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Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry
Mr. Stéphane LE FOLL
78 rue de Varenne
75349 Paris SP 07

25 January 2017

Subject: Agricultural misery

Dear Minister,

"One month ago, Jean-Pierre Le Guelvout (46), milk producer in Moréac, left us forever. Jean-Pierre was one of ours, a son of the soil like us, who loved his farm - like us, who loved his animals - like us. But still, he left us because he could no longer survive this reality that we are all familiar with: accumulating debts, the inability to pay them back and above all else, the inability to make a living! In spite of the many hours, the persistence, the sacrifices, despair takes root and the tragedy unfolds, striking the man, his family, and his loved ones.

We stand in solidarity with Jean-Pierre because we are all affected. We are facing a system that constantly pushes us to produce more and more to, in the end, earn less and less. We peasants are not committing suicide, we are being killed! A month ago, it was Jean-Pierre, today someone else, and tomorrow...?

This crisis continues to harm us. Why does this situation still endure? Agricultural policymakers, our agricultural policymakers must address the well-known causes and bring this situation to an immediate end. It is driving us toward an inhumane, weak, destructive situation that leads to overproduction and that, above all else, leaves peasants powerless."

Faced with this damning reality, the following quick and concrete actions are necessary:

1. Advocate loud and clear for regulation of the European dairy sector - the only tool capable of definitively ending the European milk production crisis.
2. Enforce an immediate 2% drop in milk production in Europe over a one-year period.
3. Implement the MRP (Market Responsibility Programme) proposed by the European Milk Board.
4. Revoke the Law on Agricultural Modernisation of 2010 to put an end to single contracting.
5. Create a cross-cutting Producers' Organisation (independent of all cooperatives and private entities) specifically for France to represent producers and defend their interests.

The abolishment of milk quotas was poorly managed and peasants have paid a hefty price. It is now time for you to take dynamic action to put an end to this situation. We cannot stand by and allow other farmers to end their lives when solutions are at hand.

Dear Minister, please accept my sincere greetings.

Signature