

To the European Commission

Mr. Christophe Hansen - Commissioner for Agriculture and Food
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 1 December 2025

Subject: Open letter from EMB and its member organisations: Urgent activation of the Voluntary Volume Reduction Scheme!

Dear Mr Hansen,

Europe is on the brink of another potentially devastating crisis in the dairy sector. In many Member States, milk producers are currently witnessing a **sharp and accelerating drop in prices**. Numerous farms – especially family-run farms – now face immediate threats to their existence.

This situation is not unexpected. EU institutions have long been aware that the milk market is highly volatile and that European dairy farms already operate at the limits of economic viability. Another price collapse would endanger a producer base that is already close to breaking point.

The voluntary milk volume reduction scheme was created precisely for this situation.

It is a *market-stabilising crisis instrument* designed to reduce market pressure early and stop price crashes before they become uncontrollable. This tool exists because the EU recognised it needed such a mechanism to prevent severe market crises.

Now is the time to **finally activate it**.

Our call to the EU: Activate the voluntary volume reduction at EU level now.

Activating this measure is:

✓ **necessary**

because prices are already falling and will continue to drop rapidly without intervention.

✓ **economically sound**

because the cost of dealing with a full-scale market crisis far exceeds the cost of early stabilisation.

✓ **politically responsible**

because maintaining a widespread dairy production base is a strategic interest of the EU.

✓ **essential for the stability of rural areas**

without stable dairy farms, rural infrastructure collapses, farms close, and young people lose all perspective.

Europe cannot afford another collapse of its dairy farming base.

The EU has repeatedly acknowledged how critical the situation in agriculture has already become. If decision-makers do not act now, they will bear responsibility for an imminent crisis and its far-reaching consequences:

- the loss of thousands of farms
- preventing young people from entering production
- irreversible damage to rural regions
- social and economic instability across Europe

We urgently call on you to:

- **Stop the ongoing milk price collapse.**
- **Activate the crisis measure „voluntary milk volume reduction scheme“ without delay.**
- **Take responsibility for the future of European milk production.**
- **Protect rural areas before it is too late.**

The voluntary volume reduction is an existing, proven and effective instrument. Not using it now would be a serious political mistake.

On behalf of Europe's dairy farmers,

European Milk Board asbl (EMB)
and its member organisations in Europe:

Germany:

- AbL – Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft
- BDM – Bundesverband Deutscher Milchviehhalter

Netherlands:

- DDB – Dutch Dairymen Board
- NMV – Nederlandse Melkveehouders Vakbond

France:

- APLI – Association des Producteurs de Lait Indépendants
- CR – Coordination Rurale

Ireland: ICMSA – Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Denmark: LDM – Landsforeningen af Danske Mælkeproducenter

Belgium:

- MIG – Milcherzeuger Interessengemeinschaft
- FMB – Flemish Milk Board

Lithuania: LPGA – Lietuvos pieno gamintojų asociacija

Latvia: LOSP – Lauksaimnieku organizāciju sadarbības padome

Switzerland:

- BIG-M – Bäuerliche Interessengemeinschaft für Marktkampf
- Uniterre

Norway: Bondesolidaritet

Italy: APL – Associazione produttori latte della pianura padana

Portugal: APROLEP – Associação dos Produtores de Leite de Portugal

Spain: OPL – Organización de Productores de Leche

Luxembourg: LDB – Luxembourg Dairy Board