



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MEXICAN AND U.S. MEAT AND POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS

The meat and poultry industries of Mexico and the United States commit to engage in consultations to make their best efforts to achieve a mutually satisfactory resolution of outstanding issues related to U.S. and Mexico meat and poultry trade policy, health and sanitary issues.

The meat and poultry industries of Mexico and the United States will establish a working group to resolve trade issues of mutual concern and will develop a specific agenda as soon as possible. This working group will be known as the US – Mexico Meat and Poultry Trade Advisory Committee (MPTAC).

This committee will enhance bilateral trade to benefit both countries and set the stage for improved communication and coordination in a number of areas including trade policy, food safety, research, and sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

Through the MPTAC, Mexico and the United States will address bilateral trade issues as they arise, develop recommendations, share ideas with their respective governments, and coordinate policies to benefit producers, processors, traders and consumers of both countries. The activities of the MPTAC are intended to result in mutual benefits to Mexico and the United States through bilateral cooperation.

The MPTAC will consist of a Co-Chair representing each country and such other individuals as each Co-Chair may, from time to time, respectively appoint as members. The members may include representatives from both private and government sectors. Each Co-Chair will consult with the other regarding changes in the MPTAC membership. Each Co-Chair will designate a point of contact for all communications and for organizing administrative staff support for the MPTAC.

ARTICLE I MEETINGS OF THE MPTCC

1. The MPTAC will endeavor to meet no less than twice yearly.
2. The Co-Chairs will establish the date, location, time, procedure, and agenda of meetings. The Co-Chair resident in the country that is the venue for a meeting will conduct that meeting and is responsible for providing adequate administrative support for that meeting.
3. The MPTAC will endeavor to conduct meetings through practical and mutually acceptable methods of communication.
4. All recommendations or decisions of MPTAC members will be subject to the concurrence of the Co-Chairs.

**ARTICLE II
WORKING SUB-GROUPS**

1. The Co-Chairs may agree to establish working sub-groups to address particular issues or to facilitate direct contacts in particular fields of mutual interest. These working sub-groups may include representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the governments of Mexico and the United States.
2. Working sub-groups may meet independently of the MPTAC.
3. Working sub-groups are expected to report to the MPTAC as the latter may decide.
4. Either Co-Chair upon written notification to the other Co-Chair may discontinue working sub-groups.

**ARTICLE III
LIMITATIONS**

1. The functions and activities of the MPTAC and any working sub-group are subject to the mutual concurrence of the Co-Chairs and to the availability of funds and personnel for each country.
2. This is a bilateral arrangement. These Terms of Reference are not intended to create any commitments that are binding under any provision of international or domestic law.

**ARTICLE IV
OBJECTIVES**

The MPTAC will endeavor to:

1. Improve the knowledge of all relevant parties in government and private sectors, including non-governmental organizations, on marketing related issues that affect both countries, including:
 - Existing tariff structures and arrangements;
 - The implications of regional bilateral and multilateral arrangements;
 - International trade agreements and commitments (WTO); and
 - The activities that affect trade.
2. Identify and address aspects that impede trade, including:
 - Institutional and general marketing arrangements;
 - Economic and Financial arrangements; and
 - Any other non-tariff trade barriers.
3. Investigate and facilitate affiliation between trade related organizations and institutions in order to improve communication, transparency and the flow of trade information.
4. Facilitate market research of mutual interest.
5. Identify training needs, requirements and opportunities.

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