



European Milk Board (EMB)

Press Release

Milk supply stop, blockades of dairies, consumer information campaigns

Member associations of the European Milk Board (EMB) are fighting for equitable involvement in the market and a fair milk price – All over Europe dairies are being made aware of their responsibility

Hamm / 31.5.2008:

With their direct action, milk producers in the Netherlands, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and Italy are showing solidarity to an extent hitherto unheard of. In six European countries, dairy farmers have stopped delivering milk to the dairies. Neighbouring nations are co-operating in their blockades of dairies and trucks to make sure that no milk reaches those countries. Dairy farmers are going out into the streets with the artificial cow Faironika to explain to consumers that fair milk prices are essential.

European dairy farmers will not supply milk or end their blockades until the dairies have made a binding commitment to:

- 1) Pay cost-covering milk producers prices in 2008
- 2) Support a system for calculating prices based on production costs and
- 3) Ally with the milk producers in campaigning for adequate framework conditions at EU level.

“What is crucial for the dairy farmers concerned is a fundamental change in the pricing system. Only prices that cover the costs of producing milk can ensure the future of their farms”, stresses *Sieta van Keimpema*, the Dutch Vice-President of the European Milk Board.

The EMB welcomes the fact that politicians are now showing some sympathy for the milk producers’ situation, but a lot more is needed than just kind words. *Romuald Schaber*, President of the European Milk Board: “Politicians have to take clear decisions to promote sustainable milk production in Europe, i.e. flexible volume control, protection at external borders, and pooling on the supply side.”

The EMB organisations are most encouraged by the numerous declarations of solidarity from organisations involved in Christian development aid cooperation. Consumers, too, are demonstrating a great deal of understanding for the milk producers’ demands.

Fair milk producer prices are essential for the continuation of sustainable, high-quality milk production in Europe that ensures animal welfare and the preservation of cultural landscapes. Fair milk prices guarantee that people are supplied with fresh milk, day in day out.

You can find details of the current situation in each country and of the EMB member organisations’ activities on our website at www.europeanmilkboard.org.

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