

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, 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.