

## Dear Dairy Farmers and Interested Parties,

Once again I would like to express my gratitude for my colleagues from all over Europe having expressed their confidence in me and elected me onto the Board of the EMB at the Members Meeting in April. After my first period of office until 2010 this is now the second time I have been given this honour. For everyone who does not know me: my name is Kjartan Poulsen, I'm from Denmark and am the President of the Danish milk producer association Landsforeningen af Danske Mælkeproducenter (LDM). Together with two partners I run an organic dairy farm with 850 cows and about 1,150 hectares of cultivated land.

The Danish milk producer association has been a member of the EMB since 2004. We are convinced that the best way to obtain political influence is through reasoned arguments and a rational approach. Even if demonstrations and blockades make perfectly good sense in political work in countries farther south like Belgium, southern Germany and France, we in Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries do not rely very much on these instruments. I am therefore pleased that the EMB in Brussels now champions successful lobbying through active substantive work in addition to high-profile campaigns.

Generally speaking I feel that political commitment such as the EMB's is indispensable in a modern Europe. It is a pity, though, that not every EU Member State has its own independent milk producer associations and so too much power remains in the hands of the processing industry. This applies both to private dairies and to dairies organised as co-operatives. That is why I look forward even more to resuming work on the EMB Board and, together with my European colleagues in the EMB, influencing milk policy in Europe. For this unique opportunity to continue our successful work in the Danish milk producer association in Europe I am extremely grateful.

*Kjartan Poulsen (Member of the EMB Board and President of the LDM)*

### EMB Newsletter May 2014

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## Members Meeting in Brussels: EMB very well set up with new Board and concepts

***On 15 and 16 April, the EMB milk producers gathered in Brussels for the first Members Meeting this year. The focus of this meeting was on significant steps for the organisation: electing a new Board, deliberating and deciding on new concepts for the EMB's political work.***

To enable the EMB's political work to be even more effective in the future and address current policy requirements – primarily with regard to the start of the European Milk Market Observatory – the EMB drew up an alternative to the previous concept of the monitoring agency.

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## **New EMB Board elected**

*Once again the second day of the EMB Members Meeting in Brussels saw a key event: there had to be new elections for the EMB Board after two years.*

*The following were appointed members of the EMB Board:*

### **Romuald Schaber, President of the EMB, Germany**

Romuald Schaber was born in Petersthal in the Allgäu in 1957. A qualified farm manager, he took over his parents' dairy farm in 1986 (currently 40 dairy cows). He is married with five children. Romuald Schaber is a member of the Stiftung Gesunde Ernährung [Healthy Diet Foundation] and, as President of the BDM (German Dairy Farmers' Association) and President of the EMB,

represents the interests of milk producers throughout Europe.

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## **EU Commission announces details of the Milk Market Observatory**

On 16 April the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Dacian Ciolos, presented to representatives of dairy farmers and dairies in Brussels the Commission's plans for the configuration of the heralded Milk Market Observatory. By setting up the Milk Market Observatory, the European Commission is acceding to a core demand of the EMB European dairy farmers.

The Commission aims to be proactive in preventing impending market crises in time by monitoring the milk market professionally.

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## The situation in the EMB member countries' milk markets

*The EMB's member organisations provided the following assessments of the milk market situation in their respective country:*

### **Austria**

2013 was a good year for the milk producers in Austria as regards the milk price. Feed, on the other hand, was rather scarce owing to the long winter. On average the net prices were 31 cents in 2012 and 38.5 cents in 2013. That made many farmers happy and they expanded. Now the trend is turning, however, and prices are falling. How much they will fall cannot be predicted

yet.

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## EMB Calendar

These are some of the EMB Board's key dates in May 2014:

- 5.05.: Meeting organised by the European Commission on Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (Trade SIA) in Brussels
- 15.05.: Board meeting in Brussels
- 27.05.: Meeting of the European Commission's working group on the milk market observatory in Brussels

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