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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 26 January 2026: Continuing crisis on the European milk market <i>- Information from Hungary, supported by Poland, Romania and Slovakia</i>

Without repeating the observations made by several Member States about the milk market situation during the AGRIFISH Council last December, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania wish to discuss this subject again, since difficulties tend to continue and the latest developments of the dairy market causes great concerns for the sector.

Due to the continuing oversupply the market situation is tense and in certain MS it is critical. Unfortunately the adverse developments – overproduction, lack of export possibilities, high production costs and logistical difficulties – go far beyond the cyclical nature of the dairy sector, and could cause long term harms to the sector. As a result milk producers face drastic drops in raw milk prices, even cutting under production costs, which directly leads to desperate situations for a large number of producers.

Decreasing profitability raises the vulnerability of the dairy sector, and the risk of closure of businesses and culling out animals puts in question the efficiency of development resources that have been dedicated to improve competitiveness of livestock farms, technologies, applying green solutions, improving animal welfare and quality of products.

Member States managed to preserve dairy herds and pursue the priority goals of food security, food safety and rural development despite the general economic difficulties of the past period, but now EU level measures are necessary to stabilize the sector.

Due to recent price levels intervention of certain dairy products does not seem a realistic option, however private storage of cheese and butter may temporarily ease the market.

In order to manage the tense market situation Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania reiterate that action must be taken in the interest of the sector, and ask to Commission to consider accepting Member States requests for using the crisis reserve to help the current challenging market situation.
