



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

PRESS INFORMATION

EDA position on the state of affairs with the WTO negotiations.

Brussels, 18 January 2008

Enough is enough

European Dairy Association (EDA) underlines its willingness to contribute to a balanced WTO-outcome, but can not accept the concessions that are recently presented in various working papers of Ambassador Falconer, the chairman of the WTO Special Committee on Agriculture.

We have always been in favour of a balanced WTO deal, says Joop Kleibeuker, Secretary General of EDA. We have committed ourselves considerably by accepting the abolition of export refunds, under agreed conditions, and by agreeing to discuss significant reductions in import tariffs. These commitments, however, can only be retained when, on one hand smooth adaptation is made possible by a phasing out of the refunds over budget only, so no volume restrictions, and on the other hand safeguard mechanisms are installed to prevent main market instabilities in the EU internal market.

On both aspects, the proposals laid down in the working documents of Mr Falconer fall short strongly. For the phasing out of the export refunds, volume reductions are explicitly introduced and the mechanisms to safeguard against instabilities on the internal market are restricted so strongly that any effective use in the dairy sector will not be possible.

Things have gone too far. Europe has offered much towards a deal and our trade partners can gain huge benefits from these, but there is no justification for accepting an inflexible outcome that will harm Europe's agriculture. The talks must deliver a balanced and proportionate outcome. If they can't then there will be real pain for both the processors and Europe's millions farmers.

For the European Dairy Association, the EU Commission has to go back into the negotiations and deliver on the minimal objectives that we have requested from them. Otherwise real damage will be done to the dairy sector, which is one of the crown jewels of European Agriculture.



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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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