



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

PRESS RELEASE

Disappointment and Concerns of the European Dairy Association (EDA) about the suspension of the WTO-negotiations.

Brussels, 26 July 2006 – *After trying to reach a balanced Doha-Round agreement for a long time, the suspension of the negotiations has been announced by Mr. Pascal Lamy, Secretary General of the WTO, on July 24, 2006. For the European Dairy Association EDA, a balanced agreement in the WTO Doha Round negotiations has always been an essential step towards the liberalised world market, the only platform guaranteeing possibilities for growth of profitable trade in general and for the dairy sector in particular. EDA is disappointed about the suspension of the negotiations and asks the EU Commission for restraint with respect to any further reform of related policies in the EU.*

In the last five years, much work has been done by all parties involved in the WTO negotiations process. As a consequence, significant progress towards a balanced and multilateral agreement has been made. With the CAP-Reform of 2003, which was supported by the EU Dairy Industry, the EU has opened the way to strongly reduce market support in agriculture in the EU, which is reflected in the proposals currently on the table: phasing-out of export refunds and 75% reduction in domestic support.

For the EU Dairy Industry, this package, together with a balanced agreement on market access should be the basis for the Doha Round agreement. Such an agreement will, besides the immediate stimulation of the development of profitable trade, provide a framework for further policy developments, both at EU and at global level. For the EU dairy industry, the interference between the policy developments at EU and at WTO level has been of major importance all the time. It has been the condition for the EU Dairy Industry supporting the CAP-Reform of 2003.

However, since today there is no guidance from a new WTO agreement, the EU Dairy Industry asks the EU Commission to be reserved with respect to any further reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the EU Dairy Common Market Organization.

As there are still many open and unanswered questions, the present time-out will not be a period of inactivity for the EU Dairy Industry. The EU, under the leadership of the EU Commission, should work further on its position in the vitally important Doha Round of negotiations. The EU dairy industry is still willing to contribute constructively to this process in the coming months.

About EDA

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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