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INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR BEEF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN LATVIA

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Beef cattle production is one of the important agricultural industries in rural areas, providing jobs and revenues for farmers as well as being part of the food system. Animal welfare requirements and various international and regional legal requirements need to be met to engage in beef production and trade. Therefore, the beef industry faces challenges posed by the Farm to Fork Strategy of the European Green Deal. The Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan of Latvia for 2023-2027 envisages a number of support measures to increase farm competitiveness and promote beef products in the market, develop agricultural processing and create a higher value added, focusing on organic farming and the preservation of permanent grassland areas, thereby increasing beef herd productivity and farm revenues. In the long term, however, there are significant risks to beef production and trade, as the introduction of high animal welfare standards of the European Union (EU) makes beef production more expensive, and the beef cannot compete with beef imports from third countries in terms of price. Because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, both the costs of agricultural inputs and price fluctuations have increased, and the instability of the geopolitical situation has some influence as well. Price, and not quality, could become the key factor in the buyer's choice in the market. Because of the constrained buying power of consumers and the rising costs of agricultural inputs, EU legal acts, incl. import procedures and support policies, should be amended to ensure a high quality of beef products. The **present research aims** to analyse the regulatory and institutional framework for beef cattle production and trade in Latvia. As at 1 July 2023, according to data from the Agricultural Data Centre, 394520 cattle were registered in Latvia; 14023 farms produced beef and dairy cattle, of which 1943 were organic farms with 86555 cattle, incl. 45931 beef cattle.

Keywords: *beef market, beef cattle regulatory framework, institutional regulation, Farm to Fork strategy, Common Agricultural Policy, Latvia*

INTRODUCTION

A major challenge to the European beef industry is a decrease in beef consumption because at the consumer level, beef prices are usually higher than those of other kinds of meat (pig, poultry); therefore, the consumers are likely to seek cheaper animal proteins (European Commission, 2023).

In the future, gaining market shares outside of Europe is also important to the European beef industry. However, it is not easy to achieve, as the world market is dominated by the four largest beef exporters: companies from Australia, India, Brazil and the USA, which sell at very low prices, and the level of meat consumption per capita is also determined by the buying power of consumers (Hocquette, J.M. et al., 2018).

In the medium term, meat export opportunities could improve, yet this would be off set by a decrease in live animal exports due to increased competition and animal welfare problems caused by the long-distance transport. Consumer concerns about health and the environment also affect meat consumption; therefore, beef consumption in Europe is expected to slightly decrease by 2032, possibly to 66 kg per capita per year. From 2023, according to the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the income support and ecological schemes, in combination with relatively high price prospects, are expected to reduce this trend, but not stop it (EU agricultural outlook 2022-32, 2023).

Constant changes in consumption patterns, technological progress, policies and international trade present a particularly uncertain future for the beef industry. The industry could face significant challenges: to grow and develop despite the uncertainties of the future, design a collective policy and economic strategy, make the most of the opportunities provided by the single European market and foreign markets as well as establish new connections with consumers (Farm Europe, Policy Briefing, 2018).

The CAP is continuously reformed, and the new reform, which became effective from 2023, the European Commission (EC) legislative proposals focus on three main priorities: simplification, increased subsidiarity and increased environmental ambition (Barral, S., Detang-Dessendre, C., 2023).

To implement the CAP for 2023-2027, each Member State had to approve a CAP Strategic Plan. Each plan combines a wide range of targeted interventions that address each EU Member State's needs and deliver measurable results in accordance with EU-level goals, thereby contributing to the achievement of the goal of the European Green Deal (European Commission, 2023). The plans show how, based on the needs, each Member State sets its own goals, mobilizes a set of common instruments and monitors progress towards the goals. Differences across Member States do not guarantee that any measure is going to be simplified, and Runge et al. (2022) even have concluded that policy complexity has increased significantly (Barral, S., Detang-Dessendre, C., 2023).

The present **research aims** to analyse the regulatory and institutional framework for beef cattle production and trade in Latvia. Because it is possible to identify the measures implemented to ensure a sustainable beef industry in a Member State by examining the relevant policy guidelines. **The novelty of the research** involves setting goals and objectives for sustainable and ethical beef production practices, thereby contributing to the European Green Deal framework aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, preserving natural resources, increasing support for domestic organic beef production as well as enhancing the current regulatory framework.

RESEARCH METHODS

The **methodology** applied involves a qualitative and conceptual literature review of the institutional system and the regulatory framework for the beef industry. The research used EU and national reports on the development of the national economy and the requirements of the CAP for 2023-2027, as well as the findings of research studies published by scientists from various countries on the institutional and regulatory framework for beef production and trade.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE BEEF INDUSTRY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

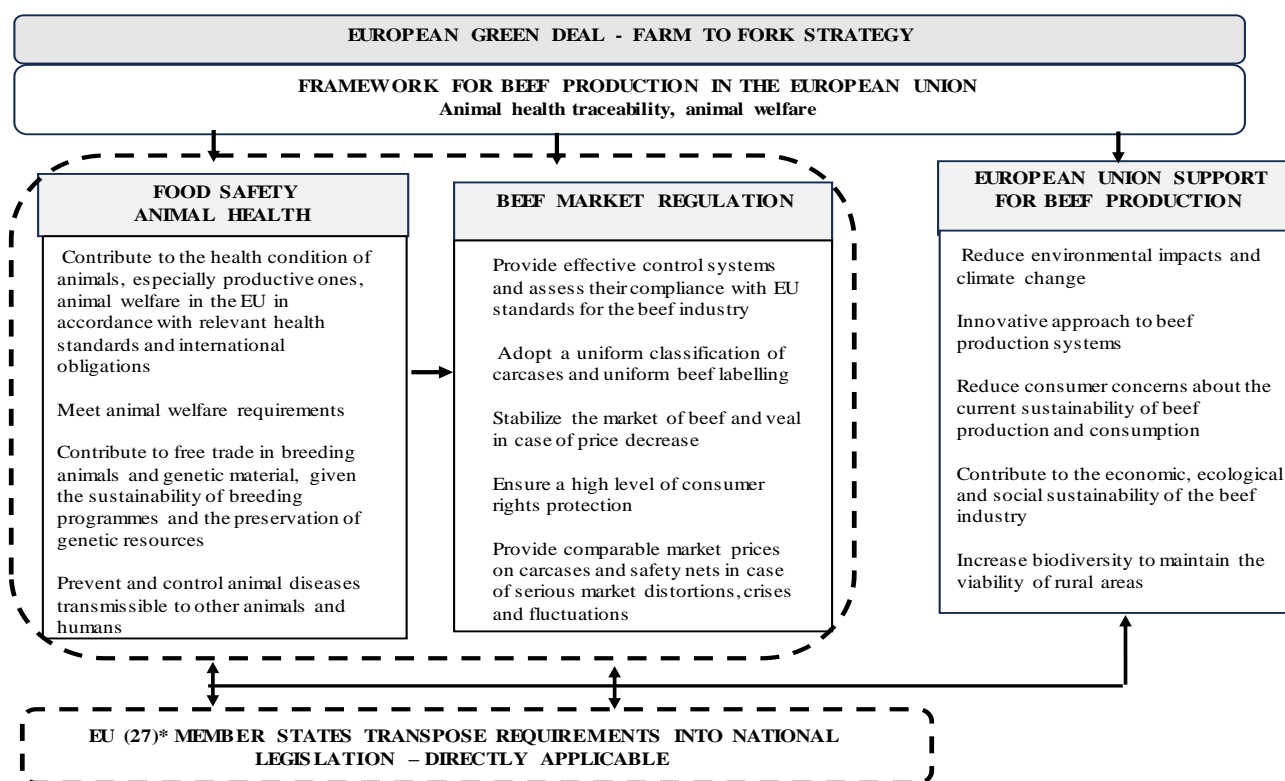
The European beef industry represents the basis of economic development in rural areas in many EU Member States. However, the productivity of the industry varies across EU Member States. Suckler-cows herds are therefore an important segment of the EU livestock industry, supplying more than a third of the beef consumed in the EU, and are of strategic importance in some EU Member States: Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal as well as Poland. The demand for beef tends to increase in countries such as Finland and Sweden (Farm Europe, Policy Briefing, 2018). As at 01 July 2023, according to the Agricultural Data Centre, 394520 cattle were registered in Latvia; beef and dairy cattle were raised by 14023 farms, of which 1943 were organic farms with 86555 cattle, incl. 45931 beef cattle (Agricultural Data Centre, 2023).

It should be emphasized that in many areas the specialized beef cattle production system cannot be replaced by other agricultural activities because this involves land use and available grassland areas. The contribution of the cattle industry to the EU economy is often underestimated. Further product differentiation at EU level, better export opportunities as well as compensation for environmental services to support the extensification of beef cattle farming will be needed to avoid a decrease in beef purchasing prices (Farm Europe, Policy Briefing, 2018), as the supply of beef in the EU is expected to decrease, the prices might remain high, and this could potentially have a negative impact on beef consumption in the EU and the competitiveness of beef exports from the EU. It should be noted that the overall decrease hides opposite trends across EU Member States, and the negative impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting high resource costs and food price inflation continue to negatively affect the agricultural market and consumer purchase decisions. In addition, many EU Member States face changes caused by devastating climate conditions. Not only the climate change but also animal disease outbreaks cause significant differences between industries and regions (European Commission report, 2023).

No less important factor is the European Green Deal's Farm to Fork strategy, which relates to sustainable food systems, recognizing that human and public health are inextricably associated with the health of the entire planet (European Commission, 2023). Therefore, the transition to a sustainable food system could bring environmental, social and health benefits. The increasing frequency of droughts, floods, forest fires and animal disease outbreaks remind us that the European food system is very fragile and endangered and needs to become more sustainable and resilient (European Commission report, 2023).

The development of the EU beef industry has not been linear and uniform. Although the transition to sustainable food systems in the EU has already begun in many areas, the current food systems are still one of the main drivers of climate change and environmental degradation; therefore, there is an urgent need to reduce dependence on pesticides, antimicrobials and over-fertilization by developing organic farms and improving animal welfare. Biodiversity loss must be reversed (Europe Commission report, 2020).

There are many organizations and companies operating in the beef industry, and all of them should be involved in the sustainable development of the food chain, thereby contributing to food safety (Economic Commission for Europe, 2007). To develop the beef industry, there should be a clear understanding of the EU regulatory requirements and support mechanisms for beef production (**Figure 1**).



Source: Scheme developed by the authors based on data from the European Commission, the regulatory framework for agricultural and rural development and food safety and the Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027)

Note: EU (27) * Member states from January 31, 2020

Figure 1. Regulatory framework for beef production in the European Union

It is the responsibility of each EU Member State to implement a food safety programme. To achieve this, it was necessary to create institutional, legal and technical infrastructures – a system that emphasizes the role of the integrated approach and controls all related activities, later reporting them to the relevant EU institution (Economic Commission for Europe, 2007).

The EU and the USA have different regulatory framework for cattle production (Houston, C. S. (2021). At the US federal level, the regulatory framework for animal identification is focused on the interstate transport of farm animals. At the state level, the intrastate transport of farm animals is governed by state and/or county governments. The current US Animal Identification and Traceability System came into force on 9 January 2013. It sets national minimum identification and documentation requirements for the traceability of interstate transport of farm animals (National Agricultural Law Centre, 2023). The different regulatory framework was highlighted by a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute between the USA, Canada, and the EU over the sale of beef from cattle treated with growth hormones. The USA and Canada, two countries that had allowed the use of growth hormones in farm animals, filed a lawsuit against the EU to determine, among other things, whether the EU ban on the consumption of beef containing growth hormones was based on scientific evidence that the use of hormones posed a threat to human health (Houston, C.S., 2021). In 2009, however, the EU and the USA issued a memorandum of understanding, which was revised in 2014, that provided a temporary solution to a long-running WTO dispute over measures imposed by the EU in 1989 on US exports of meat containing artificial bovine growth hormones. The memorandum of understanding set a tariff-rate quota of 45000 tonnes for hormone-free beef, making the quota applicable to all qualified suppliers coming from WTO members. In 2019, the EC continued negotiations on granting new tariff-rate quotas to the USA (35000 tonnes out of a total of 45000 tonnes), with other suppliers agreeing to share the rest of the quota, given the de-escalation of trade tensions between the EU and the USA, which was agreed upon in the joint statement of the USA and the EU of 25 July 2018 (European Union, 2021).

In the world, beef production is expected to increase by 9% by 2032, accounting for 16% of the total increase in global meat production, mainly driven by increases in output in China (13%), India (34%) and other countries with medium and low incomes. Overall, beef production is expected to increase because the carcass weight tends to increase owing to lower feed costs and improved animal genetics. In African regions with faster agricultural growth, the growth will be fuelled by higher herd numbers. In high-income countries, overall agricultural growth will be limited because factors such as the ongoing outbreak of African swine fever in Europe, stricter environmental protection laws and animal welfare requirements in EU Member States put pressure on output growth, while in North America beef production needs to adapt to stricter environmental sustainability standards, thereby putting severe pressure on the profitability of intensive farming (OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2023-2032, 2023).

A comparison of policy measures taken by the EU and the leading Member States for beef production with those of the USA, Brazil and Argentina allow us to draw conclusions on how the EU could best support its beef industry and foster its growth in the face of new and unexpected challenges, as the Common Market Organization (CMO) for beef and veal involves certain market instruments, which were initially intended for the stabilization of the industry: 1) **government intervention** over a representative period the average market price in a Member State or a region of a Member State is below 85% of the price set (EUR 2224 per tonne); 2) **support for private storage** based on average market prices and reference thresholds and the production cost of the products concerned, as well as the need to respond quickly to market situations that have a significant negative impact on the profit margin; 3) **tariff-rate quotas**, as the Common Market Organization (CMO) authorizes the EC to take measures for the management of import quotas. Most tariff-rate quotas for the beef industry are administered by the Directorate-General for Agriculture; 4) **collective negotiations**, as producer organizations (POs) from the beef and veal industry may enter into contracts for the supply of live cattle under certain conditions. The amount of beef and veal supplied by each organization may not exceed 15% of the total national output (this was changed by the Omnibus Regulation of January 2018); 5) **exceptional measures to support the market**, which the EC can decide on and implement in cases of animal diseases or loss of consumer confidence (Farm Europe, Policy Briefing, 2018).

The measures complement the current direct support schemes of the CAP, which include compulsory support schemes for all Member States: the basic payment scheme (SAPS) per hectare and voluntary support schemes (optional for Member States), coupled income support, through which the Member States have an opportunity to grant limited amounts of “coupled” income (from 8% to 13% of total public funding) to the industries or the regions where specific kinds of farming or specific agricultural industries face certain difficulties and are particularly important for economic and/or social or environmental reasons (Farm Europe, Policy Briefing, 2018).

Accordingly, the CAP maintains its previous structure in two pillars: 1) the first is fully funded by the EU and covers direct support; 2) the second, which is co-funded by the EU and Member States for the development of rural regions, i.e. support for regions with natural constraints and support for investment, rural development and innovation. Strengthening environmental protection objectives could be mainly achieved by improving cross-compliance and introducing eco-schemes. The eco-schemes should be allocated at least 25% of the first pillar support of the CAP to support more environmentally and climate friendly practices. The measures of the second pillar are still very similar to those set by the CAP 2014-2020. Consequently, the CAP gives Member States an opportunity to consolidate measures for environmental and climate protection (Barral, S., Detang-Dessendre, C., 2023).

2. INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE BEEF INDUSTRY IN LATVIA

2.1. Institutional framework for the beef industry

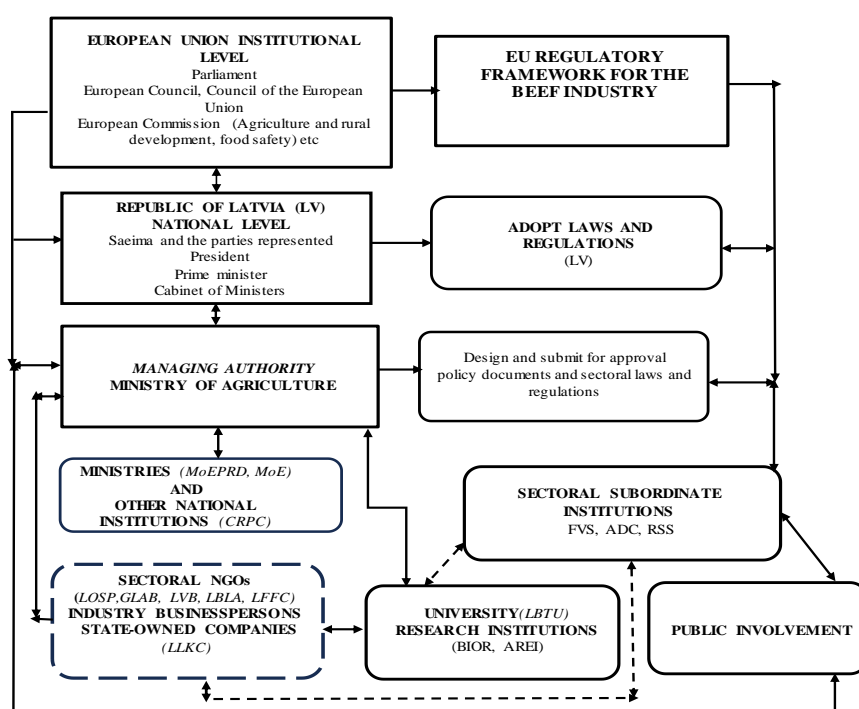
To meet the requirements for beef production, each EU Member State applies additional rules and regulations depending on national legislation and agricultural policies. Institutions of the Republic of Latvia (LV) cooperate closely under such a decision-making system, and their cooperation is shown in Figure 2. The institutions work in the public interest and contribute to the development of the beef industry in Latvia. Each institution has its own role and objectives in making laws and policies, in implementing, controlling and monitoring them, as well as in administering national and EU support payments.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and sectoral institutions closely cooperate with non-governmental organizations representing the interests of cattle farmers, meat processors and businesses. They are as follows: the Cattle Beef Breeders Society (GLAB), the Cooperation Council of Agricultural Organizations (LOSP), the Latvian Veterinary Association (LVB), the Latvian Organic Farming Association (LBLA) and the Latvian Federation of Food Companies (LFFC), which consists of two cooperative societies (LPKS GreenBeef.Lv and KS Latvijas Liellops). The cooperation occurs with businesses representing the meat industry and the state-owned company Latvian Rural Advisory and Education Centre Ltd (LLKC). There is significant and important cooperation in scientific research on safe and sustainable food, the environment and the ecosystem with Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU) and the following research institutions: the Institute of Agro-Resources and Economics (AREI) and the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment BIOR to guarantee consumers the availability of healthy and safe beef products of domestic origin, thereby contributing to the growth and competitiveness of the agricultural and food industries.

No less significant influence on the development of the beef industry is made by other sectoral ministries: the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (MoEPRD) and the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia (MoE), as well as the Consumer Rights Protection Centre (CRPC), which is a subordinate institution of the MoE and implements the protection of consumer rights and interests.

One of the objectives of the institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture is to implement policies aimed at developing the beef industry: the main goal of the Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) is to provide consumers with harmless and safe food (including materials and products intended for contact with food) and ensure qualified and effective state supervision of trade in animal feed, animal by-products and veterinary medicines, compliance with animal health and welfare and breeding requirements, as well as safety and phytosanitary control of food and non-food products at the border; the Agricultural Data Centre (ADC) provides a unified national information system for the agricultural and fisheries industries and ensures unified, simplified and flexible monitoring and traceability of the industries to contribute to public health and food safety; the Rural Support Service (RSS) is responsible for unified implementation of national and European Union support policies in Latvia, administration of national and EU support, incl. implementation of intervention measures in the market of agricultural products. Public participation is also important, which provides

proposals on the legal acts adopted, information about the situation in the industry in relation to the impact on the environment and consumers.



Source: Scheme developed by the authors based on the Operational Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia for 2021-2027

Figure 2. Institutional governance of the beef industry in the Republic of Latvia

It could be concluded that the institutional system in Latvia is able to contribute to the coordination and continuity of activities aimed at achieving the common goals of the beef industry, thereby promoting growth, trade and international cooperation, and complying with the rules and standards that are understandable and appropriate for all the stakeholders involved.

2.2. Regulatory framework for the beef industry in Latvia

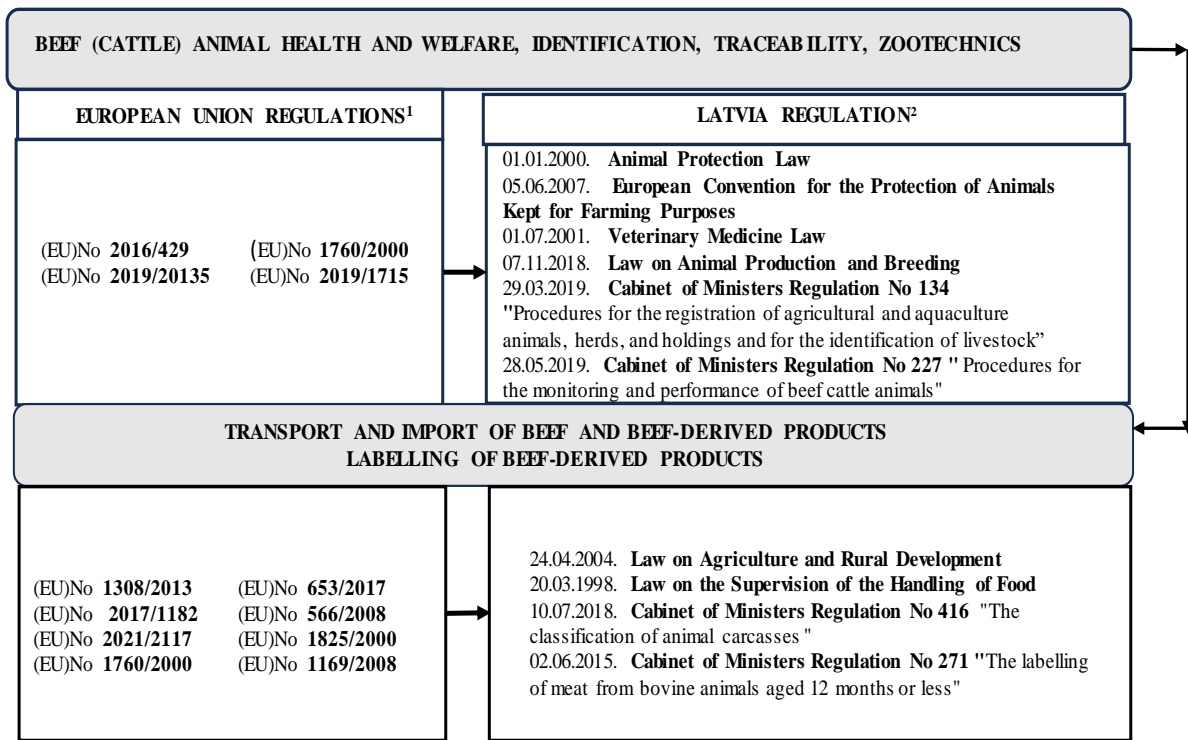
Regulations adopted and decisions made by various EU institutions in all Member States, including Latvia, automatically become legally binding on the day they enter into force (European Union Law, 2023). However, there are cases where it is necessary to adopt national legal acts in order to ensure the direct applicability of an EU regulation, for example, in case of setting an institution or other conditions that the regulation specifically requires to be stipulated in national legal acts (Ministry of Justice, 2014).

One of the most important prerequisites for developing the beef industry is a well-structured legal framework. Figure 3 shows EU and national laws and regulations that are important to produce quality and safe food: 1) beef (cattle) animal health and welfare, the identification and traceability thereof. Zootechnics, animal products; 2) beef and beef-derived products (including transport and import of live animals. Labelling of beef-derived products in the EU).

Adopting the Animal Health Law, the EU has established stricter requirements for the protection of animal health, as transmissible animal diseases can have lasting consequences for individual animals or animal populations, animal farmers and the entire economy, and adverse impacts could be observed on biodiversity, climate change and other aspects of the environment. Therefore, to maintain high standards of both animal and public health and contribute to the development of the beef industry as well as the completion of the domestic market and the prevention of spread of infectious diseases, it is necessary to preserve the current health status of animals in the EU (Regulation (EU) No.2016/429, 2021).

To achieve a sufficiently high standard of living for the population employed in agriculture, it is necessary to consider the needs of the beef and veal industry, as well as the need to standardize the presentation of various products with the aim of improving market transparency, price recording and the application of market intervention measures (Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013, 2013).

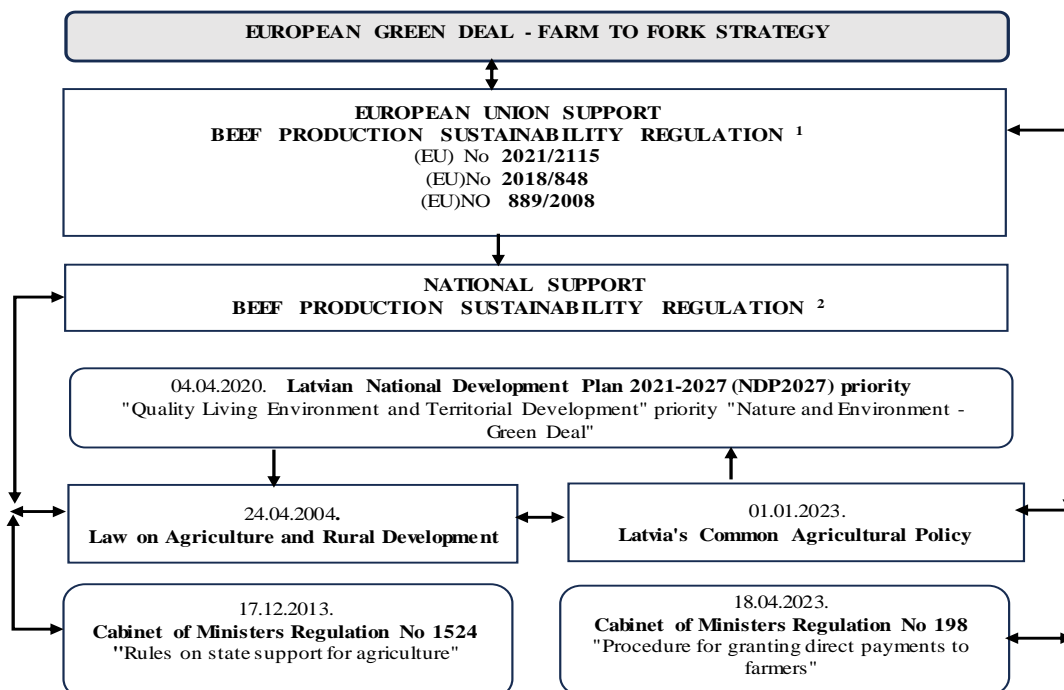
Figure 3 shows the key regulations and legal acts that must be complied with to meet the established and mandatory requirements, the main purposes of which are shown in Figure 1. The goal of the strategic plan of Latvia is to continue providing enough support to farmers in order to provide the population with high-quality and safe food produced in our country at affordable prices.



Source: Scheme developed by the authors based on the legislation of the European Union (EU) and of the Republic of Latvia (LV)
 Note: Regulation ^{1,2} Full titles of the legal acts are given in the list of references

Figure 3. Regulatory framework for beef production in the European Union and Latvia

Significant emphasis is placed on increasing the competitiveness of Latvian farmers and food producers by working on an efficient use of resources, investment in biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. An objective of the CAP Strategic Plan of Latvia is to contribute to the achievement of nine main goals set by the European Union (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023). Figure 4 shows the regulatory framework for CAP support in Latvia, which contributes to farmer income stability and protection against price fluctuations as well as to meeting the requirements that guarantee one of highest standards of food safety, environmental protection and animal health and welfare in the world (EU Common Agricultural Policy, 2023).



Source: Scheme developed by the authors based on the legislation and regulations of the European Union and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia
 Note: Regulation ^{1,2} Full titles of the legal acts are given in the list of references

Figure 4. Regulatory framework of the CAP for the beef industry in the EU and Latvia

The European Green Deal, launched by the EC in 2019 (Europe Commission, 2019), sets ambitious targets for the European food and agricultural system by 2030. Several of them are quantitative, e.g., to reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and antibiotics by 50%, 20% and 50%, respectively. In addition, quantitative targets have been set to increase agricultural areas under organic farming (25%), agricultural areas with elements of high landscape diversity (10%) and protected areas (Barral, S., Detang-Dessendre, C., 2023).

Macroeconomic factors, geopolitical tensions and other forces have raised agricultural prices significantly, and it is well known that consumption patterns affect public health. Agricultural policies, which relate to food and sometimes also to the way food is produced, undeniably are also linked with health policies. This link is especially strong with regard to healthy eating habits and reducing the use of antimicrobials in animal treatment. The new model is designed to better achieve the targets of the EU and is based on strategic planning, a wide range of policy interventions and common performance, thereby improving policy coherence with other EU objectives throughout the future CAP (European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2018).

After performing a comprehensive analysis of the situation and conducting extensive discussions for the purpose of shaping the CAP for 2023-2027 in Latvia, the Ministry of Agriculture has set several strategic targets for achieving the goals of the EU Green Deal, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving animal welfare and increasing the area under organic farming. In the future, to implement programmes in the beef industry, support is also planned for cooperation between producers for jointly promoting products in the market (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023). The CAP Strategic Plan (CAP SP) envisages new measures to which a part of the increase in direct payment funding has been allocated and which will ensure a 10% increase in income support particularly for small and medium farms. The new measures involve differentiated basic income support for promoting sustainability, which envisages a higher rate of support for the eastern regions of Latvia with special conditions.

EUR 2.5 billion is allocated to implement the CAP SP for 2023-2027, and the largest part of the funding or EUR 1.7 billion is allocated in the form of direct payments. EUR 0.8 billion is earmarked for rural development measures and EUR 10 million for CMO support measures. The goal is to ensure sustainable agriculture and balanced and targeted support for farmers (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023).

Farmers have an opportunity to apply for national and EU support funding if complying with the legal requirements and being aware of the responsibility for the truthfulness of the information provided (Rural Support Service, 2023). The support provided under the CAP SP of Latvia for 2023-2027 for the development of the beef industry represents only coupled income support for beef cattle, which remained unchanged from the previous CAP 2014-2020 with a transition period until 2022. By applying for support under the eco-scheme for environmentally and climate-friendly agricultural practices, to which 25.6% of the direct payment envelope is allocated (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023), beef cattle farmers can promote organic farming practices and receive support for compliance with organic production rules. It is important to note that unlike greening payments, eco-schemes will be voluntary measures for farmers, which until now have been mandatory for most of the farmers; however, through the eco-schemes and rural development interventions, those working in the beef industry can contribute to the production of quality food, thereby ensuring that the products reach the market (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023).

In addition, national support for beef cattle breeding may be used to promote the use of high-value breeding animals and the development of breeding in the livestock industry (Eligibility Criteria for National Support, 2023). The CAP for 2023-2027 has set nine specific goals that cover the economic, environmental, climatic and social dimensions of development. Both the EU and Latvia have set higher and more ambitious goals related to the environment and climate than those in the previous programming period. The CAP Strategic Plan is an important instrument for achieving the goals of the Green Deal, including reducing GHG emissions, reducing the use of plant protection products and fertilizers and increasing the area under organic farming (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023). However, in the period of social and environmental uncertainty characterized by competing visions of the desired future, given the broad mandate and goals of the CAP reform, a full range of disciplines is needed to carefully assess reform priorities, placing a particular emphasis on issues of income subsidization, the qualification of agro-ecological transitions, the rise of private insurance tools and the role of agricultural landscape management in the agricultural sector's overall transformation, with the two main problems being economic security and greening (Barral, S., Detang-Dessendre, C., 2023).

EU subsidiarity is well established and the common framework set by the EC needs to be implemented in each Member State through a national strategic plan. The plans specify how, based on the needs, each Member State sets its goals, mobilizes a set of common instruments and monitors progress towards achieving the goals (Barral, S., Detang-Dessendre, C., 2023).

CONCLUSIONS

- It is the responsibility of each EU Member State to implement a food safety programme. To achieve this, institutional, legal and technical infrastructures have been created for membership in the WTO.
- To join trade in beef and veal under the WTO based on the beef production policy of the EU Member States, the following common market instruments have been designed and used: government intervention, support for private storage, tariff-rate quotas, collective negotiations, exceptional market support measures that ensure the stabilization of the industry and can make the EU beef industry profitable and affordable for consumers.
- Latvia applies EU regulations on market measures and monitoring, food and animal feed safety, food hygiene and quality, animal health, veterinary medicine safety, animal welfare and protection, as well as animal traceability in

the beef industry. Relevant legal acts have been adopted and institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture have been established to monitor the implementation of the regulations; public participation is also taken into account.

- In Latvia, the institutional system is able to contribute to the coordination and continuity of activities aimed at achieving the common goals of the beef industry, thereby promoting growth, trade and international cooperation and complying with the rules and standards that are understandable and appropriate for all the stakeholders involved.

- The competitiveness and sustainability of the beef industry in Latvia is affected by an increase in meat imports into the common market of the EU, as well as the negative impacts caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This results in high resource costs and food price inflation, which continue to negatively impact agricultural markets and consumer purchase decisions. The EU Member States face changes caused by devastating climate change-related weather conditions as well as animal disease outbreaks, thereby creating significant differences between industries and regions.

- In relation to the CAP for 2023-2027, the Ministry of Agriculture has set several strategic targets and introduced support schemes for the development of the beef industry. The directly applicable payment is coupled income support. The environmental and climate support mechanism involves eco-schemes, to which 25.6% of the direct payment envelope is allocated. Unlike greening payments, eco-schemes will be voluntary measures for farmers, and through the eco-schemes and rural development interventions, those working in the beef industry can contribute to quality food processing and production, thereby ensuring that the products reach the market.

- To assess the goals of the new CAP reform, it is necessary to analyse the opportunities that the reform provides, highlighting the problems of income subsidization, agro-ecology, private insurance and agricultural landscape management, with the two main problems being economic security and greening.

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