



European Milk Board



Press release

**Ministers of agriculture have taken their decision :
Milk quota will be increased, market analysis in 2010 and 2012**

Despite the protests of the dairy farmers the milk quota will be increased annually of 1 percent during the 5 coming years. Though there will be examinations in 2010 and 2012 whether the market permits further increases. This has been decided last night by the European council of ministers of agriculture in Brussels.

Romuald Schaber, president of European Milk Board (EMB) comments:

« This decision completely ignores the market situation ; there is too much milk on the market and the farm gate milk prices are going down. Some dairies pay 25 cent / liter. Given production costs of 40 to 45 cents it is clear that the concerned farms are threatened in their existence.

For a sustainable dairy production in Europe we need a flexible volume regulation which balances supply and demand. Politics can do this in cooperation with the dairy farmers in a simple and cheap way. For the time being this chance has been missed with the decision for further quota increases.

The only bright spots in this decision of the ministers of agriculture are the examinations in 2010 and 2012. The fact that they have put market analyses before increases after 2009 let hope that more and more representatives of the politics of agriculture see the necessity for market rules to sustain dairy production and so supply security for consumers in Europe.

This change is greatly due to the activities of the EMB organisations in their countries and in the EMB. »

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