



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

PRESS INFORMATION

EU dairy industry disappointed about breakdown of WTO negotiations. Call for further development of trade agreements.

Brussels, 31 July 2008

The European Dairy Association (EDA) regrets the collapsing of the WTO trade talks in Geneva earlier this week.

EDA, who has always been in favour of a balanced WTO deal, insists on the need for trade agreements. It therefore wishes that the Commission works further on trade agreements, multi-lateral or bi-lateral, in order to make sure that the EU industry will not be left behind compared to industries and/or countries already working with multi-lateral or bi-lateral trade agreements. EDA believes that, in the long term, in the absence of multi-lateralism, bi-lateralism is a better framework for the development of international trade compared to any of the alternatives.

Because the EU dairy industry is forward-looking, it believes the Commission should now focus its efforts on developing bi-lateral deals with the aim of establishing a trade framework in which the EU dairy and agricultural industries can take up opportunities and remain highly competitive towards industries from all over the world.

If this cannot be achieved, then the future might be painful for both processors and Europe's millions of farmers.

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.

For more information:

Dr. Joop Kleibeuker
European Dairy Association
+32 2 549 50 43
+32 475 70 77 74
jkleibeuker@euromilk.org

Chris Decroix
Peak Communications
+32 2 454 55 55
+32 498 51 33 56
chris.decroix@peakcom.eu
