

Joint call from European organisations and networks:

To the EU Commission and the agriculture ministers of the member states

End export subsidies now!

Since the end of January the EU has once again subsidised the exportation of dairy products with taxpayers' money. Products therefore end up on the so-called world market at prices which are far below the real production costs. In developing countries this threatens the livelihoods and the right to food of hundreds of thousands of milk producers who produce for local markets. They are unable to keep up with dumping prices and are displaced from their regional markets. The result is poverty, hunger and destitution. Peasants and small-scale dairy farmers aim to supply the local population with high quality dairy products, but are threatened by the EU's export-oriented agricultural policy and export subsidies. For the 2010 fiscal year alone the EU Commission provisionally budgeted 449 million Euros to subsidise the exportation of dairy products. In addition, representatives of the pork industry in several member states are now calling for the reintroduction of export subsidies for pork.

On the occasion of the agriculture council (July 13, 2009), the organisations ask the agriculture ministers of the member states and the EU Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel to speak out for the **immediate and lasting abolition of all export subsidies** and not to wait until the round of negotiations in the WTO has been completed! Overall, the organisations expect the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 (CAP 2013) to be oriented in such a way that it is compatible with development policy concerns and to thereby contribute to the fight against poverty and hunger.

Signatories:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft
bäuerliche
Landwirtschaft, Germany



AFRICANDO, Spain



Afrika-Europa Network,
Netherlands



Arche Noah Gesellschaft
zur Erhaltung und
Verbreitung der
Kulturpflanzenvielfalt,
Austria



Bread for all, Switzerland



Brot für die Welt,
Germany



CIDSE



Coordinadora Un Altre
Món És Possible de
Sabadell, Spain

EdPAC-Educación para
la Acción Crítica, Spain



EED, Germany



European Coordination
Via Campesina



FIAN, Austria



FOOD FIRST INFORMATION AND ACTION NETWORK

FIAN, Belgium



FIAN, Germany



FIAN, Norway



FOOD FIRST INFORMATION AND ACTION NETWORK

Fédération Internationale de Mouvements d'Adultes Ruraux Catholique



Finn Church Aid, Finland



Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Finland



Friends of the Earth



Germanwatch, Germany



ICCO, Netherlands



Mouvement Internationale de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique



Norwegian Church Aid, Norway



Nupeo (Number of People), Norway



ÖBW-Via Campesina, Austria



Oxfam, Germany



Oxfam International



Platform ABC (Earth, Farmer, Consumer), Netherlands



Plataforma DESC, Spain

SETEM Catalunya, Spain

Ufficio Campagne Oxfam International e UCODEP, Italy



Unión Universal Desarrollo Solidario, Spain

World Alliance of YMCAs



WWF, Germany



Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V.
Postfach 10 11 42 | 70010 Stuttgart

Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel
European Commission
200, Rue de la Loi

B-1049 Brussels

Vorstand
Ökumenische Diakonie

Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel
Staffenbergstraße 76
70184 Stuttgart
Telefon 0711/2159-283
Telefax 0711/2159-161
c.fuellkrug@diakonie.de

Stuttgart, July 10, 2009

Dear Commissioner Fischer Boel,

we are writing to you ahead of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on July 13. We are deeply concerned about the issue of export subsidies and would like to see it reflected in the Council Conclusions to be agreed.

Whilst we appreciate that the council is acknowledging the hardship for the dairy farmers in Europe, we have some concern on the effects the European policy is having on producers in developing countries.

As you are aware, producer prices for milk products are still falling. The market situation has not improved since the reintroduction of export subsidies by the end of January. From our partner organizations in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Uganda and others we constantly hear that cheap imported milk powder is blocking any development of the dairy sector in their countries. The export subsidies and the export orientation of European production are having an effect on the market balance and in consequence on the potential income of dairy holders. Strong criticism came recently also from Australia, Argentina, Brazil, China & New Zealand at the WTO's regular Agriculture Committee meeting. Export subsidies of the EU and the US do depress world market prices and lead to a vicious circle of price dumping at the global level. Common export refunds have already been increased three times by the EU's Single CMO Management Committee.

We are convinced that it is therefore high time to rethink the current dairy policy and to abolish export subsidies. The attached call expresses the concern about these impacts of export subsidies. It is supported by 34 development, environmental, human rights and farmer's organizations and networks.

On the occasion of the agriculture council, the organizations would like to ask you, Madam Commissioner, to speak out for the immediate and lasting abolition of all export subsidies and not to wait until the round of negotiations

Diakonisches Werk
der Evangelischen Kirche
in Deutschland e.V.
Staffenbergstraße 76
70184 Stuttgart

Telefon: +49 711 21 59-0
Telefax: +49 711 21 59-288
diakonie@diakonie.de
www.diakonie.de

Registergericht:
Amtsgericht Stuttgart
Vereinsregister 3209

Ev. Kreditgenossenschaft
Stuttgart
Konto-Nr. 405 000
BLZ 600 606 06

USt-IdNr.: DE 147801862

Behindertengerechter Parkplatz
vor dem Haupteingang

in the WTO has been completed. Overall, the organizations expect the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 (CAP 2013) to be oriented in such a way that it is compatible with development policy concerns and to thereby contribute to the fight against poverty and hunger.

We are keen to further discuss these issues. We wish you a successful Council meeting and look forward to hearing the outcome.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Cornelia Füllkrug- Weitzel
Director Brot für die Welt

on behalf of 34 European NGOs