average weight.

- **Support information sent to slaughterhouses**

For country of birth, ear tags set the country code to enable verification of the country of birth. However, for pigs, this rule is a result of a directive; the homogeneity of transcription of the Directive in national laws should be verified.

The COM intends to use the obligations of food chain information (FCI) in order to allow verification of the country of rearing information. Nevertheless, the real existence of the FCI for sheep and goats should be verified.

- **In case of animals without information**

If animals arrive at the slaughterhouse without information about the rearing country, the animals cannot enter the food chain (Destruction!). MS should adopt regulatory bases for this purpose.

[Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#) applies to all operators located on European territory. Therefore, no questioning on being exempted from the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1337/2013](#) neither in case of sale between traders on European soil, nor in case of animals and meat destined to third countries.

- **Case of consumer packages of fresh meats of different species or different origins**

Article 5.3 (labelling of a list of countries) applies only to the manufacturer of a batch of packages provided to the final consumer, not at an earlier step.

### **USEFUL LINKS**

- ✓ *The European Commission's Health and Consumer Directorate General set up a working group who have prepared [QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS](#) on the application of the Regulation (EU) N° 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers. This was published to help facilitate food business operators and enforcement officials to understand and apply the requirements of the food information Regulation.*
- ✓ [Food labelling – EU rules](#)