

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000963/26
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(9 March 2026)**

Subject: Milk crisis

Already back in November 2025, organisations representing the dairy sector warned about the critical situation facing the European milk market, based on clear indicators that predicted a collapse in prices. ⁽¹⁾

However, there was no reaction from the European Commission.

In some regions the purchase price has now dropped by more than 60% compared to last year, falling well below the production price, with disastrous consequences: farmers forced to shut up shop, sell or slaughter their animals, with unpaid loans and farm bankruptcies — even farms with modern facilities — becoming widespread.

The crisis is complex: it is the result of an oversupply, insufficient processing into value-added products, higher feed prices, high environmental compliance costs, animal diseases, but also weakened bargaining power in the food supply chain, in particular due to the lack of binding written milk supply agreements.

1. Given the situation, will the Commission deploy the crisis reserve or make use of other mechanisms to stop a domino effect of milk producer bankruptcies?
2. What immediate solutions will be put in place to prevent a repetition of the 2016 milk crisis?
3. How does the Commission intend to strengthen the bargaining power of milk producers?

Submitted: 9.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(21 April 2026)**

Given the current situation on the milk market as described in reply to Written Question E-000668/2026 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission does not envisage at this stage mobilising market instruments financed by the agricultural reserve.

The milk market situation in 2025 and at the beginning of 2026 is fundamentally different from that in 2016. The Commission will continue its close monitoring of developments in the milk market and stands ready to act in a responsible and proportionate manner, should circumstances so require.

Milk producers will benefit from a recently agreed strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain whereby contracts between dairy farmers and their buyers will need to be in written form (political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on 5 March 2026 on a Commission proposal amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 ⁽²⁾, (EU) 2021/2115 ⁽³⁾ and (EU) 2021/2116 ⁽⁴⁾ as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain).

In line with the amendment proposed by the European Parliament, such measures will also expand the scope of collective negotiations in the dairy sector and provide for stricter conditions on the statutes of producer organisations in the dairy sector, ensuring their democratic control.

¹ <https://www.europeanmilkboard.org/news-1/news-details/emb-general-assembly-warns-of-imminent-milk-crisis-2752.html>.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000668-ASW_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/2024-05-25/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2116/oj/eng?uri=CELEX:32021R2116>.