

Bijlage

De zeven aanbevelingen van de *High Level Group* Zuivel

Summary of recommendations of the high level expert group on milk

HLG Recommendation on contractual relations

The HLG considers that there is a need to increase awareness and reinforce the responsibility of the operators in the dairy chain to better take into account the signals of the market and adapt supply to demand. Therefore the HLG invites the Commission to consider the most appropriate manner, whether by guidelines or a legislative proposal, to enhance on a voluntary basis the use of formal written contracts, made in advance, to cover deliveries of raw milk which should include the following four key aspects: (1) the price payable/price formula at delivery, (2) the volume which could and/or must be delivered, (3) the timing of deliveries during the season, and (4) the duration of the contract (which could be indefinite with a termination clause). Member States could make the use of these contracts compulsory. All the specific elements of the contract should be freely negotiated between the parties. The specific nature of cooperatives should be duly taken into account.

HLG Recommendation on bargaining power of producers

The HLG, whilst noting the divergent views of a minority of 5 delegations, invites the Commission to consider a legislative proposal for a provision under agricultural law to allow producer organisations constituted by dairy farmers to negotiate contract terms, including price, jointly for some or all of its members' production with a dairy, subject to an appropriate quantitative limit expressed as a percentage of EU milk production and to consider whether such a provision should be permanent or of a sufficiently long but temporary duration, and in either case be subject to review. The specific nature of cooperatives should be duly taken into account.

HLG Recommendation on interprofessional/interbranch organisations

The HLG suggests that the Commission examines further whether any of the current provisions for interprofessional organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector could also be applicable in the dairy sector. If so, the applicable legal restrictions on anti-competitive activities and the Commission's powers to control them, should equally apply, and the proper functioning of the internal market should be safeguarded.

HLG recommendations on transparency

The HLG invites the Commission to elaborate further the European Food Price Monitoring Tool, better using existing information. The HLG further invites EUROSTAT and the National Statistical Institutes to look for the possibility to communicate more information, subject to a reasonable cost, for example on volumes of milk and milk products.

HLG Recommendations on market measures and futures

The HLG generally regards the existing safety net as appropriate. Nonetheless the HLG invites the Commission to explore new WTO green box compatible instruments in the framework of the CAP after 2013, in order to reduce income volatility. It invites the Commission to consider facilitating the use of futures markets as a useful complementary tool, in particular via targeted training programmes. Supervision and regulation should be dealt with in the framework of the overall approach on derivatives and of the Directive for markets in financial instruments (MiFID).

HLG recommendations on marketing standards and origin labelling

The HLG has taken note of the ongoing activities regarding labelling and invites the Commission to follow closely the developments to ensure that imitation dairy products are distinguished properly, thereby avoiding the use of names and terms reserved to dairy products. On place of farming the HLG invites the Commission to consider the feasibility of different options for obligatory/voluntary place of farming labelling of basic primary dairy products. Both for rules on labelling of imitation product and on place of farming, coherence of dairy sector proposals should be ensured with the Food Information for Consumers legislation currently under consideration by the legislator.

HLG Recommendations on innovation and research

The HLG underlines the importance of innovation and research for the competitiveness of the dairy sector. The HLG therefore invites the Commission to propose a reinforcement of innovation in the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013, in particular in Rural Development Policy. The HLG further invites the Commission to improve the communication of the current possibilities for innovation and research within the existing framework of Rural development and research framework programmes. The HLG invites Member States to fully take advantage of the existing possibilities.

As regards research the HLG calls upon stakeholders to define clear research priorities for the dairy sector in order to allow the sector to better benefit from national research programmes as well as the Community research framework programme.

The dairy sector is also invited to intensify its participation in the ongoing developments that take place in the HLG on competitiveness of the food chain which also addresses the issue of innovation and research.