

Brussels, 13th February 2008

European Milk Producers' Resolution

ACTIVE MARKET REGULATION: BALANCED MARKETS – FAIR PRICES

After a long period of time for the first time the development in European and international milk markets has been positive since 2007. Production has been severely cut back in some regions owing to the extremely low farm-gate milk prices in preceding years, meaning that surpluses and stocks in the EU have been reduced. Exports of dairy produce from the EU have also fallen, so the world market price has likewise risen appreciably.

Given the changing market situation there are moves within the EU to restore the surplus situation and by extension price pressure on milk producer prices. The currently proposed measures have this objective.

Over 4,500 milk producers came to Brussels on 13.02.2008 to give a clear thumbs-down to this unreasonable suggestion from politicians and officials. European milk producers have made it clear that they cannot go on forever producing milk at prices that do not even cover their costs. Unless cost-covering prices can be achieved, in the medium term EU consumers cannot be guaranteed high-quality milk and dairy produce from European quality production. Whole regions could terminate milk production, with drastic consequences for their social and economic structure and for the cultural landscape.

The milk producers' concrete demands in Europe are:

1. Pan-European milk production must be maintained.
2. Milk prices in Europe must cover production costs, which includes a fair paying of the working forces.
3. Flexible control of milk quantities to enable supply to be geared to demand and being in the hand of the milk producers.
4. Effective external protection from dumping.

Only if these demands are met it is possible to secure the long-term supply of high-quality milk and dairy produce to European consumers and to produce them on an environmental and sustainable basis, whilst preserving the unique European cultural landscape.

We, the milk producers forming the European Milk Board (EMB), are determined to fight for our future and not to be sacrificed on the altar of free trade! We feel it is the bounden duty of the European dairy industry in particular to follow suit. Only if production costs can be covered does the dairy sector still have a future. If the dairies refuse to cooperate with us to improve farming conditions and to pay milk prices that cover costs in full they risk milk deliveries being discontinued.