



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 June 2011**

**11700/11**

**AGRI 455**

**NOTE**

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from: Hungarian delegation  
to: Council

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Subject: NGO conference: Creating coherence on trade, development and sustainability:  
the European animal sector in focus, Debrecen, 26-28 May 2011  
- Information from the Hungarian delegation

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Delegations will find attached an information note submitted by the Hungarian delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 28 June 2011.

Creating coherence on trade, development and sustainability: the European animal sector in focus

*Conclusions of a Civil Society side event to the informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting  
29-31<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Debrecen, Hungary*

At the occasion of the informal meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the European Union, 80 representatives of Civil Society from 15 European countries and from the Global South came to Debrecen to discuss how the future Common Agricultural Policy can contribute to a sustainable animal husbandry sector in Europe with a special attention on the CAP's connection with the European trade policy agenda and the coherence of both with European development goals. The meeting was organized by "Creating Coherence", a Consortium of European NGOs and fair trade organizations and hosted by Védegyület with the support of Greenpeace Hungary.

In this group of broad basis in European Civil Society there was widespread agreement that in order to achieve true sustainability, the agenda has to be much wider than the issues discussed at the ministerial meeting.

We discussed the three main agenda points of the Ministers' meeting and would like to convey the following messages to Agricultural and Fisheries' Ministers:

Effects of the lifting of the dairy quota regime

There is fundamental need for remunerative and stable prices, for which effective supply management is needed. Eliminating the dairy quota without any alternative supply management system in place is a step away from this direction. We have to ensure that by liberalising the dairy market, the CAP reform does not lead to more cheap exports which will harm local livelihoods in developing countries. Additional support is needed for milk production in less advantaged regions even if there is supply management. Participants acknowledged that the quota system needs to be reformed, ensuring a more just distribution across EU regions and producers, or replaced by another form of supply management.

## Increasing feed prices

The EU should become less dependent on feedstuff imports by switching to more grass based production systems as well as by promoting alternative plant protein sources. The CAP could contribute to this by supporting the production of vegetable proteins including protein plants in crop rotation requirements. This would also contribute to combating climate change by reducing transport needs preventing further land use change in Latin America, including deforestation in the Amazon region.

## Environmental and animal welfare standards

A sustainable model of agriculture and animal husbandry is clearly understood as one that produces healthy and nutritious food while preserving the environment and traditional landscapes. We urge Ministers to effectively promote this model within the decision-making dynamics of the European Union. By no means should environmental and social standards be reduced in order to achieve global competitiveness. Recurring animal health and food safety crises hitting the food sector show that more and better standards are needed. The import of millions of tonnes of GM soy to feed European animals is causing further social and environmental problems in Latin America and in Europe, and a strong dependence in the European industrial model of animal production. A new food and agricultural policy in Europe must halt the unsustainable flood of GM feed imports in order to address the severe social and environmental problems related to such a production system.

It will be of key importance that European agricultural ministers address these important issues if they intend to ensure real sustainable agricultural policies which are consistent with the development goals of the EU.

Presentations and audiovisual documentation of our International CSO seminar and Side Event are available at: [www.creatingcoherence.org](http://www.creatingcoherence.org)