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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 23 February 2026: Difficulties that the EU pig sector is facing - the need for an exceptional aid - <i>Information from Romania, supported by Hungary, Poland and Slovakia</i>

As also revealed by data published by the European Commission, regarding the evolution of carcass prices in the European Union, starting with October 2025, a continuous process of decline is observed, which has determined the increase in pressure on pig farmers and the economic viability of their activity.

Thus, in December 2025, compared to December 2024, the price of S carcasses recorded a decrease of 19.90% at the EU level (-18.60% in Romania), and prices of E carcasses recorded a decrease of 16.80% at the EU level (-17.70% in RO).

This trend continues to intensify in the first weeks of 2026, reflected in the dramatic decrease in the price of live pigs.

For instance, in Romania, the price in week 4 (January 19-25, 2026) decreased by 9.55% compared to the previous week, -19.17% compared to the price recorded 4 weeks ago, -21.02% compared to the similar period last year and - 21.02% compared to the average price in 5 similar years.

The fact that the pig farming sector is in a difficult situation which, and cannot find a solution in the following period in the absence of support measures, is also highlighted by the increase in carcass weight (in Romania +5.0% compared to the weight recorded 4 weeks ago), due to a sharp decrease in market demand and the accumulation of animal stocks on farms. It is clear that without intervention the market will not recover, and even the price will continue the downward trend in the coming weeks.

The extremely difficult situation faced by the entire European pork sector is the result of the duties imposed by China on imports of pork from the EU for the next 5 full years, and also as a result of the export restrictions imposed by third countries due to African Swine Fever affecting European Union and the non-recognition of the regionalization by those importing third countries.

In this difficult market context, pig breeding sector is risking the bankruptcy due to the high production costs and price drops (for instance in Romania the loss is ranging between 35 - 40 euros for each pig slaughtered).

Therefore, given the difficulties the pig farming sector is facing at European level, we request the COM to analyze the possibility of granting support in the form of exceptional aid, in accordance with the provisions of art. 219 "Measures against market disturbance" of Regulation 1308/2013 establishing a Common market organization in agricultural products.