Excma. Sra. Dña. Teresa Ribera Rodríguez
Ministra para la Transición Ecológica

Excmo. Sr. Don Luis Planas Puchades
Ministro de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación

Excma. Sra. Dña. Milagros Marcos Ortega
Consejera de Agricultura y Ganadería
Gobierno de Castilla y León

Excmo. Sr. Don Juan Carlos Suárez-Quiñones y Fernández
Consejero de Fomento y Medio Ambiente
Gobierno de Castilla y León

Please, don’t authorise the 20.000-cow dairy factory farm in Noviercas, Soria

Dear Ministers,

We write you regarding the proposed co-op Valle del Odieta dairy factory farm in Noviercas, Soria that would host up to 23.5000 cows. If this mega factory farm is finally built, it would be the biggest dairy farm in the European Union. The building of this farm would set a damaging precedent in Europe by modeling the US’s livestock farming mode, where severe impacts to local communities, the environment, water and rural economies have been documented.

According to the available data, such a factory farm would mean:

- Replacing one third of dairy farms in the region, destroying more than 700 jobs. With the dairy sector already facing a difficulty, this factory farm could further destabilize an important part of the local rural economy.
- A water consumption greater than the total consumption of the city of Soria, that would compete with other water needs in the region. There is already an application to extract 24,59 liters per second from the aquifer.
- The generation of more than 368,000 tons of manure per year, the equivalent to the waste produced by the entire population of the regions of Castille and Leon and Castille-La Mancha. This huge concentration of manure would threaten aquifers and rivers in the area, as well as public health and local wildlife.
- Animal welfare conditions in these mega factory farms as well as such a large concentration of animals, would force the need to use antibiotics that can further aggravate antibiotic resistance problems.

Therefore, we urge you to take the necessary measures to stop such a factory farm. The European Union should stand for its model of social farming, in which these factory farms have no place. Furthermore, we encourage you to promote alternative models of development in the area of Noviercas that would promote sustainable agriculture and livestock farming, environmental protection and rural development.
Yours sincerely,

Marina Albiol, GUE/NGL, Spain
Maria Arena, S&D, Belgium
Magrete Auken, Greens/EFA, Denmark
Paul Brannen, S&D, UK
Pascal Durand, Greens/EFA, France
Stefan Eck, GUE/NGL, Germany
José Inácio Faria, EPP, Portugal
John Flack, ECR, UK
Tania González Peñas, GUE/NGL, Spain
Theresa Griffin, S&D, UK
Heidi Hautala, Greens/EFA, Finland.
Maria Heubuch, Greens/EFA, Germany
Martin Hausling, Greens/EFA, Germany
Yannick Jadot, Greens/EFA, France
Jean Lambert, Greens/EFA, UK
Philippe Lamberts, Greens/EFA, Belgium
Stelios Kouloglou, GUE/NGL, Greece
Florent Marcellesi, Greens/EFA, Spain
Alex Mayer, S&D, UK
Tilly Metz, Greens/EFA, Luxembourg
Younous Omarjee, GUE/NGL, France
Dimitrios Papadimoulis, GUE/NGL, Greece
Carolina Punset, ALDE, Spain
Frederique Ries, ALDE, Belgium
Michèle Rivasi, Greens/EFA, France
Lola Sánchez Caldentey, GUE/NGL, Spain
Bart Staes, Greens/EFA, Belgium
Keith Taylor, Greens/EFA, UK
Estefanía Torres, GUE/NGL, Spain
Miguel Urbán, GUE/NGL, Spain
Ángela Vallina, GUE/NGL, Spain
Monika Vana, Greens/EFA, Germany
Thomas Waitz, Greens/EFA, Austria