



June, 2026

To: President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

VIA E-MAIL: Ursula.VON-DER-LEYEN@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200

1049 Brussels, Belgium

CC: Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen

RE: URGENT EUROPEAN RESPONSE NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE ESCALATING DAIRY MARKET CRISIS

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our deep concern regarding the **worsening situation on the European dairy market and the growing economic pressure faced by milk producers across Member States**. A significant year-on-year decline in farmgate milk prices, combined with rising production costs - particularly for fuel, fertilizers, and energy - is creating an increasingly unsustainable environment for European dairy farmers.

This development threatens not only the economic viability of dairy farms, but also the broader stability of Europe's food security, rural economies, and strategic agricultural resilience. For many active producers, especially family farms, the current imbalance between declining revenues and rising operational costs is becoming untenable.

In response to this deteriorating situation, we are presenting a **joint appeal addressed to the European Commission, aimed at highlighting the urgent need for coordinated European action**. The dairy issue is no longer solely a national concern. It is becoming a matter of broader European coordination and pressure, with this initiative open to additional signatories from across the European Union.

This deterioration is increasingly visible at farm level, where falling producer prices, persistently high production costs and growing liquidity constraints are putting significant pressure on the economic viability of milk producers. In this context, we respectfully ask the European Commission to assess without delay the possible activation of targeted emergency market measures under the Common Market Organisation framework, including, where appropriate, Articles 219–222 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. Such measures could include the mobilisation of the agricultural reserve, the opening of private storage aid for relevant dairy products, and the examination of temporary and voluntary market-stabilisation tools aimed at preventing further deterioration of producer incomes. The current situation should not be regarded merely as a short-term cyclical price correction. If left unaddressed, it may lead to structural losses in milk production capacity, with negative consequences for rural economies, food security and the strategic resilience of the European agri-food system.

From our perspective, accelerated solutions must include the **immediate activation of the agricultural crisis reserve, combined with additional instruments that would complement the Commission’s recently presented plan addressing high energy and fuel costs. This should include the possibility of short-term preferential loans for farmers, as well as greater flexibility for Member States to provide temporary support for the reduction and compensation of extraordinary production costs beyond current de minimis aid limits through national resources. We also call for consideration of allowing Member States to mobilize relevant resources from Recovery and Resilience instruments where appropriate.**

Furthermore, we believe **the European Union should strengthen its strategic food security framework by enabling Member States to expand national strategic reserves through dedicated financial support for the purchase of dairy products into material reserves**. Such instruments could be framed as strategic supply security - or even resilience and defense-related expenditures - given the growing geopolitical emphasis on strategic autonomy. These reserves could operate through regular renewal cycles, with products nearing expiration redirected outside the EU market through food assistance programs, thereby supporting both internal market stability and humanitarian objectives.

European farmers cannot be expected to guarantee food security, strategic resilience, and rural stability while continuously absorbing disproportionate market shocks. **We therefore urge the European Commission to act swiftly, decisively, and strategically - not only to address the immediate dairy crisis, but also to strengthen the long-term**

position of European producers within the Union's economic and geopolitical framework.

We remain ready to contribute constructively to this discussion and to work together towards practical and effective solutions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Jan Doležal

President of the Czech Agrarian Chamber, AK ČR, Czechia

Mr. David Brož

President of the Young Agrarians ´ Society of the Czech Republic, SMAČR, Czechia

Mr. Radek Kružík

Chairman of the Initiative of agricultural and food businesses, IZPP, Czechia

Mr. Martin Pýcha

Chairman of the Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic, ZSČR, Czechia

Mr. Jozef Šumichrast

Chairman of the Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber, SPPK, Slovakia

Ms. Agnieszka Maliszewska

President of the Management Board, PIM, Poland

Ms. Katalin Süle

Vice-president of the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture, HCA, Hungary

Mr. István Jakab

President of the Hungarian Association of Farmers' Circles and Agricultural Cooperatives, MAGOSZ, Hungary

Mr. Ionel Arion

President of the National farmers federation, PRO AGRO, Romania

Mr. Nicolae Vasile

President of the League of Agricultural Producers' Associations in Romania, LAPAR

Mr. Mircea Băluță

President of the National Branch Union of Cooperatives, UNCSV, Romania

Mr. Vlad Macovei

President of Farmers ´ Force Association, AFF, Romania

Mr. Ilia Prodanov

Chairman of the National Grain Producers Association, Bulgaria

Mr. Mladen Jakopovic

President of Croatian Chamber of Agriculture, HPK, Croatia

Ms. Kerli Ats

Chairwoman of Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, Estonia

Ms. Maira Dzelzkalēja-Burmistre

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