Press Release

Great Britain‘s dairy farmers enjoy the full support of their colleagues throughout Europe

Dairy farmers in Great Britain are manning blockades set up outside milk processing plants in protest against the current series of cuts in milk prices. The European Milk Board unreservedly supports these actions and the demands of the British dairy farmers.

(Brussels, 24.7.2012) Hundreds of dairy farmers staged a blockade of milk processing plants in various locations in England to prevent milk deliveries being made. The demonstration, which took place last Thursday, July 19, was the initiative of the British farmers' organisation, Farmers for Action (FFA). The action was one of a series of protests held by British dairy farmers, who are angry at the recently announced cuts in the price of milk. Their milk processors plan to cut the price paid to producers by up to two and a half cents per litre. The dairy farmers fear that the consequences of this move will be so severe as to drive many colleagues out of business. They say the only ones to benefit from the cuts are the milk processors and food retailers. Consumers will continue to pay high prices in the supermarkets. The reduced producer price, which is making the lives of dairy farmers so hard, will not be passed on to consumers, they say.

The president of the European Milk Board (EMB), Romuald Schaber, expresses his full support for the protest staged by the colleagues in Great Britain. “The anger and frustration of our colleagues in Britain and the milk strike this is leading to are more than justified. They represent just one of a whole series of protests being staged by dairy farmers across the whole of Europe, like the one held in front of the European Parliament in Brussels two weeks ago. We must do everything within our power to raise awareness of the current milk prices and the dramatic overproduction in the face of falling prices all over Europe. Dairy farmers and responsible consumers throughout Europe must stand together and express their indignation about this completely untenable situation. Proposals for concrete measures aimed at alleviating the situation, such as voluntarily foregoing deliveries of milk and setting up an agency to monitor the milk market in Europe have already been made. It only remains for politicians to finally take them on board and implement them. “

The European Milk Board (EMB) is the umbrella group of dairy farmers' producer organisations in Europe. It currently represents a total of 100,000 dairy producers in 19 organisations from 14 European countries. Approximately 75% of the milk in Europe is produced in the member countries.

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