NOTE
from : Belgian delegation
to : Council
Subject : Situation on the pigmeat market

Delegations will find attached a note submitted by the Belgian delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 23 March 2009.
Since the last meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, on 19 January 2009, the situation on the pigmeat market has further deteriorated. The positive developments which the Commission was still anticipating in January – higher prices and better margins – have not materialised. The export trade continues to struggle with unfavourable foreign exchange rates and a drop in purchasing power as a result of the economic crisis.

The sector is therefore still in great difficulties, with no mention as yet of any compensation for the losses incurred last year.

See the following graph of prices for Belgian pig carcasses in 2006-2009:

Piglet prices, on the other hand, have reached their highest level for 4 years. This, too, badly affects the profit margins of producers of slaughter pigs.
Belgium is therefore making an urgent appeal to the Commission to implement the market support measures provided for in the CMO for pigmeat, i.e. aid for private storage and temporary reintroduction of export refunds for fresh and frozen pigmeat. This time, unlike on previous occasions, the type of cuts sought after or Far East markets (Japan, Korea, etc) should also be taken into account.