

Dacian Cioloş
European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission
B-1049 Belgium
Cc: Members of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Dear Commissioner Cioloş

We would like to thank you for the efforts you have made to visit Lithuania, Latvia, and Finland in recent weeks and meet farmers' representatives from the countries worst hit by the recent Russian import ban. We very much appreciate that you took the time to get a thorough understanding of the direct consequences of the sanctions on our markets.

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 hardest hit regions and sectors.

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.

As you witnessed first hand, the dairy sector in our countries has been drastically affected by the Russian sanctions. Dairy products, especially cheese, constituted a significant part of agricultural exports to Russia from the Baltic States and Finland. Our dairy sector was already suffering from declining revenues and the Russian ban dramatically worsens this situation. We are currently experiencing sharp reductions in raw milk delivery prices, and in the Baltic States unjustified terminations of milk delivery contracts are occurring on a daily basis.

However, it is not only the dairy sector which is facing serious challenges. The sanctions are also having impact on the meat sector in our countries, as well as on exports of fruit, vegetables and potatoes. At the same time, the Baltic States are faced with the exceptional costs of preventing the spread of African swine fever throughout the region and into other EU Member States. Due to the exceptional challenges faced by our farmers, we repeat our call on the EU to provide targeted support to agricultural producers in our countries. We encourage the Commission to declare the Baltic States and Finland as an area where specific measures are needed to compensate farmers' exceptional losses.

Yours sincerely

Lithuanian Chamber of
Agriculture



Andriejus Stančikas,
Chairman

Lithuanian Farmers Union



Jonas Talmantas,
Chairman

Lithuanian Association of



Jeronimas Kraujelis,

Agricultural Companies

Lithuanian Association of
Agricultural Cooperatives
„Kooperacijos Kelias“
Latvian Farmers Parliament

President

Jurate Dovydeniene,
President

Juris Lazdinš, Chairman
of the Board

Latvian Agricultural
Organization Cooperation
Council

Edgars Treibergs,
Chairman of the Board

Latvian Farmers
Federation

Agita Hauka, President

Latvian Agricultural
Cooperatives Association

Indulis Jansons,
President

Latvian Agricultural
Statutory Societies

Aija Balode,
Chairman of the Board

Estonian Chamber of
Agriculture and Commerce

Roomet Sõrmus,
Chairman

The Central Union of
Agricultural Producers and
Forest Owners (MTK),
Finland

Juha Marttila,
President