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Croatian farmers defend themselves

The Croatian government reduces public subsidies. For one week, there is a growing movement among Croatia's farmers.

About 5000 farmers blocked traffic with their tractors in larger towns in eastern Croatia. This area is typical for agriculture.

The demonstrators call for 28 million € of subsidised payments, which should have already been paid in 2008. Moreover, they demonstrate against a declining of direct subsidies for farmers, which the government decided in the end of February as a result of the economic crisis.

Primary the government announced a falling of aids of around 40%. Since being confronted with demonstrations, they concede an appropriation of agricultural funds.

These proposals do not seem to satisfy the farmers' needs. Next Sunday, a new negotiation will take place. "We really do not have the intention to create chaos, but we don't see another solution. The situation is serious", warns Matija Brlosic, a responsible of the demonstrations.

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