



EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION LAITIÈRE EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHER MILCHINDUSTRIEVERBAND

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## PRESS INFORMATION

### **European Dairy Association (EDA) informs on its position on current WTO negotiations on Agriculture**

Brussels, 27 April 2006 – *At the occasion of a roundtable discussion in Brussels earlier this week, the European Dairy Association (EDA) underlined its position regarding the current and upcoming WTO negotiations. The EDA accepts the need of a world trade liberalisation. In this framework it supports the multilateral approach in the WTO Doha Round negotiations. Several speakers underlined the contribution the European Union already made to these negotiations, insisting that this should not be a unilateral effort at the end.*

On the whole, the European Dairy Association (EDA) considers a balanced WTO-agreement as a major step towards the liberalised market with a potential basis for an increase in opportunities for trade in general and for the dairy sector in particular.

The EDA is confident that the dairy industry will be able to adapt itself to a more competitive market environment with innovative strategies and products. The EDA is of the opinion that any WTO agreement should give the dairy industry the opportunity to successfully undertake the further structural developments required by the changing world trade environment, this from a timing (gradual phasing) and from a schedules perspective.

At the Brussels roundtable discussion, several EDA-speakers underlined that the European Union already has made a big contribution to the WTO talks – the reductions on domestic support as part of the implementation of the CAP reform and the commitment to phasing out export refunds – and that concessions should not all come from the same side.

What are EDA's positions regarding the current and upcoming WTO negotiation points?

- With regards to the export support, the industry should have the possibility to adapt during the phasing out period; limitations in supported volume are not acceptable: phasing out has to take place only through budget reductions; a single ceiling on expenditure on export refunds for all dairy products should be created – no front-loading;
- With regards to market access, the present proposal of the EU is the limit; any further reduction in import tariffs or lowering band thresholds will result in a significant decrease of the milk price, that will go far beyond the agreements as set out in the CAP-reform, the basis for the EU mandate;

- In the market access approach, the EDA may wish to nominate certain dairy products for sensitive products, but this will depend on the outcome of the debate on the treatment of sensitive products;
- EDA and the dairy industry advocate a comparable and well-balanced approach with other developed countries as the US, Australia and New Zealand regarding all three pillars (domestic support, export support, market access); especially the reluctance of the US to reduce effectively the market distorting domestic support is for EDA of main concern

Above all, the EDA underlines that the prosperity of the dairy industry should be maintained, because of its economic, social and environmental implications for the European Union in general and for most of the individual member states in particular. Any WTO agreement will have a major impact on the EU dairy sector and so on especially the rural areas in Europe.

*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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