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Press Release

Copa and Cogeca demand roadmap from European Council to solve dairy crisis

On the occasion of the European Council meeting on 18 and 19 June, Copa and Cogeca, the bodies representing European farmers and European agricultural cooperatives, are calling on the heads of state and government to set clear political guidelines for addressing the crisis in the dairy sector.

Padraig Walshe, President of Copa, said, "European dairy farmers are in a serious economic crisis. Demand for dairy products has fallen abruptly across the whole of the EU. Our dairy sector cannot adapt in such a short time. Prices for farmers have fallen to their lowest level in recent history, in some countries to those of 1983. To make matters worse, production costs have remained at an all-time high. This is disastrous for farm incomes, endangering the very existence of dairy production in the EU."

Gert Van Dijk, President of Cogeca, added, "This dairy crisis clearly shows that farmers' role in the food chain must also be strengthened. Our share of the price of the final product has fallen to an unsustainably low level. Farmer-owned cooperatives are facing an imbalanced food-chain and non-transparent commercial practices, and measures are needed to change this."

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