



**European Milk Board**



**European Milk Board (EMB) e.V.**, Bahnhofstr. 31, D-59065 Hamm, Germany  
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### Press release

## **5000 consumers and farmers call on EU Ministers of Agriculture to change agricultural policy European Milk Board stresses necessity for flexible market control/cost-covering prices**

Anncy/Hamm, 21.9.2008:

The European Milk Board, which lobbies on behalf of milk producers in 14 European countries, went on a demonstration today with an alliance of organisations (from the sectors of agriculture, consumer and environmental protection and development aid co-operation) on the occasion of the summit of EU Ministers of Agriculture in Anncy. 5000 demonstrators from various European countries made it clear that they advocated a fundamental re-orientation in the agricultural policy towards socially and environmentally friendly agricultural production of high-quality food throughout Europe.

Romuald Schaber, President of the European Milk Board (EMB), explained in his speech: *“For there to continue to be a reliable supply of healthy, regional food in the future, the agricultural policy must create the preconditions for farmers to be paid sustainably cost-covering prices for their products.”* For the milk producers represented by the EMB the creation of a flexible control of volumes for the milk market in Europe is the basic precondition for cost-covering producer prices. The volume limits set over years must be replaced by a system that adjusts the milk quantity flexibly to the changing sales potential for milk and dairy products.

“The milk producers are prepared to make their contribution to a balanced milk market with a farm-based volume scheme and the payment of a levy. In this, however, they are reliant on the appropriate framework being established by the politicians in the shape of:

Effective protection from outside

The continuation of an individual-farm volume limit

A right for milk producers to unite for the purpose of demand-driven volume control and to carry out measures under their own responsibility to regulate volumes.”

In a letter, Romuald Schaber handed over to the Chairman of the EU Council of Agriculture and Fisheries, Michel Barnier, the milk producers call on the 27 Ministers of Agriculture of the European Union to make a clear commitment to **market-oriented control of supply beyond 2013**. They clearly reject the EU Commission’s proposal to raise the quota by 1% a year automatically without consideration of the market until 2013 as jeopardising the milk producers’ income and consequently jeopardising European milk production. And that, they say, is no service to consumers in Europe.

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*Photos will be available on our web site from Sunday evening on.*

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