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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Report from the European Pigmear Reflection Group
- Information from the Commission

With a view to the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 20 March 2023, delegations will find in the Annex a background document on the above subject.

At the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 21 February 2022, the Commissioner for Agriculture announced the creation of a European Pigmear Reflection Group to look into the future of the sector. The main aim was to have an in-depth insight into all aspects of the sector with a particular view to its sustainability.

The EU pigmeat sector had been facing serious economic difficulties due to a combination of several factors:

- sanitary restrictions impacting out of home consumption in the context of COVID-19;
- slowdown of exports to China;
- further spread of African swine fever (ASF) to more EU Member States;
- increase in input costs;
- delayed adjustment in supply.

Subsequently, the Russian attack on Ukraine added to the difficulties of the sector due notably to even higher feed and energy prices and the impact on consumer demand. The way forward required in-depth reflection, as these difficulties went beyond the seasonal fluctuations of the pigmeat production cycle.

The reflection group concluded its work on 18 January 2023 with an online meeting in the presence of Commissioner Wojciechowski, which discussed the group's final report and recommendations and handed the report over to the Commissioner.

The final version of the report with recommendations from the European Pigmear Reflection Group is available from: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/report-european-pig-refelection-group_en.pdf