



PHIL HOGAN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 295 52 86
phil.hogan@ec.europa.eu
Brussels, 12. 04. 2017
(2017)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the letter of 17 March 2017, sent by numerous citizens. All my sympathy goes to the memory of M. Le Guelvout, to his family and friends.

You make a case for the implementation of a Market Responsibility Programme (MRP) for the dairy sector as conceived by the European Milk Board (EMB) and a 2% compulsory reduction of milk production at EU level in a year.

I am fully aware of this notion that my services analysed in depth when it was tabled by EMB. As a matter of principle, the MRP would represent a U-turn in the market orientation we have been pursuing in the EU agricultural policy since the MacSharry reform in 1992. It would imply the reintroduction of a milk quota system, much more complex than the one we abolished only two years ago, which would penalize competitive farmers and prevent investment and growth.

EMB has been given the possibility to present the MRP to the sector in two prominent events: the Conference "The EU dairy sector: developing beyond 2015" (on 24 September 2013) and the Civil Dialogue Group held on 12th May 2015. In neither of those occasions did the MRP get traction among other actors of the sector.

Let me close by recalling my heartfelt commitment to the dairy sector that has been proven with the unprecedented deployment of emergency measures worth more than €1 billion over the last 2 years. This happened in a time of ongoing European economic difficulty, and in the midst of great crises for our continent. However it ultimately showed that the European Union recognises the importance of its farmers, and of dairy farmers in particular.

Yours sincerely,

Phil HOGAN