

ABPA and ABIEC defend animal protein sector, in which Brazil is a world example

Entities reinforce the quality of beef, pork and poultry meat and confidence in the federal inspection system; Sector employs more than 7 million people and represents 15% of Brazilian exports

São Paulo, March 20, 2017 - The Brazilian Association of Animal Proteins (ABPA) and the Brazilian Association of Meat Exporters (ABIEC) held a joint press conference on Monday (20), at 11:00, to clarify the Generalizations arising from the operation of the Federal Police (PF), which occurred last Friday (17). During the press conference, ABPA Chief Executive Francisco Sérgio Turra and ABIEC President Antônio Jorge Camardelli emphasized that the sanitary standards of the animal protein industry - be it bovine, porcine or poultry - are an international model.

According to ABPA and ABIEC, any deviations of conduct in the national factories represent a minimal fraction of the Brazilian production of animal protein, and should be repudiated and combated. For the entities, the fight for excellence in quality is continuous and one cannot contaminate the image of the sector due to isolated exceptions.

"The communication of the police operation led to generalizations, which both the federal government and the entities of the sector are clarifying both to Brazilian consumers and the international market. But we did not go to Brasília yesterday (19) to protest against the PF and we are not even talking against anyone today. Our concern is with more than the 6 million Brazilian workers, who work in this chain of production of beef, pork and poultry. We are on a patriotic mission in defense of the animal protein industry, which annually ships 262 thousand containers to 160 countries, generating a revenue that represents 15% of the total Brazilian exports," said Turra, president of ABPA, entity that represents the Brazilian poultry and pork industries.

According to a joint statement from ABPA and ABIEC, published this Monday (20) in the main newspapers, it is irresponsible to raise doubts about the quality of Brazilian beef, both nationally and globally. "We are here, ABPA and ABIEC, together, to strengthen the orientation to consumers in Brazil and importing countries that they can eat the meat produced in our country with health security," said Camardelli, president of ABIEC.

For Camardelli, there is a great joint task of both entities, facing - in his words - "this unnecessary crisis". The head of the entity whose companies represent 91% of Brazilian exports of beef stressed that the rapid attitude of the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA) was decisive in determining the implications of the police operation for the domestic and foreign meat market. "The Federal government, industry entities and Brazilian animal protein industry, together, will overcome this situation with truth and transparency," added Turra.

Currently, Brazil is a global leader in the export of chicken, beef and pork, exporting to countries and regions with high standards of exigency such as the United States, Japan and the European Union, which regularly make inspection visits to the industry's rigid production systems of Brazilian animal protein. "The representative associations of the protein industry will remain steadfast in defending an industry in which Brazil is a global example. Meat is a safe source of protein. The entities guarantee the consumer the reliability of the product," the entities said in a joint statement. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture, by 2020,

domestic beef production is expected to supply 44.5% of world demand, while chicken meat will have 48.1%, and pork, 14.2%. "No other national sector has such numbers," the statement pointed out.

For the leaders, it took decades for Brazil to build its international reputation as a major producer and exporter of poultry, beef and pork. "The opening of markets was slow, country by country, a conquest of all Brazilians. Today, Brazilian companies hold the best international certifications of excellence, " said Camardelli. "Any restrictions on Brazilian meat import, besides representing a setback of many years, will impact the economy and will result in job and income losses. The poultry, bovine and porcine protein sector employs more than 7 million people and represents 15% of Brazilian exports, "added Turra.

About ABPA

The Brazilian Association of Animal Proteins (ABPA) is the world's largest animal protein association. It is the political-institutional representation of poultry and swine farming in Brazil. It congregates more than 140 companies and entities of the various links of poultry and swine farming in Brazil, responsible for an export superior to US\$ 10 billion. Under the auspices of ABPA is the managing, in partnership with Apex-Brasil, of the three sectoral brands of Brazilian poultry, eggs and pork exports: Brazilian Chicken, Brazilian Egg and Brazilian Pork. Through its sectoral brands, ABPA promotes special actions in target markets and disseminates the differentials of poultry and swine products in Brazil - such as quality, sanitary status and production sustainability - and fosters new business for the export chain of eggs and chicken meat and pork.

About ABIEC

Created in 1979, the Brazilian Association of Meat Exporting Industries (ABIEC) brings together 29 companies of the sector in the country, responsible for 91% of beef traded to international markets. Its creation was a response to the need for a more active performance in the beef export segment in Brazil, by defending the interests of the sector, increasing efforts to reduce trade barriers and promoting domestic products. Currently, Brazil produces around 9.2 million tons of beef, approximately 20% are traded to dozens of countries around the world, following the most stringent quality standards.