

DYNAMICS OF THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT OF POLISH DAIRY ENTERPRISES TO THE EUROPEAN UNION REQUIREMENTS

Krystyna Romaniuk

Chair of Microeconomics, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Olsztyn

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Poland's accession to the European Union meant the necessity of implementing the Union standards by Polish milk producers and processors. That necessity was a consequence of requirements stipulated in the Directive 92/46/EEC. During the initial year of Polish membership in the European Union other 235 enterprises satisfied the requirements of that Directive. That means a 15 percent increase as compared to the number of entities licensed on the accession date. The obtained transition period for adjustment of dairy enterprises to the European Union requirements will expire in December 2006.

INTRODUCTION

Polish dairy industry is one of the important sectors of food economy. The key role of that industry has a number of causes.

Firstly, milk production in Poland represents around $\frac{1}{4}$ of Polish agriculture market production, including beef and veal. Enterprises processing milk generate around 2.5% of the total industrial production and around 17% of the food sector production value [Zalewski, 2002; Gornowicz, 2003].

Secondly, milk and its products are a valuable source of calcium necessary for construction of the skeletal system and regeneration of cells as well as a source of vitamins A, D, B group, and easily digestible protein possessing a high nutritive value [Mleczarstwo... 2004]. Those values of milk and dairy products confirm its significance in nutrition for both very young and adult persons.

Finally, Poland belongs to the group of globally important dairy producers. In 1991, Poland ranked fourth in Europe and seventh in the world in milk production. Ten years later it ranked fifth and eleventh, respectively [Gornowicz, 2003]. The loss in the rankings resulted from, among others, a decrease in consumption of dairy products, which was a consequence of increased prices for dairy products, and a decrease in milk production during the 1990's.

In the European Union Member States, similarly to Poland, the dairy industry belongs to the group of key industries. That situation results in relatively fierce competition in milk and dairy products market. Matching competitors, not only domestic, but also international is a difficult task. That situation forces the application of specific competition instruments and strategies by Polish dairy enterprises. How-

ever, if dairy enterprises want to develop and effectively compete in the market, they must, first of all, comply with the requirements imposed by the European Union on its members. Those requirements are contained in the Directive 92/46/EEC of June 16, 1992 on hygiene of milk production and processing, application of which is compulsory for all Member States.

Conditions concerning the production of milk for consumption included in the Directive cover such aspects as, e.g. raw material quality and its storage, pasteurisation, storage and transport parameters. Additionally, provisions of the Directive impose on entities operating within the food chain the requirement to implement and maintain the HACCP system while bodies of supervision are required to analyse such systems [Niecka, 1999]. The requirements of the Directive have been supplemented by requirements specified in other EU documents [Jakubczyk, 2002].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The studies covered dairy enterprises in Poland. They aimed at identification of dairy sector entities that were licensed for trade with EU countries. Analysis of documentation obtained from the General Veterinary Inspectorate and personal interview were the research methods applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Achievement of compliance with the requirements contained in the EEC Directive was not easy and required time. The changes had to be implemented not only by milk processors but also by milk producers. Observation of the

dairy sector enables concluding that the acceleration of work involved in implementation of the EU standards occurred immediately before accession and immediately after it. The transition periods achieved by Poland during negotiations should be seen as the main reason for that development of the situation. The transition period will finally terminate with the end of December 2006.

On the date of Poland's accession to the European Union the total number of enterprises processing milk that were compliant with the Directive 92/46/EEC was 204 (a year later 235) while further 144 entities were granted transition period.

The largest numbers of dairy enterprises complying with the EU standards are located in provinces of: Wielkopolskie, Mazowieckie, Łódzkie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie. The total number of such enterprises in those provinces is 109, representing around 46% of all entities licensed to trade with the European Union countries. That means that almost every second dairy enterprise licensed to export its products to the EU countries is located in those provinces.

The second area leading in the number of entities compliant with the Directive is the area of provinces: Opolskie, Podlaskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie. In those provinces 47 enterprises are licensed representing around 20% of their total number. On the other hand provinces of Podkarpackie, Zachodniopomorskie and Świętokrzyskie are those with the smallest numbers of enterprises with implemented EU standards (Table 1).

The above data does not reflect the situation in the dairy industry in full. We should compare it with the total number of dairy enterprises positioned in the abovementioned areas. In that case it would be possible to check the share of licensed companies in the total number of dairy enterprises

TABLE 1. Dynamics of enterprises complying with the requirements of Directive 92/46/EEC by province (own studies based on the data of General Veterinary Inspectorate).

Province	Number of dairy enterprises complying with the requirements of the Directive as at		Share in % (2005)	Dynamics (%)
	1.05.2004	30.04.2005		
Wielkopolskie	33	36	15.3	109
Mazowieckie	28	32	13.6	114
Łódzkie	21	22	9.4	105
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	18	19	8.1	106
Opolskie	15	16	6.8	107
Podlaskie	15	16	6.8	107
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	14	15	6.4	107
Dolnośląskie	11	13	5.5	118
Lubelskie	11	14	6.0	127
Pomorskie	9	9	3.8	100
Małopolskie	8	12	5.1	150
Śląskie	7	9	3.8	129
Podkarpackie	5	8	3.4	160
Zachodniopomorskie	4	6	2.6	150
Świętokrzyskie	3	3	1.3	100
Lubuskie	2	5	2.1	250
Total	204	235	100	x

TABLE 2. Number of dairy enterprises according to the date of transition period end (own studies based on the data of General Veterinary Inspectorate).

Year of transition period end	Number of dairy enterprises
2004	4
2005	38
Including end of April 2005	31
2006	102
Total	144

in a given province. Such a comparison would reveal the real compliance level of Polish dairy enterprises with the EU requirements in the spatial distribution aspect. Such comparison, however, could not be included in the paper as obtaining the required data proved to be impossible.

The dynamics of adjustment of Polish dairy enterprises to the European Union requirements indicates an increase in the number of such entities that achieved compliance with conditions of the Directive in fourteen provinces. The largest increase was recorded in the following provinces: Lubuskie (150%), Podkarpackie (60%) and Zachodniopomorskie (50%). Such high dynamics indicators resulted from the fact that those provinces belong to the group of provinces with a generally very small number of dairy enterprises. In Poland two major areas leading in milk production: the northeastern and central-western area can be identified. That division is the consequence of: (1) conditions for milk productions and consequential costs of such production, and (2) closeness and size of sales markets for finished products.

The first area covers the provinces of: Podlaskie, Mazowieckie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie. The second area covers the provinces of: Wielkopolskie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie [Gornowicz, 2003]. As a consequence, even a small increase in the number of dairy entities (sometimes by only 2–3 enterprises) in provinces of Zachodniopomorskie, Świętokrzyskie or Lubuskie, resulted in a major increase in the dynamics's indicator. In case of provinces of Świętokrzyskie and Pomorskie, no changes occurred during the first year after accession.

Comparison of the number of dairy enterprises compliant with the EU requirements on accession date and their number after the initial twelve months of Polish membership in the Union shows a 15 percent increase. That development can be seen as a positive one. All entities (*i.e.* 31 enterprises) for which the transition period expired at the end of April 2005 obtained licenses for trade within the indicated time limit (Table 2).

CONCLUSIONS

1. On the date of Poland's accession to the European Union, the number of dairy enterprises satisfying the requirement of the Directive 92/49/EEC was 204, while 144 enterprises were given transition periods.

2. During the initial twelve months of Poland's membership in the Union, 31 enterprises were licensed for export of dairy products within the Union. That number is continually increasing.

3. On the basis of trends occurring in the dairy sector it can be assumed that the rate of changes in dairy enterprises aimed at their adjustment to the EU standards will increase, particularly before the end of the adjustment period.

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DYNAMIKA PROCESU PRZYSTOSOWANIA POLSKICH SPÓŁDZIELNI MLECZARSKICH DO WYMOGÓW UNII EUROPEJSKIEJ

Krystyna Romaniuk

Katedra Mikroekonomii, Uniwersytet Warmińsko Mazurski w Olsztynie, Olsztyn

Akcesja Polski do Unii Europejskiej oznaczała konieczność wdrożenia standardów unijnych przez polskich producentów i przetwórców mleka. Konieczność ta była podyktowana wymogami zawartymi w Dyrektywie 92/46/EEC. W dniu akcesji, 204 przedsiębiorstwa mleczarskie posiadały zezwolenie na handel z krajami Wspólnoty, natomiast 144 uzyskały zgodę na tzw. okres przejściowy. W ciągu pierwszych dwunastu miesięcy członkostwa Polski w Unii Europejskiej, prawo do eksportu produktów mleczarskich w jej granicach uzyskało kolejnych 31 przedsiębiorstw. Oznacza to 15 procentowy wzrost w stosunku do liczby podmiotów mających uprawnienia unijne w dniu akcesji. Można sądzić, iż tempo zmian wdrażanych w przedsiębiorstwach celem ich dostosowania do standardów zawartych w Dyrektywie będzie rosło, zwłaszcza przed zakończeniem okresu dostosowawczego. Okres ten kończy się w grudniu 2006 roku.