



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

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## PRESS INFORMATION

### EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION: COMMISSION SACRIFICING DAIRY FOR WTO DEAL

Brussels, 14 February 2008

*Following the publication of the latest WTO Modalities Paper, the European Dairy Association (EDA) warns that unless the Commission gets a grip on the talks then a deal on agriculture at the WTO will undermine the EU dairy industry.*

*The dairy sector is already being asked to contribute massively by conceding on export refunds and greater access to the EU market and in exchange it is only seeking a balanced deal with adequate safeguards that give the industry time to adapt.*

Joop Kleibeuker, Secretary General of the EDA, says: *“The Commission needs to get a grip on the drift of these negotiations otherwise the dairy sector could be undermined by any deal. Publication of the new WTO modalities paper makes it clear that the Commission’s negotiators have lost control of the agenda, as yet more concessions are demanded from the EU on market access.”*

*“The latest proposals from Crawford Falconer clearly show that the negotiations are moving further away from the EU’s objectives, whilst practically none of the modest aspirations of the dairy sector have been met. Devaluing the concept of sensitive products by increasing compensatory TRQs, and practically eliminating the safeguard clause for developed countries, makes the proposals on market access unacceptable. The deeply inflexible framework for phasing out of export refunds no longer reflects the compromise on export competition agreed in Hong Kong.*

*The dairy sector will be making a massive contribution to the process of trade liberalisation in forgoing export refunds and by offering significant access to the EU market. All we are seeking for in exchange is a balanced deal that gives the industry time to adapt and some safeguards against the greater volatility that can be expected from greater exposure to the world market.*

*Instead the modalities paper makes clear that the EU is being asked to keep on making more concessions. Our concern is that there is a widening gap between what the Commission has been saying and what it has been delivering for EU agriculture”, according to Kleibeuker.*

The EDA points out that an unfair deal would have social and environmental consequences for the EU, as well as economic ones, because the dairy industry is based on 1.800.000 farmers that are responsible for managing 25% of the EU’s landscape.



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*About the European Dairy Association*

*The European Dairy Association represents the interests of dairy processors in the European Union. The membership of the EDA consists of the national trade associations for dairy processors in each EU Member State.*

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**For more information:**

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