



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

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## PRESS INFORMATION

### **European Dairy Association (EDA) seeks balanced WTO outcome**

Brussels, 24 July 2007

Commenting on the publication of the Draft Modalities for Agriculture, Joop Kleibeuker, Secretary General of the European Dairy Association (EDA) said: 'We are glad that life is being injected into the WTO negotiations, but dismayed that the modest aspirations of the European dairy industry are not being met.

We have always supported a WTO deal, but we want to see a balanced outcome on both the import and export sides of the negotiation.

In exchange for the commitment to get rid of export refunds, we need a flexible framework to allow us to implement this commitment with the minimum of disruption. As drafted the modalities paper does not give this.

The loss of export refunds will have lasting implications for the dairy industry. The current market situation, which has allowed refunds to be set at zero, must be regarded as temporary. Any other approach to the WTO negotiations would be irresponsible.

Getting flexibility on phasing out export refunds is essential for the dairy industry. This would be achieved by simply using limits on export refund expenditure and not on volumes. The EU must go back and fight on this issue and ensure that the timetable for phasing out is adjusted to take account of the delay in finalising the negotiations.

On the import side, given the significant concessions that the dairy sector is already being asked to accommodate on exports, then great caution needs to be exercised before any further concessions are offered on market access.'

#### Notes

- Draft Modalities for Agriculture were published on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The draft modalities set out the views of the Chairman of the negotiating sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture on the possible settlement that could be reached for the agriculture negotiations.
- For the elimination of export refunds the modalities paper proposes the use of limits on the volumes product exported using export subsidies. This would prevent the EU from adapting its exports in line with changes in demand and maximise the disruptive impact on the EU market of displaced exports.

*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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