

The Hidden Costs of Factory Farming Pig Business: Time for Change

Quotes



Janusz Wojciechowski, MEP

“With so many MEPs attending the screening and debate, it will be easier for us to achieve our aim to reform the CAP by stopping the financing of industrial farming, spending more on supporting traditional small and medium scale mixed crop and livestock farming, and introducing method of production labelling.”

José Bové, MEP

“Following the deregulation of markets and open ports, come the big firms, like Cargill, Tyson and Smithfield and with them the concentration of production that is causing the elimination of small farmers.” He continued, “If the CAP supports an agriculture that destroys the environment and makes poor quality industrial products, I do not see why Europeans would agree to finance the CAP. Everyone knows that 75% of aid goes to 25% of farmers. This is unacceptable.”

Dan Jørgensen, MEP

“Now, in Denmark the threat from the farmers, especially the pig farmers are by far the biggest threat we have to our environment”

“We’ve had a change in which we go away from the small farms to the big farms and I fear very much that that will also happen also in Poland. Because what happens now is that we see a situation in which partly because of some success from the EU in strengthening the EU legislation some of the farmers from Denmark are moving their production to Poland. The exact same style we saw with Smithfield. You probably also saw that the Director’s name was Morten Jensen that is a Danish name, it is not a coincide they know how to do things; they don’t want small farms they want big farms, they are multinational corporations and the only thing that matters to them is how to make money. ”

“Right now, the only thing that is stopping the farmers expanding even more is EU legislation. EU legislation: the habitat directive, bird protection directive, the water framework directive and with the water framework directive, when that’s implemented

directly, if we implement it correctly this will be the biggest tool that we have. The best tool that we have.”

Jaroslav Kalinowski, MEP

“There are 300,000 pig farmers in Poland and 150 factory farms.”

Czeslaw Adam Siekierski, MEP

“Poland loses out to Germany and Denmark because of the huge supermarket chains, because Denmark has a lot of vertical integration.”

..., **Dan Jørgensen**, MEP (In reply to and Siekierski’s comments)

“ to me it was both a little bit funny and tragic to hear you say the Polish farmers loose out to the Danish farmers, because earlier today I was in discussion with the Danish minister for the environment. She wants now to apply to the EU that Denmark should get an extension on the environmental goals setup in the framework directive. Why? What is the reason? Because we cannot compete with the Polish.”

Mute Schimpf, Friends of the Earth

“if we discuss about farmers in Europe, these are not two hectare farms, the average size in Europe is still twelve hectares, the average farmer in Europe is still a small scale farmer. If we develop a vision for a food and agriculture policy lets think about the farmers of Europe not part of the farmers lobby and unions that focus just on the biggest farms, because why should focus just on the big farms, they should be competitive enough?”

Gerald Choplin, European Coordination Via Campesina

“In the EU there aren’t many farmers but there are too many pigs. Because of the very good attendance it was a very useful debate and very helpful for our work not only against big factory farms and for small scale farms, but the fact that there were many people from big business and from the Commission showed that they also felt obliged to hear the debate around a very different CAP.”

Tracy Worcester, Pig Business Director

“Food and agricultural goods should be exempted from World Trade Organisation (WTO) global trade rules so that all nations and regions have the right to protect themselves from low cost and low welfare imports, i.e. implement food sovereignty. Farmers could then be protected from the vagaries of the global economy and change their methods of production and produce food for local markets. Governments can then procure high welfare and sustainably produced meat from local farmers for public services like schools and hospitals. The giants should be taxed to remunerate society for the true costs of their production.”