

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Romania Reverses Decision to Ban Grain Exports

Country: Romania

Post: Bucharest

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products

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Report Highlights:

On April 16, 2020, the Government of Romania (GOR) reversed its April 9 decision to suspend grain, oilseed, and related-product exports to non-EU markets. Industry organizations vocally opposed to the decision and highlighted that the measure could drive down farm-gate grain prices and damage Romania’s reputation as a reliable dependable global grain supplier.

Background

On April 9, the GOR suspended most exports of grains, oilseeds, and related products under Military Ordinance No. 8 during the ongoing COVID-19 state of emergency ([GAIN report](#)). In response to the subsequent confusion about inter-European Union (EU) trade, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued guidance that inter-EU Romanian-origin grain deliveries could continue based on a self-declaration process. Under this process, importers from other EU Member States were to provide Romanian exporters a document certifying that Romanian-origin commodities would only be consumed within the EU and not be re-exported.

According to public statements by MARD after the implementation of Military Ordinance No. 8, non-Romanian commodities in-transit on Romanian territory were to remain unaffected by the measure. However in practice, Bulgarian (EU Member State) and Serbian (non-EU) commodity exports bound for non-EU markets through the Port of Constanta were not issued phytosanitary certificates by the Romanian Phytosanitary Authority.

Reactions to Romania's Grain Export Ban

Romanian industry and farmer organizations publicly opposed the export ban, noting that the measure was not consulted with local stakeholders, would disrupt the agricultural supply chain, and create additional market instability during an already unprecedented year. The Romanian Minister of Agriculture responded by explaining that the GOR's radical decision was the result of continuous stock and export monitoring, and the GOR determined it was necessary to maintain Romania's food security. He added that depending on supplies, the GOR could ease the measures or take more restrictive actions.

Export Suspension Decision is Revoked

On April 16, the GOR approved and immediately implemented [Military Ordinance No. 9](#) which repealed provisions under Military Ordinance No. 8 to suspend grain exports and stop issuances of phytosanitary certificates for non-EU export markets. The GOR pointed to the successful discussions with grain and oilseed traders about procurement measures to supplement the State Reserve grain stocks until the new harvest. The Romanian Association of Agricultural Commodity Traders applauded GOR's efforts to find a workable solution to ease concerns about Romanian food security and to allow commerce and trade to continue.

Attachments:

No Attachments.