OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING OPERATION CARNE FRACA ("WEAK FLESH")

Concerning Operation Carne Fraca ("Weak Flesh") carried out by the Brazilian Federal Police on Friday, March 17, the Brazilian Association of Beef Exporters (ABIEC – Associação Brasileira das Indústrias Exportadoras de Carne) declares that none of its 29 member-companies' beef plants have been named in the scandal involving meatpacking plants and Federal Veterinary Inspectors in the sale of adulterated foodstuffs.

ABIEC's members follow the strictest domestic and international rules and standards for beef, whether intended for the domestic market or for the more than 133 countries to which we export.

Brazil is the world's largest beef exporter and is recognized for the quality and health status of its product, which is inspected by the Brazil's competent authorities as well as the Sanitary Authorities of those countries that import Brazilian beef.

ABIEC emphasizes that the cases recently made public in Operation Carne Fraca are isolated incidents that do not represent Brazil's enormous beef production chain.

The Association vehemently repudiates the adoption of practices that undermine the quality of Brazilian beef or the credibility of Brazil's beef industry. ABIEC reiterates its trust in the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA – Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento) and in the parameters followed by the Federal Inspection Service (SIF – Serviço de Inspeção Federal).

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