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Fredericia 2/3/2015

In order to improve animal welfare, the sector of German pig production has launched the programme "Initiative Tierwohl". In this programme, the food retailing sector pays 4 cents per kilogram of pork sold into a fund. Out of this fund pig farmers will receive financial compensation for certain animal protection measures. For example, slaughter pig producers will get 2.80 € per animal if they provide their animals with 10% more space as required by law.

You will find details of the "Initiative Tierwohl" on <http://initiative-tierwohl.de/>.

This programme was launched in January this year. Farmers who wish to participate in the programme may register at so-called "Bündler" in the starting period of the programme lasting four weeks in April. Since the financial resources of the fund are likely to be insufficient for all applicants, pig farmers will be considered in the order in which they can implement the chosen criteria. For example, those who can implement the chosen criteria already in May are likely to be accepted by the programme, while those who will meet the criteria in December, will probably get nothing. Other participants can be added to the programme after the starting period, provided the fund's resources are not exhausted.


With reference to the "Terms of Participation" from the homepage of the "Initiative Tierwohl", foreign producers should be excluded in the starting period of the programme. We believe that this is a clear discrimination against foreign producers, and we want to protest against this discrimination.

In Germany approx. 50 million pigs are slaughtered each year, of which approx. 6 million are imported as piglets from Denmark. From the Netherlands, approx. 4 million piglets and approx. 4.4 million slaughter pigs are imported to Germany each year. The "Initiative Tierwohl" expects the volume of the fund to reach around 64 million euros; the animal welfare bonus is at least 3 euro, but no more than 9 euro per animal.

According to current estimates, the funds will therefore already be used by the applications in the starting period, so that foreign farmers, when they are finally allowed to register, will be too late to participate in the programme. We already pointed out this discriminating intention of the "Initiative Tierwohl" to the German antitrust agency (see attachments), however, the agency sees no basis to take any legal action already now, even though they themselves have pointed out to the organization that they cannot exclude foreign market participants in the long run.

For this reason, we would ask you to consider the facts of this case and to ensure non-discriminatory access for foreign pig producers to the German programme "Initiative Tierwohl".

On behalf of the Association of Danish Pig Producers and the Dutch Association of Pig Farmers



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Chairman  
Dutch Association of Pig Farmers  
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*PS: Attached is the mail correspondence with the German Kartellamt.*