

Milk and dairy supply is vital in COVID-19 times!

COVID-19: milk and dairy supply is vital!

In a letter to the competent services of the European Commission, the 27 EU Member States and the United Kingdom, EDA underlined the critical importance of keeping milk & dairy supply lines open across Europe and across borders → see [our EDA Statement](#). "Constant supply of milk & dairy for the population across the whole *Union is of vital importance. Milk collection operations and the supply lines must be kept open across the Union and across borders if we want to ensure that shelves and fridges are stocked*", urged **EDA President Michel Nalet** the competent services in the EU Commission and at the Member States' level.

"We are following the dairy development very, very closely and share regularly an updated situation report to the competent EU and member state services", stated **EDA secretary general Alexander Anton**. "And we are in contact with the EU Commission to help define the right support measures that are needed for the economic operationability of our dairy sector" → see [EDA's latest letter sent today to the EU Commission](#).

U.S.-EU COVID-19 dairy coordination

"In terms of the COVID-19 impacts on Dairy, we are all in this together regardless of where we operate. We appreciate the open information exchange with the European dairy that really helps us to better understand the issues and shape our response pro-actively", underlines **Michael Dykes**, CEO and President of the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) in Washington D.C.

EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2020 cancelled

Given the travel and meeting restrictions issued right now all over Europe, we had to cancel our Dairy Policy Conference, next week on Wednesday 25 March 2020 in the Leopold Hotel, Brussels (Belgium). We look forward to seeing you soon on 23rd June at our EDA Summer Cheese Buffet!

Save the date!

EDA Summer Cheese Reception Tuesday 23rd June 2020, Brussels

We will host the 2nd edition of our Summer Cheese Buffet in the heart of Brussels, on Tuesday 23rd June: an occasion for the EDA squadra to celebrate with all of you the importance of our European Union and the excellence of European Dairy.



#Milkislife

→ Our EDA Annual Report 2019/20 is out and available on our website!



Re-adaptation of timeline for Farm-to-Fork strategy

Last week, the EP Agricultural Committee had planned an in-depth exchange with EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, **Stella Kyriakides**.



Due to the current circumstances, it could not take place. Finally, the EU Commission has accepted the request of **MEP Norbert Lins** (EPP, DE), chair of the EP Agricultural Committee, to postpone the publication of the strategy, originally due on 25 March, until late April. *"That there was an opposition to MEP Lins' request within the European Parliament is almost unbelievable. The Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork initiative are THE landmark projects of the Union, so a meaningful exchange with and within the EP and with stakeholders is essential to ensure broad support"*, commented **EDA secretary general Alexander Anton**.



EDA meets with EU Commissioner Frans Timmermans' cabinet

EDA met with **Lukas Víšek**, in charge for the Farm-to-Fork and Green Deal coordination in the cabinet of EU Commissioner Executive First Vice-President Frans Timmermans. We had the opportunity to share our constructive approach and ideas on the proposals, as well as certain concerns. We asked for relevant scientific facts to be considered and gathered.

"We had the opportunity to share our constructive approach and ideas on the proposals, as well as certain concerns. We asked for relevant scientific facts to be considered and gathered. The Dairy sector is willing to support the EU Commission in finding added value via the Green Deal and the upcoming Farm-to-Fork strategy, while providing the EU population with healthy and sustainable nutrition", underlined **EDA director Hélène Simonin**.

"We also discussed the conditions and questioned the scientific basis and added value of further

mandatory consumer information, via origin, nutrition and environmental labelling, highlighting the PEF approach as a consistent tool for many Green Deal initiatives in a B2B perspective. And, of course, we talked about the unique nutritional value of milk and dairy."

Green Deal, Farm-to-Fork and CAP...an EP perspective

Franziska Schwerdtle, Senior Staffer at MEP Norbert Lins (EPP, DE) office, detailed the state of play of the CAP legislative procedure at our EDA Special Committee meeting in Brussels.



"The exchange with the 'lactosphère' was useful for me, especially in the framework of the upcoming Farm to Fork strategy – an important initiative that will require an intensive and coordinated exchange not only with all stakeholders, but also within the European Parliament and also within the European institutions."

"Challenges for Dairy Europe" ...

...was the overall motto of the 76th National Congress of the French Dairy Farmers Federation (FNPL). FNPL Chair **Thierry Roquefeuil** welcomed **EDA secretary general Alexander Anton** who highlighted in his speech the leadership of the French 'lactosphère' that published already in 2017 its future strategy "France, Terre de Lait".

EDA secretary general Alexander Anton with outgoing FNPL Vice-chair André Bonnard



German-French Dairy meeting @Graindorge

The unique excellence of the French cheese manufacturer Graindorge has been rewarded in 2020 with three gold medals at the French national Cheese Concours. *"This is our first 'hat-trick' in the 110 years of Graindorge history. The whole Graindorge family, our 190 employees and 110 milk farmers, are all proud of this recognition,"* stated **Bruno Lefèvre**, Graindorge CEO.



Minister Barbara Otte-Kinast (right) with Normandy Vice-President Clotilde Eudier and Bruno Lefèvre, CEO Graindorge

Together with Normandy Vice-President **Clotilde Eudier**, **Minister Barbara Otte-Kinast** (Lower Saxony, DE) visited the cheese maker last week: *"The French way of adding value to agricultural products with geographical indications is of high interest for us. This is one of the reasons I came with a delegation of young farmers to our partner region"*.

Future EU-UK Relationship



Even with the Brexit negotiation currently on hold, EDA's preparations for our [Future EU-UK Dairy Framework](#) are still on track as experts in the field are currently finalising our dedicated chapter on Rules of Origin. This after our general approach was presented at the end of January.

EDA's recent meeting with the new Director of the British Agriculture Bureau (BAB) in Brussels, **Robin Manning**, as well as the NFU's Dairy Board Chairman **Michael Oakes** and their respective

teams offered an excellent opportunity to take stock of the situation with the British agricultural sector.

EDA secretary general Alexander Anton, reconfirmed our commitment to a future relationship based on a single market/free trade basis, an ambition that is shared by the British dairy industry.

Aside from Brexit, both parties took the opportunity to discuss our environmental and climate ambition. Farmers and industry on both sides of the channel are fully aware of the challenges we face and support the ambitious agenda set by the European Commission.

EDA is proud to highlight the relevance of Dairy in the wide context of environmental actions as presented in our paper [→ The Dairy sector & the Green Deal](#).

Identifying and addressing barriers to the Single Market

The European Commission published last week a [communication](#) titled "Identifying and addressing barriers to the Single Market", accompanied by a more detailed [staff working document](#). These two documents are part of the [European Industrial Strategy package](#), made available online on this same day.

As expected following EDA's meeting with **Hans Ingels** from DG Growth a few weeks ago, the communication is broad and does not mention the different sectors impacted by Single Market barriers. However, the staff working document dresses a list of impacted sectors and identifies Single Market obstacles. Issues related to trade barriers to the food sector are analysed with a special focus on food labelling requirements. Origin labelling and nutrition labelling especially were two topics EDA insisted on during our discussion with the Commission. In their document, food labelling requirements are recognised as obstacles to trade, because of a lack of harmonisation at EU level.