



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels, 24 September 2009

Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso
President of the European Commission

Dear Mr. Barroso,

You will doubtless be aware of the dramatic situation milk farmers are facing since prices have been reduced to levels that are far from covering their production costs. Widespread farmers' protests and milk delivery strikes across Europe show how desperate the current situation of most European milk farmers is.

There is indeed an urgent need for a rapid and serious revision of the measures so far taken by Commissioner Fischer Boel to solve the crisis. We therefore welcome the news that you have taken the issue under your personal responsibility.

However, we would like to urge you to encourage the Agricultural Council to call for an extraordinary formal Council meeting early in October, instead of continued informal talks which let the crisis take on ever larger dimensions. We also would like to ask you to facilitate direct talks between the Council and respective milk farmer organisations as soon as possible, including the European Parliament. The Commission, and especially you as its president, should have an interest in solving the crisis quickly. It is unacceptable that a high value food product like milk is being paid far less by the food industry than the lowest category of spring water.

Yours faithfully,

Rebecca Harms
Co-President

Daniel Cohn-Bendit
Co-President

Martin Häusling
Member

José Bové
Member