

**EFFAT**

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Danone closures threaten workers across Europe

A total of 325 jobs are at stake, with reduced job security for many more, should Danone proceed with plans to close three factories producing dairy products in Casale, Italy, Hagenow, Germany and Budapest, Hungary. The plans would further threaten the livelihoods of the local farmers who supply milk to Danone in these three countries.

The CIC Danone European Works Council, which is chaired by Bruno Vannoni and includes affiliates of the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) from Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom, expressed unanimous opposition to the closures when informed of the plans in Geneva on 11 June.

The trade unions recalled the agreement signed between Danone and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) in 1997 that prevents Danone from implementing any part of its planned closure or production transfer for at least three-months, so that trade unions may present alternative proposals to the management's plan. The agreement further requires that the company seriously examine and respond to any independent research commissioned by the IUF and its affiliates.

"EFFAT, together with the IUF, will do everything possible to resist the planned closures and ensure that the already difficult situation for workers and their families in Europe is not worsened," said Harald Wiedenhofer, EFFAT General Secretary.

"We urge Danone to enter into constructive negotiations with trade unions and genuinely consider alternatives that will not just ensure Danone's sustainability as a brand, but as an employer," he said.

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