



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
One Health
Bilateral International Relations

Brussels
SANTE.A.5/CFC/mh(2025)6834286

Subject: Introduction of bone-in meat from FMD free areas with vaccination to FMD free areas without vaccination (Patagonia South and Patagonia North B)

Dear Mr Funes,

Thank you for your letter CEE n°47/2025 and for the transparency in sharing the information concerning the recent update of Argentina's legislation.

We take note of this update and would like to recall the European Commission's position as outlined in our reply to Argentina in 2013 (Ares(2013)2579618). The Commission maintains its views as expressed in that letter. As stated therein, "As long as Argentina is in a position to fully guarantee the specific animal health conditions for imports into the EU of the meat produced in Patagonia, notably through uninterrupted traceability of the meat eligible for export to the EU and a robust segregation between meat of different health status according to EU legislation, there are no grounds for EU objections."

However, we wish to highlight that a recent EU audit carried out in Argentina to assess the effectiveness of official controls in providing animal health guarantees with regard to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) for the export of ruminant meat to the EU noted that:

"The Colorado and Barrancas rivers provide natural barriers between the zones with and without FMD vaccination. Movement control points are erected to control the routes between both areas with the main purpose being phytosanitary and zoosanitary checks. No FMD-susceptible live animal originating from the zone with vaccination is allowed to enter the zone without vaccination, without exception. This restriction also includes certain products of animal origin (bone-in beef)."

In this context, we consider that Argentina's intention to update its legislation may represent a significant change with respect to the situation that led to the referred findings of this recent audit. Therefore, the European Commission may consider the possibility of conducting a follow-up audit in due course, in order to verify the continuity and

Mr Gastón Funes
Agricultural Adviser (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries)
Embassy of Argentina to the EU
Avenue Louise 283, 3^o, bte. 6
1050 Bruselas
Belgium

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË – Tel. +32 22991111
Office: B232 02/081 – Tel. direct line +32 229-65982

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effectiveness of Argentina's animal health guarantees—particularly regarding the traceability and robust segregation of relevant products of animal origin.

Finally, we would also like to remind that EU animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin are established in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law), Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

We thank you once again for your communication and remain available for further discussion as needed.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Caroline Boeshertz
Head of Unit

c.c.: F. Reviriego Gordejo, Z. Ilevicius, B. Logar, A. Ramirez Vela,
A. Pagazaurtundua Beti, C. Fernandez Castro (DG SANTE)



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Daniel Alejandro Caria
Director Nacional
Dirección Nacional de Sanidad Animal
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria