

**Presentation of results of the NGO Conference on April 28th 2004**  
**« Promote Food Security by ending agricultural dumping –**  
**the unfinished agenda »**  
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This is a short presentation of the consensus of our discussions from yesterday. These are not highly focused demands, but rather commonly shared views on some topics.

In the aftermath of World War II, European countries were concerned about the food security, based on the experiences during the war.

They started to organise, regulate and support agriculture. In practise, they established the right to protect their local markets in order to achieve food security. And they proved to be very efficient and later on too effective, creating too many surpluses.

Looking at the current situation, we are convinced that all countries have the right to protect their local markets against dumping imports.

We are concerned about different mechanisms that are damaging sustainable agriculture in North and South.

A crucial question is how we can avoid dumping, taking into account the different responsibilities of private companies and public authorities.

A practise we consider unacceptable is export at prices below production costs. With or without export subsidies, this is jeopardising local markets in developing countries and hampering development opportunities in general.

Therefore, there should be a ban on any instrument that is assisting dumping practises.

To create more market access for developing countries in the North is not the first priority and we hardly believe that this is the solution for resolving hunger.

At the level of trade rules, mainly in the WTO negotiations, we believe that the shifting between the so-called boxes is not a sound solution. We fear that even the green box remains having trade distortive elements.

The main starting point for discussions is the legitimacy of agricultural support, not only at the economic level, but also at the social and environmental level.

A broader discussion on supply management at global level is needed. It can create possibilities to avoid dumping, unclear subsidies and continuously low market prices.

An issue that is essential in all discussions linked to agriculture is the model of production. This covers more than the usual controversy between small scale farming and the big agribusiness. It has much more to do with the right scale at the right place and time. It includes elements as short relations between producers and consumers, promoting sustainable scales of agriculture in North and South, etc...

The model of distribution is also at stake. The dangerous tendency of concentration in the hands of a few big oligopolies, both in North and South, might have a short term financial advantage for consumers, but in the long term it is disturbing relations and is limiting choices and decisions for both consumers and producers, promoting dumping practises.

There is one very precise proposal we want to insist on: put an end on article 16-3 of the GATT agreement. This article has the potential to create a legitimacy for dumping practises, so it has to be removed at once.

We are aware of the fact that the issues mentioned are not only EU-related matters. But we would like to invite you to have a fair and open discussion on the possibilities and responsibilities that lay in the hands of the European institutions.