

DECLARATION FROM MOUVEMENT D'ACTION PAYSANNE

On Monday 14th March, a big trade union mobilization of the agricultural sector will take place on the occasion of the European Council of Agriculture.

Tractors, farmers' markets, and demonstrations; dairy federations and dairy producers are multiplying the means to make their situation heard by Europe's deaf ears while the milk crisis worsens.

Our peasant structures, even though they resist a little better to the dairy wreck, they are not spared. The industrial agriculture model dictates its rules and conditions, threatening family farms more and more.

Mouvement d'Action Paysanne takes position

On 25th February, our Agriculture Ministers met to discuss the measures that Belgium will defend at the European Council of Agriculture, on Monday 14th March.

Mouvement d'Action Paysanne reacted to those measures by praising some of them and by questioning others.

Mouvement d'Action Paysanne also spoke with the cabinet of the European commissioner of Agriculture, Phil Hogan, on the 2th of March in presence of a delegation from ECVC in order to carry the message of the necessary market regulation. The delegation of Belgian, Spanish, Portuguese and French farmer federation representatives exposed their long term solutions to avoid futures crises : improve the efficiency of the European Milk Market Observatory (MMO) and put into place a price tunnel to secure the income of dairy producers.

If the meeting was cordial, everything shows that these proposals won't be integrated in a long term strategic plan to end crises or prevent them.

Due to this alarming situation, Mouvement d'Action Paysanne reiterates its support to all its member peasant dairy producers and to all the producers who are suffering the crisis and who will go to express their anger on Monday 14th of March.

Mouvement d'Action Paysanne will go on calling upon Belgian and European Agriculture Ministers in alliance with ECVC and European federations, to force the understanding that another agriculture policy not only is possible, but also important if we want Europe to remain a region of agricultural production that enables producers to live with dignity from their work, enable consumers to choose quality food, and allows the environment to renew itself and play its nourishing role.

Mouvement d'Action Paysanne reiterates loudly his commitment for coherent and relevant measures to end the milk crises : **strengthening the tasks of the Milk Market Observatory, the evolution of the rules related to the « Milk Package », the definition of crisis and the set-up of a mechanism of prevention of crises and the dynamic management of the production.**

But more important, Mouvement d'Action Paysanne demands the necessary promotion of agro ecological peasant agriculture, the only model that will satisfy the economic, political, environmental and social challenges we have to face.

The demonstration will take place on Monday 14th March at 10h, from the Central Station in Brussels.

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