

Press Release

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The future for dairy, food and farming

The EU dairy industry is a vital part of EU agriculture beyond the EU dairy industry sector chain. The 160 million tonnes of milk produced per year in the Union are processed in 12,000 milk processing and production sites across the EU.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measures are of great importance to the functioning of our chain and hence for the dairy industry, the most important agricultural sector in Europe, present in all EU Member States. EDA therefore accompanies EU Commission's Communication with huge interest and we are looking at any opportunity for further development and improvement of the CAP.

Any future CAP should in our view continue its evolution towards a greater market orientation of the agricultural policy. A proper functioning of the internal market is essential for the future of food, dairy and farming at both supply and outlet levels. With respect to the internal market for milk supply, we would like to stress the importance of clear and harmonised CAP rules applied in a as uniform as possible way, all over Europe. Whilst appreciating the need for a new delivery model as expressed in the Commission Communication, with undoubtable more space for national ruling (subsidiarity), the new CAP should not lead to fragmentation of the internal market.

In this context, a new CAP should support and enhance the development and innovative capacities of the sector. Only by innovation at milk production and processing level the EU dairy industry is able to keep and strengthen its worldwide competitive position. Enhancing the dairy sector's competitiveness on the global markets also ensures the future sustainability of EU milk production.

Higher volatility and market risks are seen as a result of increased market orientation and are defined in EU Commission's Communication as a major challenge. We will have to cope with sharp and short-term price fluctuations by a combination of new and existing policy measures. Current direct income support for farmers and the intervention schemes have played an important role in stabilising farm income.



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We appreciate the defined objective to bolster environmental care and climate action following the EU 2030 Climate and Energy targets. We agree with the statement that agriculture should make a fair contribution to these overarching societal objectives. Income support to farmers coupled with a more streamlined set of environmental conditions as foreseen in the Communication can facilitate this change.

As dairy industry, we are an essential part of the Future of Food and Farming and we are looking forward to continuing our contribution to the future CAP.

→ [Link to EU Commission's Communication on "The Future of Food and Farming"](#)

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION

The European Dairy Association represents the interests of dairy processors in the European Union. The membership of EDA consists of the associations of dairy processors in EU Member States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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