



## **Statement on Food Safety**

The Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) recognizes the importance of an open food system to expand the benefits of a safe food supply for all economies in the Pacific Basin.

Science has proven that the feeding of ruminant\* meat and bone meal to other ruminant animals has caused a disease known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or more commonly known as “mad cow disease”. This disease has been identified as the reason for the 95 deaths in the UK and the widespread fear of even more since it has long-term implications. The impact on the EU industry is \$1billion in destroyed animals, the implementation of worldwide inspections and testing, all adding to the growing consumer concern for food safety and the potential inability to continue trading meat products across national borders.

To promote the production of safe food, PBEC recommends that all PBEC economies adopt and enforce laws and regulations to ensure that the production of foodstuffs including meat be based upon the application of sound scientific practices.

Therefore, PBEC strongly recommends that each member economy ban the feeding of ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminants thus preventing the potential spread of BSE that threatens the health and safety of people throughout the region.

\*animals with multiple stomachs

Endorsed by the PBEC Steering Committee 04/08/2001  
Adopted by the PBEC Board of Directors 04/08/2001  
34th International General Meeting, Tokyo, Japan