

**Decision of the Commissioners of the Competition Commission of Mauritius.**

**Hearing COMMISSION/HG/003 – Importation of Slaughter Cattle in Mauritius**

**Commissioners** – *Mr Rajiv Servansingh – Acting Chairperson*  
*Mr Rodney Rama – Commissioner*  
*Mrs Selvam Poonoosamy – Commissioner*  
*Mr Reshad Sadool – Commissioner*

Pursuant to the hearing requested by Socovia (Belle Vue) Ltee (*Socovia*) and Cattleco Ltd (*Cattleco*) in light of the report produced by the Executive Director of the Competition of Mauritius (*the Commission*) in the matter of the Importation of Slaughter Cattle in Mauritius, the Commissioners state the following:-

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Following the liberalization of the importation of slaughter cattle in 1996, several companies were set up to begin importation, including, amongst others, Socovia, Cattleco, Agromaster Ltd (*Agromaster*), Sodiam Ltee (*Sodia*) and Norfarm Ltd (*Norfarm*).
- 1.2 Many of these companies suffered significant losses which led to many of them pulling out of the business and others, more pertinently, to enter into a strategic collaboration, in an attempt to lower costs and increase income.
- 1.3 Socovia, Cattleco, Agromaster, Sodiam and Norfarm, through a series of either written agreements or working arrangements, entered into an association wherein each company became responsible for specific tasks relating to the importation of cattle for slaughter to Mauritius.
- 1.4 To this end, the companies became involved in the following activities, which continue to this date:
  - 1.4.1 Socovia selects the cattle in South Africa and markets the sale of cattle in Mauritius, as well as having the livestock carrier chartered in its name;
  - 1.4.2 Cattleco actually charts the vessel (in Socovia's name), as well as taking care of insurance cover, compliance with veterinary conditions in South Africa and seeking new sources of supply;
  - 1.4.3 Agromaster and Norfarm take the responsibility for selling the cattle to the butchers in Mauritius;
  - 1.4.4 Sodiam provides the quarantine facilities.
- 1.5 During the initial years of liberalization, slaughter cattle were imported on a number of carriers. However, over time this situation has changed, with, seemingly, only one carrier almost always being used to bring cattle to Mauritius, namely the Murray Express.
- 1.6 The reduction in cattle carriers was due to two main factors. Firstly, a tightening of exportation regulations from South Africa (Mauritius' primary source of slaughter cattle)



