



The EU refunds to its food exports to Africa from 1988 to 2018

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WTO proceedings against the dumping of exports from another Member cover only subsidies in the last or most recent years. But States that have suffered from dumping over a long period of time have suffered cumulative losses in competitiveness, which is particularly the case for African countries, especially of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), as a result of highly subsidized EU exports. This cumulative dumping is clearly one of the causes of Africa's growing food deficit, particularly vis-à-vis the EU if we exclude trade in food products other than basic but mainly intended for export such as tropical drinks (cocoa, coffee, tea).

The EU's dumping modes have changed significantly over the years, relying mainly on export refunds until the 1992 CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) reform and then their gradual decline – with a virtual disappearance since 2011 except for poultry meat which continued until 2013 – has been largely offset by the gradual increase in coupled and decoupled domestic subsidies linked to successive CAP reforms since 1992. This document is limited to cumulative refunds on the main food products exported by the EU28 to extra-EU28, Africa, North Africa (NAF), SSA and West Africa (WA): dairy products, cereal products, beef, sugar, poultry meat.

I – Methodological issues

The calculation of refunds to products receiving them is very complex because the subsidy rates have been different according to the zones – zero for the United States (US), which did not appreciate the competition made to its producers, and maximum for the developing countries (DCs) least politically able to defend themselves against it, such as those in SSA¹ –, varying according to the Harmonized System (HS) trade codes – which changed in 1992, 1996, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 – and their level has changed according to the EU's losses of competitiveness and WTO rules. Thus in 2000 for beef and veal "*there were 254 different refund possibilities, resulting from the combination of 5 export zones with the different exportable products*"². Moreover, the codes of EasyComext, which publishes Eurostat's foreign trade data, are at most

¹ The Argumentaire issued by the European Commission at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle in December 1998 states: "As part of its privileged relations with ACP countries, the European Union grants the benefit of higher export refunds than for other third countries, to practically all sub-Saharan African countries" (European Commission, Argumentaire, Agricultural policy and trade, 23-11-1999, 14 p.)

² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-89-392_fr.htm?locale=FR

V – Cumulative refunds on sugar exports

The calculation of export refunds to sugar and sugar products is simpler, as it has not been possible to identify refined beet or cane sugar equivalents for other sugars (lactose, maple sugar, glucose, fructose, inulin, molasses, sugar confectionery without cocoa) and because non-Annex 1 (NA1) sugar is used in a large number of products other than those of code 17: cocoa products, various food preparations, biscuits and cakes, sweetened drinks, liqueurs, jams, preserved fruits and fruit juices, sweetened dairy products.

With the total A1 refunds available (Table 1), it is possible to calculate the refund per tonne of A1 extra-EU28 sugar multiplied by the tonnes of sugar (code 17) exported to Africa, NAF, SSA and WA to obtain the annual and cumulative refunds to these African destinations.

Those to Africa (€7 bn) accounted for 28.3% of the €24.9 bn in cumulative extra-EU28 refunds, of which 16.4% for those to NAF (€4.1 bn), 11.9% for those to SSA (€3 bn) and 9.1% (€2.3 bn) for those to WA.

As non-Annex 1 refunds, which accounted for 13.5% of Annex 1 refunds, have not been taken into account, and as it is almost impossible to identify processed products outside code 17 having incorporated sugar, as a first approximation 13.5% of A1 refunds can be added to the previous calculations, giving €28.3 bn for total cumulative extra-EU28 refunds (Table 1), of which €8 bn for Africa, €4.6 bn for NAF, €3.4 bn for SSA and €2.6 bn for WA.

Table 8 – Refunds on EU28 sugar exports to extra-EU28 and Africa, 1988-2018

€ 1000	Extra-EU28 exports and refunds			Africa	Northern Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa		West Africa	
	1000 t	Refunds	1000 t	€/TCE		1000 t	Refunds	1000 t	Refunds
1988	1566159	5062	309.4	1841	569597	1070	331053	771	238544
1989	1451370	4981	291.4	1546	450475	848	247091	698	203384
1990	925295	5516	167.7	1573	263867	858	143927	715	119939
1991	1251178	5011	249.7	1789	446689	1098	274156	691	172533
1992	1305561	4729	276.1	1230	339573	559	154326	671	185247
1993	1531369	5234	292.6	1229	359582	726	212414	503	147168
1994	1377422	5559	247.8	1592	394470	790	195748	801	198474
1995	1312076	5264	249.3	1287	320791	649	161766	638	159024
1996	1230007	4313	285.2	966	275490	453	129189	513	146300
1997	1115665	5341	208.9	1342	280326	712	148728	630	131599
1998	1265459	6265	202	2209	446193	1406	283996	803	162197
1999	1591117	5276	301.6	1624	489760	1000	301576	624	188184
2000	1438762	6195	232.2	2177	505599	1331	309119	845	196248
2001	1008194	6079	165.8	2122	351931	1236	204989	886	146942
2002	1168212	4679	249.7	1518	379001	982	245177	536	133824
2003	1021321	4858	210.2	1304	274146	766	161040	538	113106
2004	988256	4353	227	817	185483	524	118963	293	66519
2005	1080586	6639	162.8	1266	206058	851	138512	416	67710
2006	1116914	6433	173.6	1470	255225	732	127092	738	128134
2007	509341	2149	237	491	116373	368	87221	123	29153
2008	501338	1962	255.5	361	92244	281	71802	80	20442
2009	179111	2169	82.6	512	42280	380	31380	132	10900
2010	0	2885	0	810	0	436	0	373	0
2011	1475	2111	0.71	380	266	238	166	142	99
2012	0	2740	0	696		463		234	130
2013	0	2244	14.9	431		305		126	75
2014		2450	0.8	439		299		140	80
2015		2399	0.3	483		331		152	70
2016		2473	0	419		185		234	75
2017		3277	0	861		355		506	295
2018		4405	0	1366		675		691	460
Total	24936188	133052		36151	7045419	20909	4079431	15242	2965670
								11143	2275999

VI - Cumulative refunds on poultry meat exports

The calculation of refunds to poultry meat is more complicated. Initially, if the codes of Commission Regulation 641/89 of 14 March 1989 on poultry refunds had remained in force until the end of 2018, 99.4% of exports would have benefited, but the legislation has changed. Regulation 268/2004 of 16 February 2004 limited refunds to chicks (code 0105) to all

destinations (except the USA⁵) and to meat and offal of code 02071290 (frozen whole chickens) to the countries of the Middle East and the former USSR plus Angola, but refunds on day-old chicks (and other live poultry) of code 0105 remained applicable to all countries, except the USA. As a result, from 20 May 2005 to the end of 2013 (end of refunds), only those to live poultry (mainly chicks) plus those to frozen chickens (or spent hens because no distinction can be made) to Angola. These exports to Angola were not negligible as they represented 72% of the volume and 67% of the value of EU poultry exports to Angola on 19 May 2005⁶ to 2013 and these exports to Angola represented 2.6% of the total poultry exports in value terms to Africa in this period, of which 3% to SSA. However, since chick exports were very high, total refunds of €472.43 M to Africa over the 31-year period were still obtained, representing an average dumping rate of 5% over this period and 11.5% over the period 1988-2013 with refunds. To NAF, total refunds were at €105.3 M, representing an average dumping rate over the 31 years of 8.7%, and 12.9% over the 26 years eligible for refunds.

Table 9 – EU28 refunds on poultry meat exports to extra-EU28 and Northern Africa: 1988-2018

	EU28 refunds	Extra EU28 exports	Exports and refunds to Africa				Exports and refunds to Northern Africa			
			Total	With refunds	% EU28	Refunds	Total	With refunds	% EU28	Refunds
1988	160745	396600	100333	100333	25,3%	40668	32958	32958	8,3%	13358
1989	185741	501145	108076	108076	21,6%	40120	35273	35273	7%	13073
1990	145372	487528	86360	86360	17,7%	25731	25967	25967	5,3%	7743
1991	133533	545815	100137	100137	18,3%	24437	22645	22645	4,1%	5540
1992	160383	563038	107614	107614	19,1%	30633	18337	18337	3,3%	5223
1993	250213	679824	100653	100653	14,8%	37032	20988	20988	3,1%	7725
1994	213619	724725	104125	104125	14,4%	30761	20978	20978	2,9%	6183
1995	171897	850211	102025	102025	12%	20628	24112	24112	2,8%	4875
1996	127071	924532	98136	98136	10,6%	13470	20777	20777	2,2%	2856
1997	70752	1100937	137483	137483	12,5%	8844	23205	23205	2,1%	1491
1998	77084	1077326	150522	150522	14%	10792	25951	25951	2,4%	1857
1999	92945	954550	152705	152705	16%	14871	22572	22572	2,4%	2198
2000	72814	933008	191413	191413	20,5%	14927	24087	24087	2,6%	1880
2001	51900	968371	231513	231513	23,9%	12404	30893	30893	3,2%	1656
2002	71103	996749	237392	237392	23,8%	16923	31205	31205	3,1%	2226
2003	94058	828717	211310	211310	25,5%	23985	29981	29981	3,6%	3403
2004	85177	947917	199420	199420	21%	17887	31639	31639	3,3%	2843
2005	79950	985531	186890	102735	10,4%	8334	38064	37390	3,8%	3033
2006	54984	855306	172768	95058	11,1%	6111	27309	25694	3%	1652
2007	86043	995528	213171	114796	11,5%	9922	30881	28773	2,9%	2487
2008	97162	1223175	270990	139168	11,4%	11055	33593	28786	2,4%	2287
2009	91562	1217012	269063	139200	11,4%	10473	38712	36078	3%	2714
2010	90668	1565558	377407	201046	12,8%	11643	59617	55628	3,6%	3222
2011	81695	1821538	531449	254824	14%	11429	53286	48856	2,7%	2191
2012	79307	2033290	664257	311629	15,3%	12155	62723	58673	2,9%	2288
2013	46111	2050046	675489	318677	15,5%	7168	62417	56406	2,8%	1269
2014	924	2026784	748235			0	75542			
2015	28	2106097	775745			0	72556			
2016	0	1979123	688748			0	74647			
2017	0	1974281	688386			0	74307			
2018	0	2067640	690545			0	70825			
total	2872841	27575428	9372361	4096350	11,3%	472403	1216037	817852		105273

Table 9 shows that refunds to SSA amounted to €323.2 M over the 31 years, at an average dumping rate of 4%, increased to 13.6% over the 26 years eligible for refunds.

To WA, refunds were at €109.4 M over the 31 years, representing an average dumping rate of 2.7%, and 11.6% when compared to the 26 years with refunds.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32004R0268&from=EN>;

<https://www.revenue.ie/en/customs-traders-and-agents/documents/electronic/aep-trader-guide-appendix-4.pdf>

⁶ So that the exports to be taken into account for 2005 are only 37% of those for the whole year.

Table 9 – EU28 refunds on poultry meat exports to Sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa: 1988-2018

	EU28 refunds	Extra EU28	Exports and refunds to Sub-Saharan Africa					Exports and refunds to West Africa			
			exports	totales	Avec Rest ^o	%RdM	Restitut	totales	Avec Rest ^o	%RdM	Restitut
1988	160745	396600	67375	67375	17%	27308	18329	18329	4,6%	7429	
1989	185741	501145	72803	72803	14,5%	26983	18323	18323	3,7%	6791	
1990	145372	487528	60393	60393	12,4%	18008	16116	16116	3,3%	4805	
1991	133533	545815	77493	77493	14,2%	18959	16133	16133	3%	3947	
1992	160383	563038	89277	89277	15,9%	25431	18435	18435	3,3%	5251	
1993	250213	679824	79665	79665	11,7%	29321	22259	22259	3,3%	8193	
1994	213619	724725	83154	83154	11,5%	24510	19084	19084	2,6%	5625	
1995	171897	850211	77914	77914	9,2%	15753	19180	19180	2,3%	3878	
1996	127071	924532	77359	77359	8,4%	10632	24993	24993	2,7%	3435	
1997	70752	1100937	114278	114278	10,4%	7344	37681	37681	3,4%	2422	
1998	77084	1077326	124571	124571	11,6%	8913	46901	46901	4,4%	3356	
1999	92945	954550	130133	130133	13,6%	12671	62488	62488	6,5%	6084	
2000	72814	933008	167326	167326	17,9%	13058	96086	96086	10,3%	7499	
2001	51900	968371	200620	200620	20,7%	10752	126295	126295	13%	6769	
2002	71103	996749	206187	206187	20,7%	14708	126140	126140	12,7%	8998	
2003	94058	828717	181328	181328	21,9%	20580	98714	98714	11,9%	11204	
2004	85177	947917	167781	167781	17,7%	15076	81186	81186	8,6%	7295	
2005	79950	985531	148827	148827	6,7%	5339	74633	48181	4,9%	3909	
2006	54984	855306	145459	26536	3,1%	1706	72122	4090	0,5%	263	
2007	86043	995528	182290	31348	3,1%	2709	102590	4710	0,5%	407	
2008	97162	1223175	237396	36942	3%	2934	150824	4556	0,4%	362	
2009	91562	1217012	230352	29906	2,5%	2250	143902	3850	0,3%	290	
2010	90668	1565558	317790	47380	1,3%	2744	192445	5040	0,3%	292	
2011	81695	1821538	478163	49412	3%	2216	261397	6684	0,4%	300	
2012	79307	2033290	601534	51126	2,7%	1994	301709	8583	0,4%	335	
2013	46111	2050046	613072	58470	2,5%	1315	312090	11208	0,5%	252	
2014	924	2026784	672694				324484				
2015	28	2106097	703189				317298				
2016	0	1979123	614102				244891				
2017	0	1974281	614080				323973				
2018	0	2067640	619720				315477				
total	2872841	27575428	8156324	2374594	8,%	323214	3986178	945245	3,4%	109390	

Conclusion

The cumulative refunds on exports of these 5 products – dairy products, cereal products, sugar, beef and poultry meat – amounted to €113.8 bn extra-EU28, of which €31.9 bn to Africa, €19 bn to NAF, €11.8 bn to SSA and €6.2 bn to WA, which therefore "benefited" more than half (52.5%) of those to SSA.

These are of course poisoned gifts, which have not really changed since the refunds were replaced by domestic subsidies, coupled and decoupled, to extra-EU28 exports, which will soon be analysed. And refunds for other products have not been taken into account here: pigmeat, eggs, fresh and canned fruits, animal feed (other than those incorporated into exported animal products), beverages, of which alcoholic beverages.

Nor have other forms of "export competition" been taken into account such as non-emergency food aid and export credit guarantees to Africa.