

Beat: Business

European producers welcomes the re-opening of the Canadian market for beef

Closed since 1996

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USPA NEWS - Canada re-opened his market for imports of European beef from 19 EU Member States. Closed since 1996, European producers welcomes this decision. "This move forms part of a growing trend to recognise the measures put in place by the EU to eradicate BSE," said Commissioner Andriukaitis.

The Canadian market has been closed to any EU beef, including deboned beef, since 1996, when Canada introduced import restrictions on meat of ruminants on the basis of BSE concerns. The 19 Member States that have now been authorised to resume exports are the same that had access to the Canadian market before the BSE ban came into force: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The work preceding this reopening has been conducted in the context of the Veterinary Agreement that the EU and Canada have had in place since 1998. Canada's assessment of the EU meat inspection system included an audit of four EU Member States. The recognition of the single entity by a significant trading partner is an important boost for trade negotiations with other countries outside the EU. The Commission is seeking that a similar approach be adopted by other trading partners.

The EU single market has delivered a high level of food safety for consumers both in the EU and abroad, based on international standards and solid science. "The agriculture and food sectors must be able to capitalise on this achievement," said Tuesday the European Commission. "This market opening also sends an important signal to the EU's trading partners worldwide that EU beef is safe, and that imports of EU beef should be swiftly resumed," added.

In this sense, Commissioner Andriukaitis, Trade Commissioner Malmström and Agriculture Commissioner Hogan said: "We welcome the decision by the Canadian Government to re-open Canada's market for imports of European beef from 19 EU Member States. It will provide a welcome boost to Europe's beef producers and exporters, particularly as it comes at a time when farmers across the EU are going through a particularly difficult period."

"By re-authorising 19 Member States at once, Canada recognises that the EU functions as a single entity with uniform and harmonised rules and standards, where enforcement is overseen by the European Commission. This is an important development and will further improve the trade relations with Canada on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues," they said.

And added: "Work is ongoing between the Commission - in close cooperation with the EU Member States - and the Canadian authorities to re-establish meat trade from the EU Member States that do not have access to the Canadian market yet. This move also forms part of a growing trend to recognise the robust, comprehensive and successful measures put in place by the EU to eradicate BSE. We call on our few remaining international trading partners who still maintain restrictive measures, to fully adopt recognised international standards."

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