

BALTIC ASSEMBLY
APPEAL
to the European Commission on Support for Milk Producers of the Baltic States

The Baltic Assembly,

expressing deep concern over the particularly difficult situation of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian farmers following Russia's embargo on imports of food products from the European Union (EU);

noting the Baltic States used to export a significant part of milk products to Russia, hence it is in our states that the milk sector has suffered the largest negative impact caused by the embargo compared to milk sectors of other EU Member States. The Russian market, to which milk products were supplied, is of considerable importance for the Baltic States due to historically established trade and cooperation ties and a favourable geographical position. Prior to accession to the European Union, the Baltic States supplied a large share of their products to post-Soviet markets, mainly to Russia, as due to political and economic barriers they lacked possibilities of developing trade with other countries of the world. Milk products of our states have always been positively received in the Russian market, because the product range and methods of trading met needs of Russian consumers;

taking note that market regulation measures in the milk sector have so far focused on the milk processing industry. However, the present-day situation shows that the most vulnerable link is farmers engaged in milk production. Recently, average farm gate milk prices in the Baltic States have been approximately 30 per cent lower than the EU average and may fall by another 20 per cent in the nearest future. Moreover, in view of such an unfavourable situation farmers are forced to reduce the number of cows held;

reminding that in September this year, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş promised to search for possibilities to support farmers of the most affected countries, however no required decisions in this regard have been made yet,

stresses that, in light of the facts stated in this Resolution, there is a need to provide urgent support to milk producers of the Baltic States at least for a period of five to six months, until milk processing enterprises find new markets and the situation in the milk sector stabilises;

requests the European Commission to promptly take a positive decision on granting of direct compensatory aid to milk producers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in order to avoid irreversible consequences in the milk sector of the Baltic States.

Tallinn, 24 October 2014