

Mr Zoltan Somogyi
DG TRADE
Head of Unit for Agriculture, Fisheries, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Market
Access, Biotechnology
Rue de la Loi 170
B-1000 Brussels

Mr Willi Schulz-Greve
DG AGRI
Head of Unit for global issues and relations with ACP
Rue de la Loi 130
B-1000 Brussels

Brussels, 20 April 2018

Appeal for a change in current agricultural and trade policy

Dear Mr Somogyi, dear Mr Schulz-Greve,

We listened to your presentations at the conference of the CoR, „Changing the rules of international trade, a necessary condition for facing the challenges of agriculture, food and planet" on 8 March with great interest. It became very clear at the event that there is a great need in the agricultural sector to reshape existing trade policy. Shifting priorities towards a trade strategy that is fairer and more socially and environmentally viable is especially indispensable.

As you stated yourself at the conference, the EU is a very large exporter and importer in the agricultural sector and thus, has a huge impact on global trade. The EU as a key player in this context can and must be a pioneer with respect to a much more social and environmentally friendly policy.

We need a new direction! Continuing with current EU policy with its one-sided orientation, where "increase trade" is the guiding principle, is not an option anymore considering both EU-wide and global issues.

There are already concepts that could constructively improve conditions for local agricultural producers as well as those in third countries. At the conference, for example, the Market Responsibility Programme for the dairy sector was mentioned. For areas where specific concepts are still to be created, stakeholders, experts and policy-makers must work together toward this goal.



Solidariteit | Solidarité



Confédération paysanne



In the EU as well as in the world, we are facing extremely important challenges. The trade framework described by you at the conference is unfortunately not going to be enough for us to deal with them.

We appeal to you and to your institution to think and act much bigger and to seriously consider a crucial change of the current agricultural and trade policy.

Yours sincerely,



Silvia Däberitz
Director of European Milk Board (EMB)



Laurent Pinatel
Spokesperson of Confédération paysanne



Philippe Duvivier
President of FUGEA



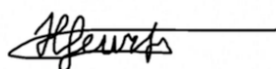
Niek Koning
Agricultural economist, Wageningen



Stefaan Declercq
Executive Director of Oxfam-Solidarity



François Graas
Head of Information and Advocacy of SOS Faim



Hans Geurts
Board Member of Nederlandse
Melkveehouders Vakbond (NMV)



Greet Goverde
Secretary of Platform Aarde Boer Consument



Jacques Berthelot
Reformed agricultural economist of SOL –
Alternatives agroécologiques et solidaires

André Pflimlin
Member of the Académie d'Agriculture de
France
Milk expert for the Committee of the Regions

Stéphane Desgain
Advocacy officer of CNCN-11.11.11

Keimpe van der Heide
Board member of Nederlandse Akkerbouw
Vakbond (NAV)

**European Milk
Board asbl**
Rue de la Loi 155
B-1040 Brussels

FUGEA asbl
Place de la Station 2b
B-5000 Namur

Oxfam-Solidarity
Rue des Quatre-Vents 60
B-1080 Brussels

**Nederlandse
Melkveehouders
Vakbond**
Krachtighuizerweg 28
NL-3881 PD Putten

**SOL – Alternatives
agroécologiques et
solidaires**
Rue de Rochechouart 20
F-75009 Paris

CNCN-11.11.11
Quai du
Commerce 9
B-1000 Brussels

**Confédération
paysanne**
Rue Robespierre 104
F-93170 Bagnolet

**Nederlandse
Akkerbouw Vakbond**
Pastoor van Kessellaan 1
NL-4761 BH Zevenbergen

SOS Faim
Rue aux Laines 4
B-1000 Brussels

**Platform Aarde Boer
Consument**
Tolhuis 2402
NL-6537 MH Nijmegen