

# CPE

*membre de Via Campesina*

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European Farmers Coordination  
Europäische Bauern Koordination  
Coordinadora Campesina Europea  
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## **At the WTO, Fischler and Lamy betrayed the European farmers and those from the southern countries, to the only advantage of the transnationals.**

Signed in the middle of summer to ensure that public opinions would not react, the text agreed at the WTO on July the 31st by the 147 member countries is a hard stroke for all the farmers, as well in Europe as in the South countries. It allows the Northern countries to keep their decoupled domestic support system untouched, which results in farmers' revenues being made mainly of public payments and not of their production sale. This system is unfair to the many European farmers who do not benefit from any domestic support (fruits and vegetables producers for example) and to the farmers in the Southern countries whose products have to compete with unduly cheap food imports. Moreover, this agreement is a new path on the way of the dismantling of tariff protection, the only fair commercial protection (all countries, rich or poor, have access to it) and an effective way to support the agriculture prices and thus the farmers' revenues.

If this agreement allows the Doha Round (ironically called the "Development Round") negotiations to start again, it mainly shows that the Northern governments want to go on with their undue export-oriented agriculture policy, by maintaining the decoupled payments, their domestic support and by refusing to endorse a supply management policy. Above all, our political leaders want to ensure abusively cheap supplies for agribusiness, to the prejudice of all farmers' income.

While the agriculture world trade equals for less than 10% of the total agriculture and food production, our governments want it to determine the whole agriculture policy! Those agreements lead to a growing delocalization of the production, to the industrialization of agriculture at the detriment of sustainable family farming and to unfair trade between the nations. How can such political rulers praise sustainable development while those energy-wasting politics increase on the short term the employment problems, the hunger plague and poverty in the whole world? How can they celebrate that those agreements preserve the CAP, while these very politics mean the desertion of rural areas and the loss of thousands of farmers' jobs every year in Europe?

The CPE and peasant organizations from all over the world ask for the 26th of June CAP, as well as to the American Farm Bill, to be changed, so that food sovereignty can apply on a world level. Fischler and Lamy persist in the way of deregulation, although it has already proved to be disastrous for the farmers from the whole world. Clearly, they are more interested in maintaining a system that unduly increases the multinational agri-business corporation's profits than in reducing unemployment in Europe and hunger in the southern countries.

The CPE and its member organizations will continue to protest and to mobilize so that this agreement fails, just like it did in Seattle and Cancun.

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