



LMC Brussels Update
August 2014

FAO food price index - While meat prices rose for the fifth consecutive month, sharp declines in grains, oilseeds and dairy quotations pushed down the [FAO Food Price Index](#) to its lowest level since January 2014. The recent sharp slide in cereal prices reflected significant falls in international prices of maize (down 9.2%) and wheat (down 5.8%), a reaction to excellent production prospects in many major producing countries and to the anticipation of abundant exportable supplies in the 2014/15 marketing season.

Russian Ban - The Russian federation have adopted measures targeting imports of food and agricultural products from the EU US and a number of trading partners. In particular, the decree bans the import of dairy and meat products. As far as meat is concerned, affected pigmeat is estimated to represent 1,7% of EU production and only 0.4% of total EU production. The Commission is working on a full analysis of the potential impact of the Russian sanctions on the EU sectors concerned – together with an assessment of the potential policy responses – as soon as possible, to be presented to Member States and the European Parliament. To monitor the impact of the Russian ban on EU agricultural products, the Commission has open a new section on their website which is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/russian-import-ban/index_en.htm

Uruguay – According to an [audit](#) carried out end of 2013 to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of fresh bovine meat for human consumption destined for export to the European Union (EU), the robustness of the Uruguayan system is undermined by a number of weaknesses including the lack of a system of cross checking all the individual identities of cattle received at slaughterhouse level and holdings of destination. Other significant issues include the storage of not up to date data that allow the registration of inaccurate information and the slaughter for export to EU of animals classified as “non traced” which may not be eligible for EU slaughter.