

President Mr. Juncker
Vice-President Mrs. Georgieva
Vice-President Mr. Katainen
Commissioner Mr. Hogan

Dear President, Vice-Presidents and Commissioner

We congratulate you on the nomination to your new posts and wish you all the success in your important work. We appreciate that there are many items on the agenda of the new Commission as it takes office. However, the urgency of our current situation means that we cannot afford any delay.

We are writing to alert you to the critical question of compensations for the Baltic and Finish dairy farmers who have suffered a hard and disproportional impact by the consequences of the Russian sanctions. Despite several formal assurances about the forthcoming support, this issue has not been resolved so far.

Whilst we are not questioning the EU's joint political decision in relation to Russia, we are calling for European solidarity and joint action to mitigate the disproportionately negative effects of the Russian import ban on rural and farming communities in the Baltic States and Finland.

We have lost our main export market overnight. This has resulted in a dramatic drop of price for our raw milk produce, with the income levels for the last two and a half months well below the actual production cost. With every litre milked, we are actually losing money, and raw milk is not something that can be stored until the price returns to comfortable levels. This situation is literally unsustainable, even in the short term.

What makes the situation even worse is that we have no ordinary safety nets. The levels of EU direct payments are discriminatively low in the Baltic States, in fact the lowest in the EU. Meanwhile, additional national government support is nearly impossible to come by as our economies continue to recover from the economic crisis. At the same time, the Baltic States face the exceptional costs of preventing the spread of African swine fever throughout the region and into the other EU Member States.

Due to those exceptional challenges faced by our farmers, we repeat our call on the new European Commission and the EU as a whole to provide urgent targeted support to agricultural producers in our countries. All requested evidence and data to substantiate our appeal has been provided and is obvious. As stated before, and as has been underlined by recent developments, we believe that it is in the interests of not only the countries concerned, but also the EU as whole, that additional European support is targeted towards the regions and sectors hit hardest by the Russian embargo.

We are asking for solidarity, rather than preferential treatment. We are simply calling for emergency compensation at a time of real crisis – for support that will enable us to stay in business.

We thank you in advance for your due consideration of this urgent request.

Yours sincerely,

Andriejus Stančikas, President of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania

Jeronimas Kraujelis, President of Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies

Juratė Dovydėnienė, Chairwoman of Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives "Kooperacijos Kelias"

Jonas Talmantas, Chairman of Lithuanian Farmers' Union

Kalle Hamburg, President of the Estonian Farmers Federation

Roomet Sõrmus, Chairman of the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce

Agita Hauka, Chairwomen of the Latvian Farmers' Federation

Juris Lazdins, Chairman of the Latvian Farmers' Parliament

Aija Balode, Chairwoman of Latvian Agricultural Statutory Societies

Indulis Jansons, Chairman, Latvian Agricultural Cooperatives Association

Edgars Treibers, Chairman, Latvian Agricultural Organisation Cooperation Council

Juha Marttila, President of MTK, Finland