

Resolution

The 21st General Assembly of the Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE) convened in Panama City on November 21, 2013.

Whereas the European Union's (EU's) is attempting to impose restrictions on the use of common food names in various Free Trade Agreements negotiations within Latin America and other regions of the world; Whereas these common names for dairy products particularly cheeses have been of public domain in all these regions, and

Whereas the Bylaws of this Federation, Article 3, Paragraph c) states that it is the objective of the institution (FEPALE) to "Preserve in general terms the interests of the Pan-American dairy industry and in particular Latin American and Caribbean countries," and

This same bylaw, in Paragraph f) states that FEPALE's objective is to "Foster the establishment of efficacious mechanisms whose purpose it is to prevent or correct distortions in matters pertaining to trade..."

FEPALE Resolves

- 1) To express the full right of countries in the Americas to use common names, for these names were brought from Europe by immigrants who settled in these lands, and, thus, were shared by both European and American nations; the nations throughout the Americas encompass a melting pot of diverse origin, many of which came from the Europe in vast numbers;
- 2) That this attempt by the European Union constitutes a true act of aggression and distorts the rights and commercial jurisdiction of dairy consumers, producers and processors. This attempt on behalf of the EU to appropriate the names of cheeses that have become commonly used and are of public domain in our countries has become a clear and evident attempt to limit free trade and competition;
- 3) To support the actions undertaken by various organizations regarding this matter.



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