



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Luxembourg, 19 October 2009
14681/09 (Presse 300)

Dairy market

The Council:

- will adopt this afternoon a regulation prolonging the intervention periods for butter and skimmed milk powder;
- agreed in principle to adopt the proposal on the extension of the disturbance clause to dairy¹ and on the buying-up of quotas² as soon as possible³ ([14270/09](#));

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- ¹ extending the "disturbance clause" which already exists for other farm sectors, to allow a quicker response to future market disturbances, if prices fall or rise;
- ² changing, on a voluntary base, the operation of quota buying-up schemes for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 campaigns. Bought up quota kept in the national reserve should no longer enter in the calculation of the superlevy to be paid at EU level. If a Member State decides to collect a superlevy at national level, the part corresponding to the bought-up quota can be channelled and used at national level for the restructuring of the sector.
- ³ The Council gave mandate to the SCA to conclude rapidly the examination of the proposal with a view to adopt it already in November;

P R E S S

- took note of the quarterly report on the situation on the dairy market¹ ([14477/09](#));
- was informed about the outcome of the first meeting, on 13 October, of the High Level Expert Group chaired by the Commission to reflect further on medium and long-term measures, including a regulatory framework;
- took note of the contribution from 21 Member States ([14526/09](#)).

In addition, Marianne Fischer Boel indicated the Commission's intention to propose to the Budget Authority that additional financial resources be channelled to dairy farmers (EUR 280 millions).

The proposals follow the European Council conclusions of 19 June inviting the Commission to present an in-depth market analysis of the dairy sector, including possible options for stabilising the dairy market, while still respecting the outcome of the Health Check ([11225/09](#), *point 14*).

The European Parliament will decide on 20 October to deliver its opinion according to the urgency procedure.

¹ Latest figures show further improvement in dairy prices in recent weeks: EU average Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) price is now estimated just above 180€/100 kg while average butter price has reached 250€/100 kg.