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FARMERS DEMONSTRATION - 14TH MARCH 2016 - (11:30 am)  
IN FRONT OF DRAPNORTE DELEGATION - MATOSINHOS (PORTUGAL)  
AND MARCH TO TWO HYPERMARKETS AREA

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CNA - APPLC - AND OTHER FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS  
TOGETHER IN THE DEFENSE OF NATIONAL PRODUCTION OF MILK (AND MEAT)  
*LET'S SAVE THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION AND OUR WORK !*

CNA – Confederação Nacional da Agricultura and it's affiliated organization APPLC – Associação Portuguesa de Produtores de Leite e Carne, along with other farmers organizations- especially Milk Producers (and meat) - will hold a Farmers Demonstration on Monday, 14 March - beginning at 11.30 – in front of the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, in Matosinhos (Senhora da Hora).

Participants will then stop near two Supermarkets of the area to point to specific claims against abusive commercial practices that large commercial centers continue to practice and that have contributed to the severe crisis that is devastating the national Livestock sector - Milk and Meat. *Legislative regulation and supervision of the activities of Supermarkets is essential.*

This will be also be the occasion to ask the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture to:

- Create the conditions for production outflow, at better production prices, for our agri-food products, such as milk and meat, and also stricter control of imports (like what has been happening with Spain for the last months).
- “Bring out” from production – public intervention at a remunerative prices – of calves and cull dairy cows.
- Temporary exempt farmers of monthly social security payments with no loss of rights.
- Refund part of the expenses related to electric consumption.
- Increase the aid given (production-related) for each dairy cow.
- Prioritize the consumption of our National Production in Public Canteens and promote short food supply circuits.



PUBLIC REGULATION OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETS IS NEEDED IN THE EU!

AID TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE AND NOT TO STOP PRODUCING!

Elsewhere the 14th of March, the Minister of Agriculture will be in Brussels for the meeting of the Agricultural Council (CAP Ministers) to discuss the issue of milk and pig meat sectors.

Milk and Pig Meat are strategic productions for Portugal's Food Sovereignty, for the national economy and for our nutrition.

In this context, CNA and APPLC reaffirm that - at EU level - the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government must fight, and without further hesitation, for the recovery of public mechanisms of control of production and markets, such as milk quotas, whose elimination determined, in large part, this crisis. Furthermore, the increase of the prices of public intervention on milk / dairy products and meat is urgently necessary.

Thus, it is a serious mistake to allow - as it has been by the Minister of Agriculture – that the reduction of the national production of milk and pig meat, be done with public funds, even if on a "voluntary and temporary basis".

Here, what is needed is exceptional assistance to cope with a situation of exceptional gravity. To, in this manner, support and allow livestock producers to keep producing, prevent the loss of huge investments - public and private - made in this sector and to ensure quality food for our population!

CNA, Coimbra, March 9, 2016

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