



## Indonesia re-opens market to Irish beef following BSE ban

Since 2001, Indonesia has applied an import ban on beef of European origin, citing a risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Since the introduction of the ban, the European Commission services, the EC delegation and the EU Member States have consistently raised the issue with Indonesia in all available fora, notably at the WTO SPS Committee in formal sessions, and in every bilateral meeting, at technical and political level. In addition, a special seminar on consumer food safety was held in Jakarta in March 2009, where experts presented the EU system of preventing animal diseases, with a focus on BSE. On these occasions, the European Commission requested Indonesia to align with international standards or to provide a risk assessment based on scientific evidence in view of Indonesia's deviation from international standards.

As a result Indonesia revised its import conditions in several steps through legislation issued in 2006, 2007 and 2009. Although the legislation is still not fully in line with OIE international guidelines, it no longer contains a complete ban related to BSE. In addition, Indonesia now requires both country and establishment approval (through both a paper (questionnaire) and on-site assessment) for imports of meat and meat products.

In the summer of 2009, an expert team from the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture undertook an inspection visit to Ireland, which had a positive outcome. The Indonesian authorities have now announced a re-opening of the market for Irish beef. Initially access is being limited to the four plants that were inspected in June 2009, but the possibility of approving other plants, following similar inspection, remains open.

In 2000, the year preceding the ban, exports of Irish beef to Indonesia exceeded 24,000 tonnes, with a value in excess of €28.5 million.

The European Commission services together with the EC Delegation in Jakarta continue to raise this issue with Indonesia in order to re-open the market for all EU countries and to ensure that international guidelines are enforced. We also invite EU business to continue to inform us of any developments on this matter.

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