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Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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1	400.C.2-0	EUK	20. oktober 2003

Under henvisning til Europaudvalgets skrivelse af 25. september 2003 (Alm. del – bilag 1330) vedlægges Fødevareministeriets besvarelse af spørgsmål 81.

Folketingets Europaudvalg har i skrivelse af den 25. september 2003 (Alm. del - bilag 1330) udbedt sig min besvarelse af følgende spørgsmål 81:

Spørgsmål 81:

"Ministeren bedes oversende fællesudtalelserne fra det uformelle landbrugsministerrådsmøde den 20. - 23. september 2003. Udvalget anmoder endvidere om fødevareministerens kommentarer til dokumentet, herunder særligt til punkt 10."

Svar:

Vedlagt oversendes en kopi af formandskabets konklusioner fra det uformelle landbrugsrådsmøde der blev afholdt den 20. - 23. september 2003 i Taormina, Italien.

Formandskabet opsummerer i dets konklusioner Rådets forskellige holdninger til forholdet mellem EU og udviklingslandene i relation til landbrugspolitik, fødevarerikkerhed og landdistriktsudvikling efter Cancun. Rådet bekræfter sin forpligtelse til at ville fremme dialogen med udviklingslandene og ridser i den forbindelse op, hvilke mål og midler der kan gøres brug af.

Fra dansk side har vi i mange år satset på netop fødevarerforsyning og landdistriktsudvikling i bistandspolitikken. Det er afgørende, at udviklingslandene får muligheden for at udnytte det store potentiale, der ligger gemt i landbrugssektoren. Den mest indlysende måde er at sikre en mere fri verdenshandel med landbrugsprodukter. Derved giver vi udviklingslandene en mulighed for selv at sikre en socialt og økonomisk bæredygtig udvikling.

Den danske holdning deles af mange andre EU medlemslande og afspejles således også i formandskabets konklusioner. Med udgangspunkt i de gældende strukturer for den fælles landbrugspolitik, har reformen af den fælles landbrugspolitik medvirket til, at vi i højere grad kan sikre en mere åben og fri verdenshandel med landbrugsvarer.

Fra dansk side lægger vi vægt på, at yderligere liberaliseringer af verdenshandelen med landbrugsvarer. Verden har absolut brug for en vellykket og omfattende runde af frihandelsforhandlinger. Der er ingen tvivl om, at en ny WTO-aftale, der skaber et mere fair og afbalanceret multilateralt regelsæt for samhandlen vil være en stor forbedring. Sammenbruddet på WTO's ministerkonference i Cancun i sidste måned var derfor en stor skuffelse.

Conclusions: Informal Agriculture Council (Taormina, 22 September)

The Council unanimously deplores the failure of the negotiations in Cancun, underlining the unitary position of the EU, which is also supported by the excellent work done by the Commissioners Fischler and Lamy, to whom we express appreciation.

We confirm our solidarity with developing countries. We also confirm our commitment to further dialogue in order to identify shared commercial and development policies.

EU also shares the objective of building an international partnership (International Alliance Against Hunger promoted by FAO) in order to guarantee food security and, therefore, the fight against hunger.

EU reaffirms the necessity to make further progress on multilateralism, avoiding the temptation of going back to bilateralism.

The Council agrees on the right of developing countries with food security problems to have access to Special Differential Treatments in the framework of multilateral agreements.

Food security policies have different goals in different countries: fight against hunger, guarantee of human health, well balanced nutrition and food quality. These goals converge in the fundamental relationship between nutrition and human health.

All countries need of rural development policies, and in particular local production systems that provide products which are vital to food security as well as to guarantee revenue to small farmers.

We recognise that Geographic Indications protect a common wealth comprised of specific local resources, and that therefore they are common property rights and they guarantee the development of rural areas as well as the income of small farmers.

The Council confirmed the importance of the European Agricultural model, which is based on multifunctional responses of agriculture to civil society needs, on rural development policies and food safety.

Therefore EU will not and cannot renounce its agriculture as a consequence of a misunderstood interpretation of international labour division. EU therefore does not want, and cannot, drop its Common Agricultural Policy.

The Council has recently approved a radical CAP reform. With such a reform EU offered in Cancun a substantial reduction of internal support, by shifting most of the support to the green box and achieving levels for the blue box which have been reduced so far that they cannot be further negotiated.

EU calls its partners in WTO to find a balance between the shared need for further trade liberalization and policies sustaining agriculture and rural development. Such policies guarantee equal distribution of trade liberalization benefits.

The Council stresses the importance of a strong commitment to economic cooperation as well, as to political and cultural dialogue with developing countries. In this framework, special attention must be paid to improving people understanding of the European agricultural model, the CAP, and its recent Reform.