



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 February 2011**

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**AGRI 135  
VETER 7**

**NOTE**

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from: Polish delegation  
to: Council

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Subject: Request to allow the use of processed animal protein in feeding of poultry and pigs

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Delegations will find attached an information note submitted by the Polish delegation to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 21 February 2011.

**Request for accelerating technical and legislative works on allowing for cross feeding of processed animal protein to poultry and pigs.**

The current ban on the use of processed animal protein in feeds (feed ban) concerns all farmed animals. The TSE Roadmap 2, chapter on Feed Ban, provided the European Commission with guidelines on i.a. amending the provisions allowing to lift the feed ban for non-ruminants (pigs, poultry, fish) while avoiding intra-species feeding (cannibalism).

Poland requests to accelerate technical and legislative works in this regard.

**Justifications of the need to allow for cross feeding of processed animal protein to animals, except for ruminants.**

One of the strategic goals of the European Commission presented in the TSE Roadmap 2 is the revision of the current total feed ban when certain conditions are met.

The EU Council approved the priorities of the TSE Roadmap 2 during the Belgian presidency.

In line with the European Union legislation, on 1 November 2003 Poland introduced a total ban on using meat and bone meal (MBM) in feeds for farmed animals (except for carnivorous fur animals). Earlier, i.e. from 1999, the ban applied to cattle. Currently, most of MBM is used after mixing with lime as so-called soil improvers and organic fertilisers. Unused surpluses of MBM are incinerated.

Spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is a disease of ruminants. So far no cases of spongiform encephalopathy have been reported in poultry and pigs. Positive results in eradicating BSE have been obtained mainly due to elimination of pathogenic prions from the feed chain of animals (farmed for food production), also as a result of the ban on using animal protein in feeds. Mass tests for BSE were used to evaluate in detail the epidemiological situation.

All Member States recorded a significant decrease in reported cases of BSE in cattle. The constant trend in this regard justifies the revision of restrictions on using MPM in feeding of animals.

The possibility of feeding meals of animal origin to poultry and pigs would contribute significantly to the improvement of competitiveness of the EU poultry and pig production compared to third countries, mainly due to:

- reduced demand for plant protein, soya in particular, by approximately 30-35%;
- decreased use of non-organic phosphates as a source of phosphorus and of synthetic amino acids in feeds for animals;
- reduced costs of feed production and thus costs of meat and eggs production;
- reduced outlays for rendering slaughter waste.

The above factors are of economic importance and can contribute to the improvement of competitiveness of the feed industry and production of slaughter animals in the European Union. Allowing to feed meal of animal origin to animals would allow to reduce imports of soya bean meal, which (according to the studies of the National Research Institute of Animal Production and the National Veterinary Research Institute) is genetically modified soya bean in over 95% of cases. The European Union imports around 34 million tonnes of full fat soya and soya bean meal annually, of which Poland imports around 2 million tonnes.

The ban on the feeding of MBM to animals has increased the dependence of the EU market on imports of high-protein plant products and deteriorated the competitiveness of animal production, compared to countries where such bans do not exist. As a result, the price of soya bean meal almost doubled, economic effects of production of compound feedingstuffs deteriorated and prices of products of animal origin and food increased. Due to the ban, the European Union's self-sufficiency in feed protein dropped below 30%, which causes the import of cheaper meat, mainly poultry, to the EU from regions and countries without any ban on using meal of animal origin. At the stage of the final product, i.e. meat and eggs, it is impossible to determine whether MBM was used for feeding and there are no laboratory methods to do so. In this context, the possibility to use MBM in feeds for poultry and pigs is necessary, since it will partly mitigate adverse effects of the negative balance in feed protein in the EU including Poland.

The reintroduction of the possibility of cross feeding MBM to poultry and pigs will be the most rational method of animal by-products without a significant adverse impact on the environment. For example, Poland produces around 800 000 - 1 000 000 tonnes of animal by-products annually, out of which 60% could be used for feeding, which would amount to 500 000-600 000 tonnes of animal by-products corresponding to 200 000-300 000 tonnes of feed protein.

The introduction of the legal possibility of cross feeding of meat and bone meal will result in necessary enhancement of supervision over feedingstuffs and appropriate inspections at plants producing processed animal proteins and compound feedingstuffs, as well as over species identification of animal protein in ready-made compound feedingstuffs. The Commission ensured that the research method allowing to determine the species origin of protein in MBM would be presented to the Member States by the end of 2010.

Summing up, the reintroduction of the possibility of cross feeding meat and bone meal to poultry and pigs is justified and will bring about beneficial effects for animal production in the EU countries, in particular in view of a considerable deficit of feed protein and high prices of feeds which are still growing. The possibility to feed MBM to animals will increase the competitiveness of the EU feed market and contribute to the growth of profitability of animal production. This is of utmost importance in view of the lack of possibility to ban imports of products from animals fed on feed containing meat and bone meal, from outside the European Union.

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