

Against this background, it will be important that the single EC market does not lead to additional protection against imports from third countries. Hopefully, the increased level of economic activity expected after 1992 will generate increased demands for imported agricultural and food products.

V Implications for Canadian Agri-food Sector

1. Technical Barriers Affecting Agri-food Trade

a) Animal Health and Veterinary Regulations

Scope

The dismantling of border posts will mean that checks on animal health can no longer be applied at frontiers. Provisions have therefore been necessary to control the spread of disease. So far a number of decisions and directives have been adopted with this aim in mind. These include provisions for Spain, Portugal, and a few other parts of the Community where routine control has still to be achieved, to be brought up to a similar health standard for brucellosis and tuberculosis as the rest of the Community (Dec 87/58). The decision allows an additional 3-year period above current provisions for the final eradication of these diseases. Eradication plans must be Community-approved. Thereafter there will be regular on-the-spot checks on implementation of these plans.

Considerable progress has already been made towards the eradication of foot and mouth disease through harmonized Community rules (Dir 85/511). Control measures for dealing with an outbreak of foot and mouth disease have been harmonized and the rapid diagnosis of the disease and identification of the virus type, the slaughter of affected animals and disinfection procedures been provided for.

Harmonization of non-veterinary standards for trade in pure-bred breeding cattle, their semen and embryos has been introduced (Dir 87/328). In particular the new legislation states that there must be no prohibition, restriction or impediments on pure-bred females for breeding and pure-bred males for natural service. If pure-bred bulls and their semen are accepted for AI in one Member State, then other Member States cannot restrict imports. Semen must come from officially approved AI centres. Pure-bred bulls and their semen should be identified by blood grouping or other methods, and testing and assessment methods must be harmonized. A further directive on bovine semen has recently been adopted, which establishes harmonized