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Phasing out of milk quota: The role of Swissmilk in the process

3th october 2017, CH-Tänikon

Stephan Hagenbuch, Swiss Milk Producer's Association

Agenda

- Which were the main challenges for dairy farmers to manage the phasing out?
- ♦ How did Swissmilk support the farmers in the adaptation process?
- ♦ What were the conclusions of this process?

♦ Discussions?



♦ More: www.swissmilk.ch

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Switzerland's Dairy Market

Switzerland's Dairy Market 2016



Household milk: 0.04mill. t



575,000 Dairy cows 21,000 Milk producers

Production: 4. mill. t of milk

Processing: 3.4 mill. t of milk



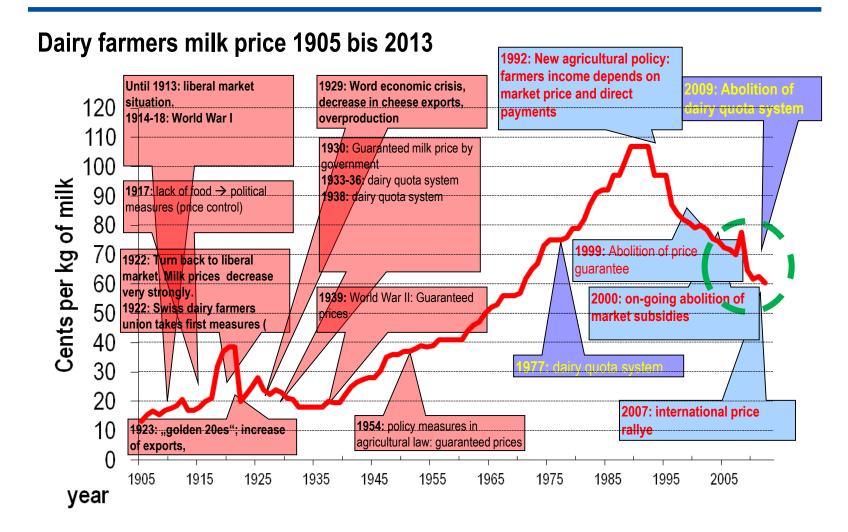
Feeding milk: 0.51 mill. t







Farmers milk price: Review (SMP)



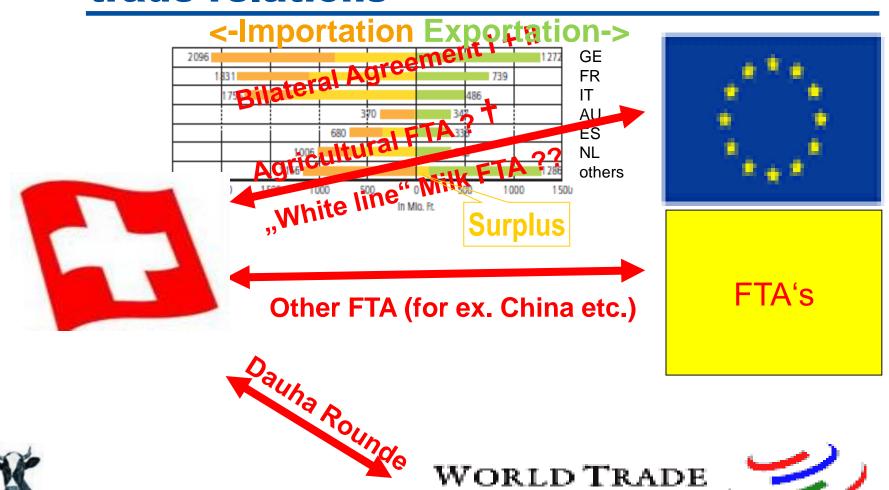


Border protection and market access (Switzerland – EU)

- Cheese agreement EU-CH (bilateral agreement I):
 - Reciprocal and gradually eliminate customs duties for cheese (incl. cottage cheese):
 - Fully liberalised: july 2007
 - We depend now from EU-border protection for cheese
 - Tariff quota for cream and yoghourt (2'000 t)
- ♦ Agreement for processed agricultural products EU-CH (bilateral agreement little chocolate law"):
 - Net price compensation
 - New access for yoghourt, "semi-butter", milk beverages etc.
- No change in border protection for milk, butter, SMP. WMP



Trade Agreements and Agricultural trade relations





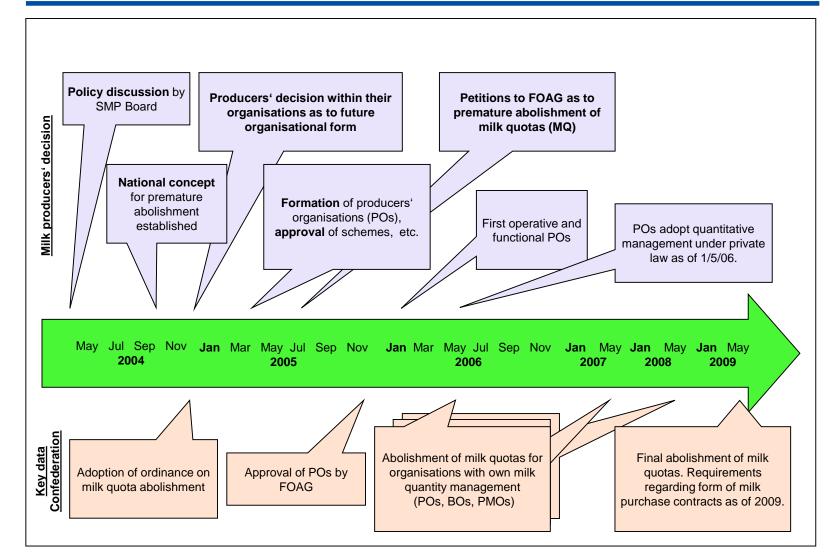




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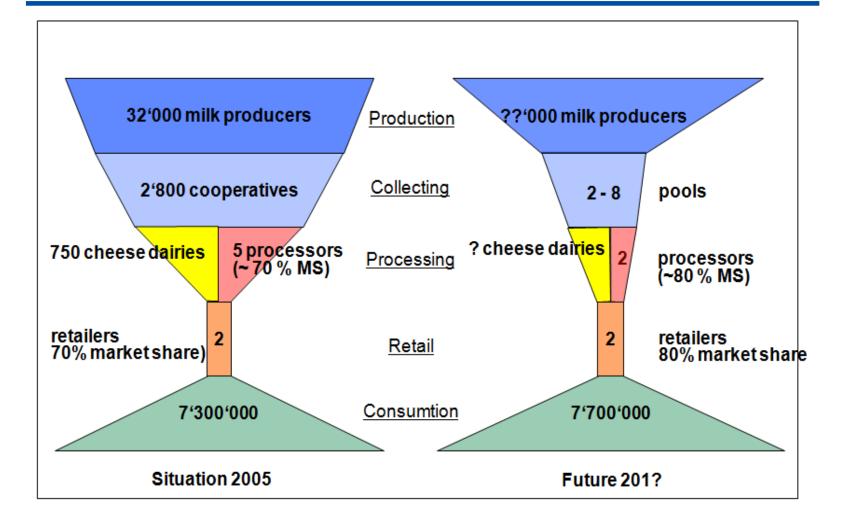
Roadmap and targets

Roadmap to Quota Abolishment



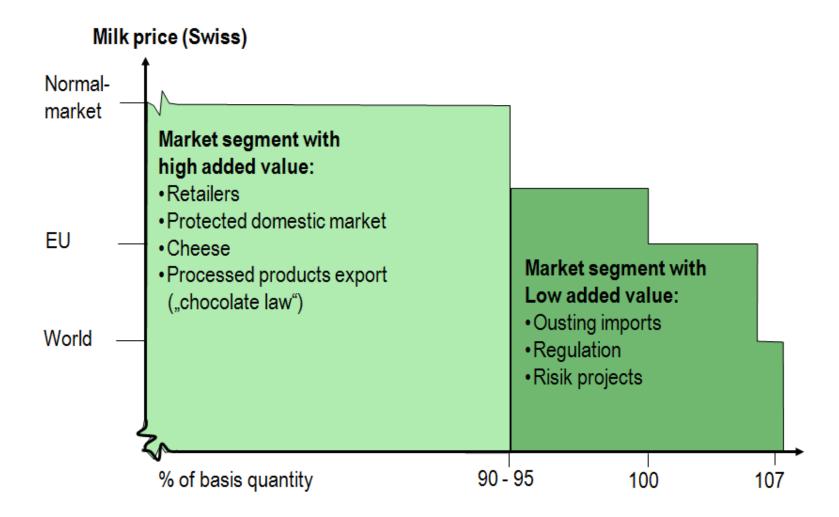


Targets in 2005 (I): Market concentration



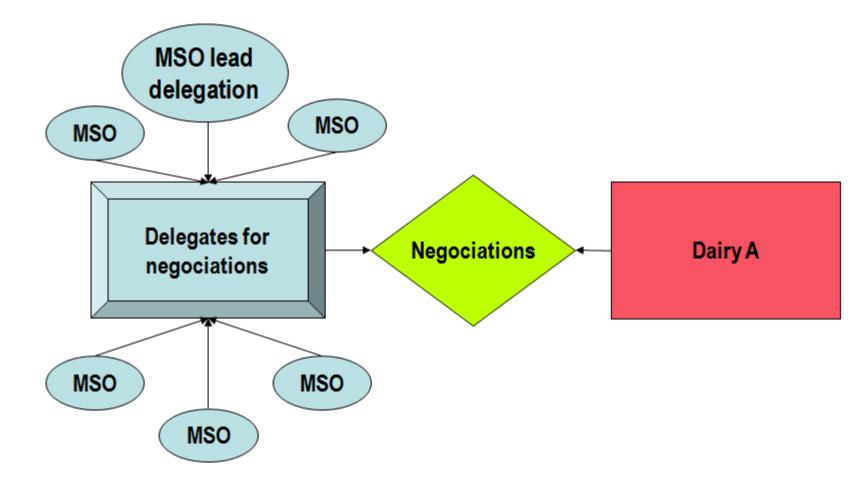


Targets in 2005 (II): Segmentation





Targets in 2005 (III): Market power / One delegation





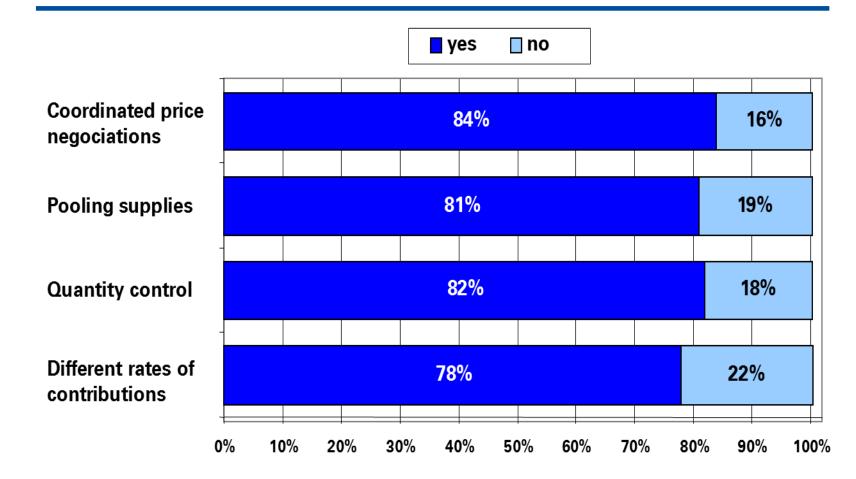
Targets in 2005 (IV):

Added value / Marketing





Farmer's advisory vote: July 08





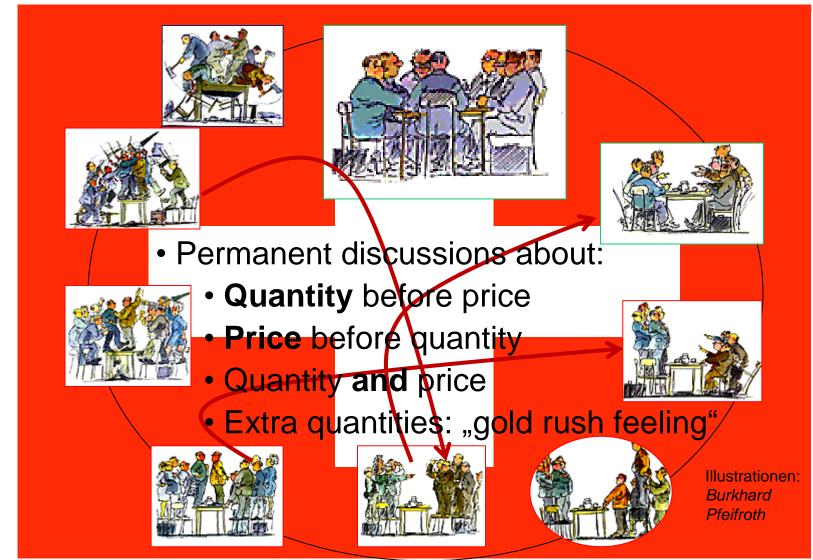
Source: SMP, advisory vote 2008

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Realitiy

The way to "resolve" conflicts.....is not easy: Why?





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Different strategies and interests! (producers, processors, policy)



big/small

organisations

"Gold rush feeling"

white / yellow line



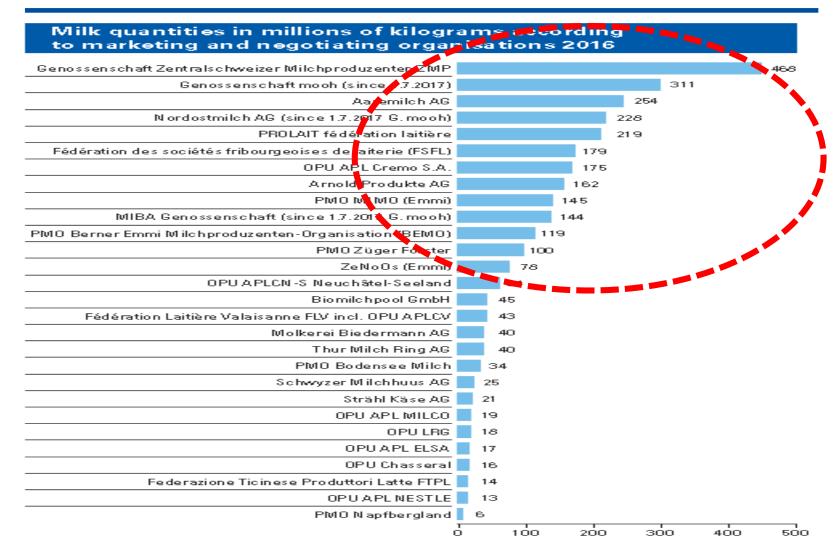
market

"A cemetery of good ideas": A roadmap for a very long "milkyway"!

- ♦ 2003: Policy decision phasing out of milk quota
- ◆ 2004: Creation of Milk Interprofession I → 2008 †
- 2005: Formation of new producer's organisations for a premature abolishment
- ♦ 2007: Discussion for a common strategy
- ♦ 2008: National milkpool → †
- ♦ 2008: Creation of Milk Interprofession II → †
- ♦ 2009: Creation of Swiss Milk Interprofession III



Market concentration (2016)





Interprofession Swiss Milk III, ISM

Founded: 29th June 2009 as a privat platform

Market-issue tools:

- ♦ Segmentation-system (A-,B-,C-Milk)
- ♦ Common contracts for A-,B-Milk, 1st and 2nd level
- ♦ Recommended price index for A-,B-,C-Milk
- ♦ Intervention (self-help measures) †
- ♦ Milk-Quality issues (safeguard CH standard)
- ♦ Information, transparency



About 95 % of the "Swiss Milk" is member to ISM "Branch platform milk": "in the same boat"

Interprofession Swiss Milk III, ISM (II)

Additional **tools** and remarks:

- ♦Interprofession can ask the government for a declaration of general application of a collectiv agreement (-> extension of collectiv agreements) to Non-members fo ISM
- ♦The tools must be easy and transparent

But no prices and no quantities can be fixed either by the Swiss government or by the extension law!



There is no conflict with the anti-trust law in Switzerland

Interprofession Swiss Milk III: How to decide?

Member organisation: processers (19) / retailers (2)

10 members of the Board

- 5 processors
- 3 cheese makers
- 2 retailers

Member organisation: milk producers (32)

10 members of the Board

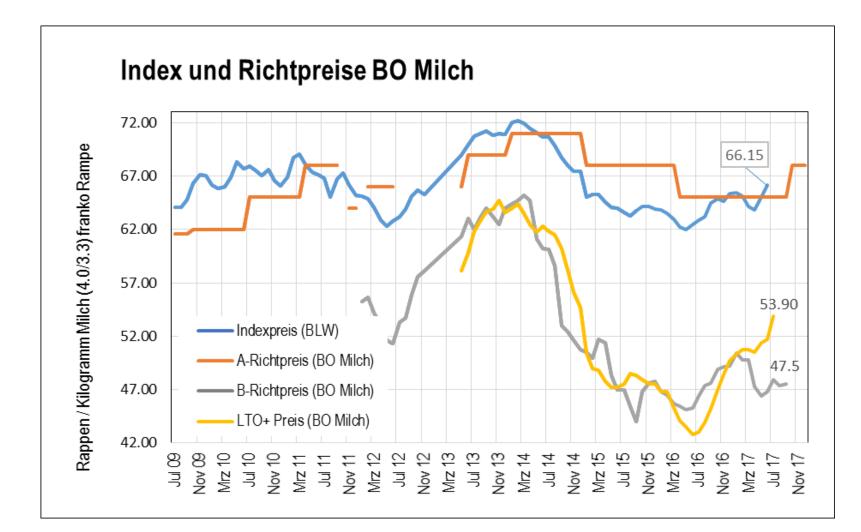
- 3 Swiss Milk Producer's Association (since 2012)
- 7 pooling organisations



Decision by acceptance of ≥ 3/4 votes of each group



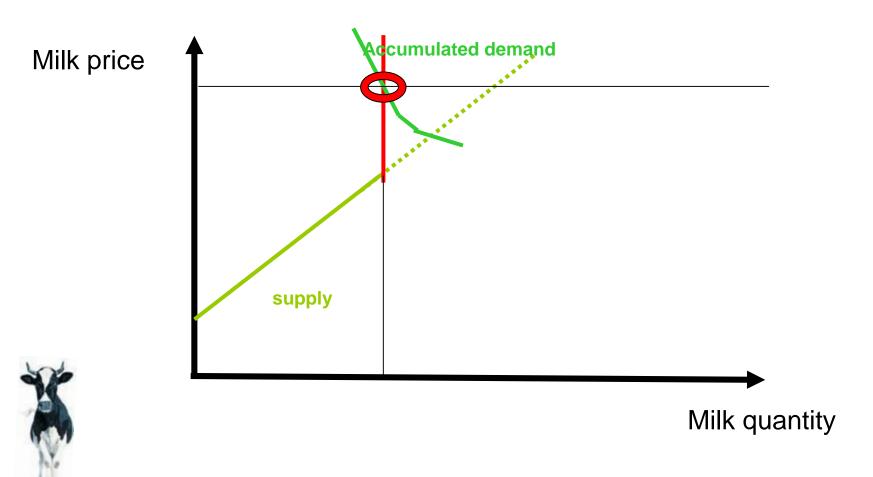
Interprofession Swiss Milk III: Recommended milk price index (A-Milk)





Market:

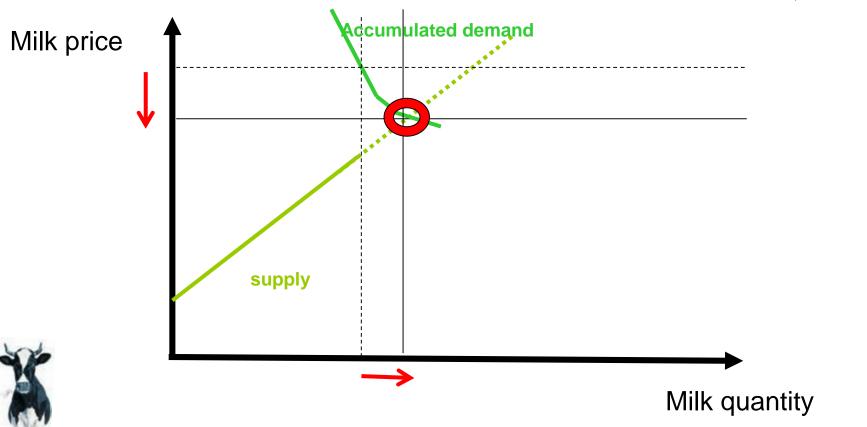
"Homo oeconomicus Lactus Helveticus" 2005



Market:

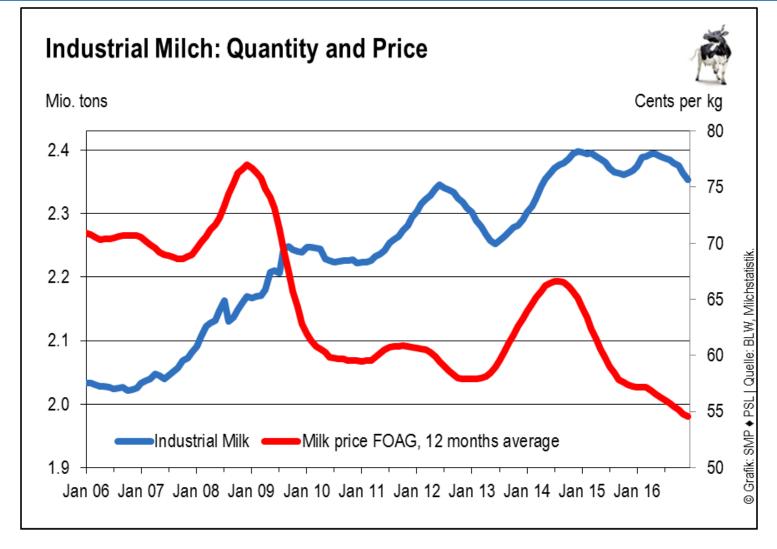
"Homo oeconomicus Lactus Helveticus" 2012/13

Abolishment of milk quotas: Market equilibrium ...where is it? $[\eta_{m/p} >> 1]$



Oughtity and M

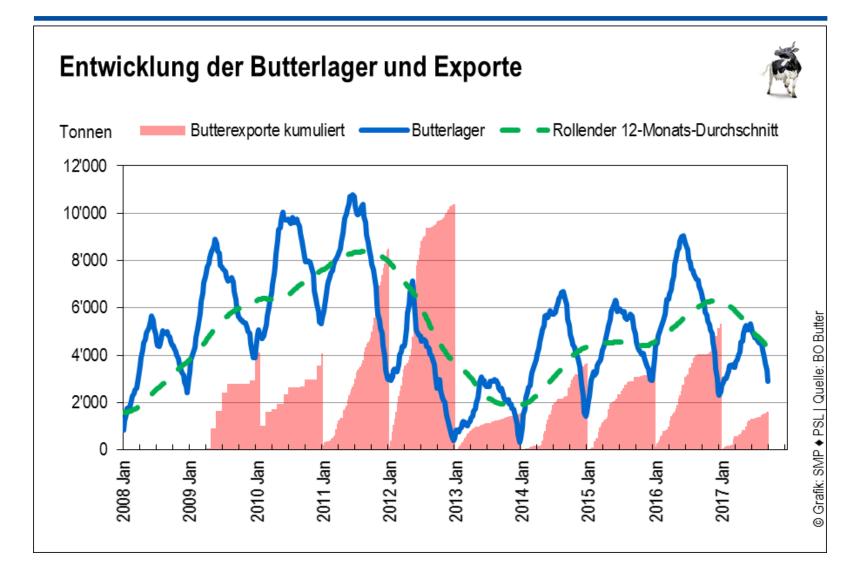






SMP·PSL Market:

Butter: stock and exports





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Conclussions

Swiss Conclusions in general (I)

- ♦ A lot of time to study "new" solutions is no guarantee for success; it can be the contrary!
- ♦ The phasing out of Milk Quota in different steps orderd by regulations was a mistake!
- "Good market signals" at the "bad" moment can have a negativ influence
- ♦ Market focus becomes more imortant to the dairy value chain
- ♦ More volatility is a fact
- ♦ Education & consulting are important
- A lot of farmers realize the situation, when they have the milk payment on the table



Conclusions for the Dairy Economy (II)

- ♦ Partners on the business line have to co-operate for sustainable solutions:
 - vertical business line becomes more important
 - stability is important for producers, processors and retailers
 - Milk producers are in fact quantity adjuster and price takers
 - Retailers and processors do not "like" the pressure from the "road"
- ♦ Milk market without quota requires new structures
- ♦ Without solutions between the partners on the value chain the "problems" come back to the policy



Thank you very much for your attention - time for discussions?

Swiss Dairy Economy in figures



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