



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

PRESS RELEASE

European Dairy Association expresses concerns about the suspension of the WTO negotiations and the Common Agricultural Policy reform developments

Brussels, 27 September 2006 – *At the occasion of its General Assembly, held in Copenhagen last week, the European Dairy Association (EDA) has been looking at the consequences of a further suspension of the WTO-negotiations and how these could affect the European dairy industry. EDA regrets strongly this suspension and would welcome initiatives to re-start the talks.*

At the end of July, Mr Pascal Lamy, Secretary General of the WTO, announced the suspension of the negotiations and asked for a time-out for an undetermined period, this after various tentatives to reach a balanced Doha-Round agreement for a long time. Two months later, the negotiations are still on hold.

At its annual General Assembly, the EDA has rephrased its preference for a multilateral approach to trade liberalisation as long as issues of domestic and export support are addressed in a balanced way along with import tariffs. This multilateral trade agreement is the only platform which guarantees possibilities for growth of profitable trade in general and for the dairy sector in particular. EDA would welcome initiatives to re-start the talks and remains committed to contribute constructively to these talks with an unchanged objective, namely the establishing of a flexible mechanism for the agreed elimination of export subsidies, without volume restrictions.

Since today there is no guidance from a new WTO-agreement and looking at the possibility that the present time-out could last for several years, EDA asks the EU Commission to be reserved with respect to any further reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and to approach this reform from a different angle. The EU dairy industry is in favour of an integrated and balanced approach considering all elements of the EU Dairy Common Market Organisation, including the issues on the table in the suspended WTO-negotiations.

Tel. + 32 2 549.50.40

14, rue Montoyer B -1000 Bruxelles

Fax + 32 2 549.50.49

www.euromilk.org

e-mail: eda@euromilk.org

Re-election of Veijo Meriläinen

At its General Assembly last Thursday, EDA re-elected Mr Veijo Meriläinen as President. Veijo is appointed for a new term of two years. The EDA presidency is considered a confidential position of trust. Veijo is 54 years old and is currently Senior Vice President of International Sales at Valio.

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.

For more information:

Chris Decroix
Peak PR
+32 2 454 55 55
chris.decroix@peakpr.be

Dr. Joop Kleibeuker
European Dairy Association
+32 2 549 50 41
jkleibeuker@euomilk.org