



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Dacian Cioloş  
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 28. 07. 2011  
GJ/GH/eb 891969

Dear Mr Corbalán,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 June 2011 addressed to Commissioner Cioloş bringing to his attention a petition signed by hundreds of individuals, organisations and Fair Trade Towns from 31 countries and calling on the participants of the G-20 Agriculture Ministers to take action in the context of the world food crisis.

The European Commission was actively involved and remains fully engaged in the G-20 process as well as collaborating closely with international organisations, including the FAO and OECD, on issues related to food security. These are global issues which need global solutions.

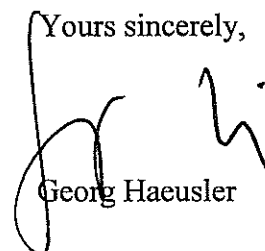
You rightly point out in your letter that the G-20 leaders have to take action in order to ensure that current food systems contribute to food security. Indeed, the European Commission believes that agriculture has a key role to play in reducing hunger. This is why the development arm of the Commission, as well as aid organisations in Member States, dedicate a significant proportion of their budgets to agriculture projects in developing countries.

But aid is not the only option available to help developing countries: trade is an extremely important motor for development. The Commission supports the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) process within the WTO and, despite recent setbacks, will continue to strive to achieve a comprehensive and ambitious DDA deal, which fully respects the original development thrust of the Round. We also believe that significant existing barriers to international trade in agriculture need to be addressed, and hence there is a need to revisit export bans and restrictions. The consensus reached in Paris on 23 June to exclude food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by WFP from export restrictions or extraordinary taxes and to preclude them in the future is certainly a positive step.

Mr Sergi CORBALÁN  
Executive Director  
Fair Trade Advocacy Office  
15 Rue Fernand Bernierstraat  
B-1060 Brussels

I am also attaching a brief synopsis of the European Commission's contribution at the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting for your information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Haeusler', written over the printed name.

Georg Haeusler

Annex: The European Commission's contribution to the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting (Paris) – 22-23 June: A synopsis.