



Thailand lifts import restrictions on pigs and pig products

Thailand has now lifted all import restrictions, imposed as a measure against the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, on pigs and pig products from EU Member States. The European Commission welcomes this step. It had repeatedly raised EU concerns about these unnecessary and unjustifiable measures.

On 20 May 2009, Thailand introduced compulsory certification of freedom from Pandemic H1N1 influenza virus on imports of pigs and pig products. These requirements were not justifiable and they burdened the trade with unnecessary costs.

The EU raised its concerns with Thailand to ensure that market access would not be hindered for EU exports by unjustified or disproportionate measures. The Commission also insisted that the EU has stringent rules and control measures in place to guarantee that only healthy animals are traded or slaughtered.

The European Commission welcomes recent information that Thailand has now lifted these restrictions. This brings Thai import requirements into line with the recommendations made by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other international organisations such as the WHO, the FAO and the WTO, that there is no justification for imposing any trade measures on imports of animals and animal products due to pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

In 2008, EU Member States exported over 1300 tons of pig meat and pig meat products to Thailand.

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