

José Manuel Barroso  
President of EU-Commission  
1049 Brussels, Belgium



## Invitation to dialog

Brussels, 21st September 2009

Dear President of the European Commission,

The crisis in the milk market, which has unleashed strong protests all across Europe, is everywhere to be seen. Over eighty thousand milk producers from numerous European countries are already on a Milk Strike, many thousands more are just about to be. The milk producers started these protests out of desperation. Tens of thousands of them are on the verge of ruin, because the increase in volumes operated by the EU politicians accelerated a slump in prices in an oversaturated market. The catastrophic situation is hitting other groups as well, not just the milk sector. Jobs in upstream and downstream sectors, the social peace in Europe in general are affected.

And the reactions of consumers and the media show that it is an issue that concerns society as a whole. The crisis has to be overcome effectively; working mechanisms have to be put into place that secure stability in milk production and supply.

The European Agricultural Policy needs a change of direction. A course must be taken that guarantees the production of high-quality agricultural produce at fair prices. This has to be secured for consumers and milk producers alike. With the measures introduced so far, with the current strategy, that is not the case at all.

**The European milk producers of the European Milk Board have come up with measures that can counter the catastrophic situation effectively and create basic conditions for sustainable, healthy milk production in Europe. It is in this context that we would like to invite you for a discussion within the next few days.**

The European Commission is obliged to protect social values; to protect solidarity and social cohesion in Europe. These values must not be put at risk.

Yours faithfully,

Romuald Schaber, President of the EMB