

Second wave of dairy farmers' protests started successfully

Campaigns of action in nine European countries. Their European Ministers of Agriculture have to defuse the situation at the their Council meeting on 5 October and introduce the change of political system required

Hamm, 2.10.2009: Today the dairy farmers initiated the second major stage of the European farmers' revolt. Milk producers are protesting in the most varied ways in nine countries, with forceful campaigns of action in the regions and several capital cities. The dairy farmers in Europe started off three weeks ago on the basis of the Position Paper submitted by the European Milk Board (EMB) to bring about a change in the political system in the European market policy towards flexible control of volumes. Under pressure from the farmers the politicians have already stirred and made initial public concessions. What is crucial, though, is the extraordinary Council of European Ministers of Agriculture convened at short notice for next Monday in Brussels. And the message today's campaigns by the dairy farmers in Europe are sending to the Ministers of Agriculture is clear: they must introduce substantial measures to bring the supply of milk in line with demand as quickly as possible and prevent the senseless waste of taxpayers' money. Several thousand dairy farmers from Europe are expected in Brussels on Monday.

What dairy farmers from Europe are saying today:



"In **France** the dairy farmers have risen again today to demonstrate once more with might and main. We started off with our colleagues in the other EU countries to bring about a change of the political system in the milk policy. We won't give them any peace until then", says **Daniel Condat** of the OPL. Contact: 0033/6 07 08 62 40.



"There have been many protest actions all over the country. An estimated five thousand dairy farmers were involved in giving milk away to consumers, organising enormous picnic events or demonstrating with tractors. We are expecting results on 5 October and many farmers from France will be going to Brussels for that reason."

Pascal Massol, APLI in **France**: 0033/670517303.



"Chancellor Merkel has extended an invitation for talks on the milk issue because of the ongoing farmers' protests. So three hundred dairy farmers from all over Germany have come to Berlin to demonstrate. Nationwide several thousand milk producers are protesting outside many administrative buildings in the regions to keep up with the chancellor's talks on milk. The dairy farmers are fighting for their demands to be implemented." **Romuald Schaber**, BDM in **Germany** and EMB President: 0049/15155037174.



"Today several thousand dairy farmers in every large town and city in Wallonia are giving out milk to consumers and telling them about their disastrous situation and about the Ministers of Agriculture meeting on Monday. If no decision is taken on that day to meet the EMB's demands, we too will step up the pressure on the politicians and press ahead with our campaigns." **Erwin Schöpges**, MIG in **Belgium**: 0032/497904547.



"This evening we have a meeting with our Minister of Agriculture to hand over our demands for a new milk policy with flexible control of volumes for the Ministers of Agriculture's meeting. On Monday we'll join many other farmers in Brussels", says **Fredy de Martines**, LDB in **Luxembourg**. 0035/2691998831.



Rudi Berli from Uniterre in **Switzerland**: "We are carrying on the farmers' revolt. Today with warning fires, demonstrations, a milk strike, selling strike milk and protesting with tractors. We are fighting for new rules in the market system to adjust supply to demand and to get cost-covering prices. Only then can regional, high-quality food production be guaranteed." Contact: 0041/787077883.



"Our dairy farmers are driving into the towns and cities, giving milk away to consumers to bring home to them the situation on their farms. On Monday we're expecting a clear signal from the politicians to the dairy farmers that a change of market policy is in sight, away from excess production and deregulation towards flexible control of volumes." **Ernst Halbmayr**, IG-Milch **Austria**: 0043/6649249635.



"Today the dairy farmers in the north of the Netherlands built an eight-metre high stack of straw as a symbol for a better European policy. On Monday we are expecting sensible solutions from the Ministers of Agriculture in line with the EMB's demands." **Sieta van Keimpema** from the DDB in the **Netherlands** and EMB Vice-President: 0031/612168000.



Roberto Cavaliere from the APL in **Italy** says: what is necessary is for the politicians to be aware that the farmers are serious and will keep up and even step up the pressure until sensible decisions are taken that meet the EMB's demands. The campaigns in Italy are continuing. The Italian consumers are fully behind us. That gives us the strength to carry on: 0039/335 635 6361.



"We are addressing the EMB's demands to our national government. On Monday **Spain** will also be represented in Brussels", says **Esther Lopera**, PROLEC in **Spain**: 0034/932031286.