



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

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## PRESS INFORMATION

### **European Dairy Association (EDA) calls for progress through balanced contributions**

Brussels, 28 June 2006 – *At the occasion of the publication of the draft Modalities Paper last Thursday, the European Dairy Association maintains its position with regards to the WTO negotiations.*

Commenting this Modalities Paper, Mr Veijo Meriläinen, President of EDA, said: “The EDA is concerned with the lack of progress in the WTO negotiations. The EDA considers a successful outcome as a major step in the further development of a profitable world market for dairy products. We support the pursuit of multilateral trade liberalisation through the WTO, as the EU dairy industry is well developed and believes that a balanced agreement can be the basis for increases in trade opportunities.

However, further progress cannot be achieved by unilateral concessions from the EU. It can only be through meaningful and balanced contributions from other developed countries. This must include implementation mechanisms that allow the EU dairy industry time to adapt to the outcome of any deal.

In particular this means no new volume constraints for the phasing out of export subsidies. Instead phasing out must be through a single limit on expenditure for all dairy products. This will give the industry the flexibility required to change its pattern of trade whilst meeting the commitment to elimination.

The Commission also needs to be aware that the EU's proposal on market access is already at the limit of compatibility with CAP reform. Any further reduction in import tariffs will have a greater impact on the EU market than the cuts in support prices required by CAP reform, which is the basis of the EU's mandate.

Nevertheless, despite these challenges and the wide divergence in the negotiating positions of WTO members identified by the Modalities Paper, we are still confident of a positive outcome, and the EDA and the EU dairy industry remains committed to making a positive contribution to the process", concludes Mr Meriläinen.

*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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