

Demands of the European Milk Board (EMB)

There are ways out of the current crisis that has the dairy market in a stranglehold. The milk producers – represented by the European Milk Board – and politicians at national and EU level must cooperate to implement these solutions successfully.

The milk market concerns everyone. A milk market in turmoil has a mid-term and long-term impact on the provision of consumers with fresh and healthy milk products. Farmers going out of production are also reflected in higher unemployment numbers, less value creation in rural areas and changing landscapes.

In order to correct the current market situation as quickly as possible in view of the crisis and to achieve a cost-covering milk price of 40 eurocents, the dairy farmer organisations agreed on the following demands at their Annual Assembly on 18/19 February 2009 in Brussels, urging politicians to create the requisite framework conditions:

1. The regulation of volumes must be made flexible immediately; the yardstick for quota adjustments must be a cost-covering milk price.
2. This requires setting aside quota reserves that can be released for production as and when needed. And that is dependent on effectively restricting national netting in every EU country.
3. To take quotas out of production the mechanism of temporarily leasing out quotas by the EU has to be introduced immediately.
4. The 5 x 1% quota increases voted in back in November 2008 must likewise be released for production only as and when required.
5. The fat correction factor has to be left at its level hitherto (0.18).
6. A legal basis must be created that enables the EU-wide introduction of producer-financed levies.
7. Surplus products should now be bought up immediately and used in a way that does not damage the market, to ease the pressure on the market and thus to raise the producer price as quickly as possible.

The milk producers organized under the umbrella of EMB jointly present these demands to politicians all over Europe. The dairy farmers are prepared to put these demands into practice - including all of the consequences. Only a milk market balanced by a system of supply control involving the milk producers is capable of securing the future of dairy farming and hence the provision of consumers with high-quality milk products in all parts of Europe.

Brussels, 18/19 February 2009