

3.6.2008: News from the individual countries

Germany

In Germany, the situation is unchanged with some 80% of dairy farmers not delivering their milk. The German Dairy Farmers Association (BDM) has today asked the farmers to suspend their campaigns in front of the dairies in order to give the dairy directors a chance to hold talks with the dairy industry federation. Yet the farmers have stayed in place in order to observe the situation and re-launch their actions depending on the outcome of talks. Yesterday several dairies signed a document entrusting the dairy industry federation (MIV) with negotiations. This afternoon, Romuald Schaber attended a hearing at the conference of ministers of agriculture. The German dairy farmers' are determined to keep the pressure up. The first talk with the MIV will be held tonight or tomorrow morning.

Austria

In Austria, the number of farmers joining the delivery boycott is rapidly growing. Today, the milk quantity delivered was more than 50% down. Events organized by IG-Milch last night were attended by some 5,000 dairy farmers. They are outraged by the fact that the Chamber of Agriculture, the dairy industry and the retail trade are currently holding national talks on the milk situation in Austria without involving IG-Milch as the milk producers association. The first ALDI supermarkets today told their customers they can no longer stock up their fresh-milk shelves.

Switzerland

An agreement has been reached in Switzerland. As of 1 July, the dairy industry will pay an extra 6 centimes or approx. 4 eurocents/litre. Depending on the dairy, this means a farm-gate milk price of approx. 0.48 €/litre. In addition, the agreement stipulates that there will be negotiations on a new form of milk supply regulation. From the standpoint of BIG-M, the strike has produced many positive effects: in future, processors and farmers will know that they can stand up for their interests successfully if they stick together. The farmers will act in a more structured way under the umbrella of milk producer organisations. Furthermore, it is assumed that a milk pool to regulate the milk volume (advocated by the member organisations of EMB) will be established in Switzerland as of 2009. The milk producers organized in Uniterre will meet tonight in order to decide whether they will stop or continue their delivery boycott as they feel an obligation towards their European colleagues to maintain solidarity.

The Netherlands

The milk producers organized in the DDB are still on strike. There will two large events tonight. According to the latest information, a Campina dairy continues to be blockaded.

Luxemburg

In Luxemburg, the milk delivery boycott continues. The number of farmers supporting the strike is stable. The Luxlait dairy has undertaken to exert pressure on politicians, together with dairy farmers, to establish a flexible form of milk supply regulation. It was said to be crucial to reach a Europe-wide solution. The dairy farmers in Luxembourg maintain solidarity with their European colleagues and are awaiting the outcome of negotiations in Germany with great interest.

Belgium:

The strike propensity continues to be very strong in the eastern part of Belgium. Talks with the dairy industry have clearly shown that the dairies are prepared to negotiate prices if the milk producers undertake to assume responsibility for milk supply regulation.

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France

In France, milk producers are currently blockading several dairies in the Moselle district and the Danone dairy in the Pyrenees. If talks fail, they will also blockade Elle et Vite in Normandy.

Denmark

No milk from Denmark is being supplied to Germany.