

Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling

Putting science and common sense on the front at Assolatte webinar

In last week's ASSOLATTE webinar dedicated to Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) with more than 80 representatives of the Italian lactosphere, **Giuliana del Papa** (Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Minister of Agriculture) presented the Italian approach on this topic. She highlighted the importance of acknowledgement of traditional diets and credible consumer information within the current discussions between the EU Commission and Member States on the FOPNL schemes.



Roberto Copparoni (Italian Ministry of Health) presented the Italian NutriInform Battery scheme. The Italian FOP is a voluntary scheme in a form of a battery representing the percentage of energy and selected nutrients (fats, saturated fats, sugars and salt) contained in the single food portion in relation to the daily reference intakes.

Our EDA Senior Nutrition, Health & Food Law Officer **Kinga Adamaszwili** presented the joint work of the EU dairy sector on FOPNL (see our recently published [EDA Guiding Principles](#)) as well as the latest EU developments, including the current EU Commission consultation on introducing a harmonised and mandatory EU FOPNL scheme.

Science and common sense should be at the forefront of this debate.

Once again, this conference echoed that any FOPNL scheme should be in line with the official dietary recommendations and recognise the nutritional importance of milk and dairy products in healthy and balanced diets.

EU-US trade debate

EDA Letter to the Presidents

In a joint letter of 13 January 2021, our **EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton** and the Cheese Importers Association of America's President **Daniel Schnyder** [called upon the EU and US administrations](#) for an end to the Large Civil Aircraft dispute and to negotiate an end to the resulting tariffs. In their letter to EU Executive Vice President Dombrovskis and U.S. President Biden, EDA and CIAA stressed that the current punitive tariffs have negatively impacted both economies. [This initiative was followed up this week by a total of 72 European and U.S. associations](#) representing a wide range of industries, calling upon U.S. President Joe Biden and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for an end to the tariffs.

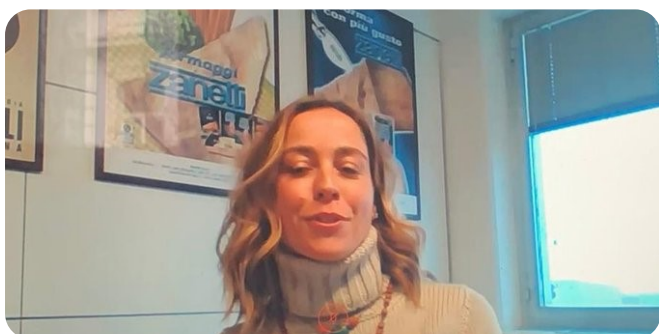
Food security in our Union

EU contingency plan: the dairy sector has proven resistant

One of the lessons learnt so far from the covid19 crisis is obvious: food security in our Union is of vital importance and dairy has delivered! The EU Commission has launched an initiative to develop a contingency plan to ensure the EU's food security in the event of future crisis.



The EU milk and dairy sector have proven to be resistant during all stages of the COVID19. This crisis was a challenge of an unprecedented magnitude, but some of the 'crisis management measures' taken at national level were the real threat to our dairy supply chains. Any restriction of the smooth functioning of our Single Market undermines the performance, shock resistance and resilience of the EU dairy and food chain.



Valentina Zanetti (Zanetti SPA) represented the dairy and agri-food sector during the meeting and summed it up perfectly up in her speech: *"We never stopped. The single market is our lighthouse and we need to ensure that its functionality is guaranteed at all times."*

MIV dairy policy conference in Berlin

"A better milk price tomorrow?"

The president of our German member federation MIV, **Peter Stahl**, managed the expectations that came with the chosen title of the digital conference: *"Personally, I don't think the milk price will get better tomorrow of the day after tomorrow"*.



"The system failed. Risk management at individual dairy farm entrepreneur level needs to be accompanied by a comprehensive, EU market strategy", argued dairy farmer **Johannes Pfaller**, representing the German EMB member. **Karsten Schmal**, a dairy farmer and vice chair of the CDG MILK of the EU Commission, was very clear: *"We don't subscribe to the illusion that politics can drive milk prices. Political market interventions are always too late and unflexible."*

This assessment was echoed by **Dr Karl-Heinz Tholen** from the German ministry of agriculture: *"For the past 15 years, the political direction has been market orientation. And the market works"*. [Click here to watch the 5-minute summary in German.](#)

Revision of the Feed Additive Regulation

EDA input to the consultation

Last week, EDA provided feedback to the public consultation on the Roadmap/Inception Impact Assessment on the revision of the [Feed Additives Regulation](#). The European dairy industry welcomes the EU Commission's effort to review this regulation aiming at modernising the legislation to adapt it to the goals of sustainable farming and improving its effectiveness and efficiency without compromising health and food safety.

However – whereas we can agree in principle that feed additives, jointly with other measures, may contribute to the EU sustainability goals – we put forward additional arguments that need to be considered by the EU Commission. In particular with regards to new feed additives for the reduction of methane or mitigation of other sustainability issues related to dairy cattle, we would support faster and cheaper procedures to get them into the market, which would be accessible to any company, including SMEs.



EU Agriculture Council insights on CAP and trade

On Monday, the Agriculture Ministers of the EU Member States came out in favor of a rapid agreement regarding the CAP Reform. The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU hopes that a final compromise will be reached in Spring between the co-legislators.

EDA fully supports the EU Council's proactive approach with regards to these negotiations and we are glad to see progress.

A majority of the Ministers stressed the need to factor the EU Council's position on the CAP Reform in the current negotiations with the EU Parliament. They called for the least possible concession on the green architecture of the CAP or the new implementation model. The Ministers repeated the need to simplify rules, to balance environmental and socio-economic effects, and to reach an agreement as early as possible on the basis of a performance-oriented system.

The afternoon session focused on the recent trade developments and their impact on the EU agri-food sector. Ministers highlighted the need for a level-playing field in EU trade deals (e.g. [Mercosur](#)) to ensure that European farmers are treated fairly. Many stressed the importance of importing agri-food products from 3rd countries only when they respect high environmental and sustainability standards, like in the EU. EDA welcomes this fruitful meeting and we look forward to working together with the Portuguese Presidency of the Council on these key topics.

New EU Portuguese presidency priorities

On Tuesday, the Portuguese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **Maria do Céu Antunes**, debated on the priorities of the Portuguese Council presidency with the EU Parliament's AGRI Committee. In the field of agriculture, the new EU presidency will focus on concluding the trilateral dialogues on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, strengthening structural development within the food system, and making further progresses on the Farm to Fork strategy towards a more sustainable agriculture, among other goals. The members of the Agri Committee also discussed the regulation of agricultural markets and labelling of agriculture products together with the Portuguese Minister. Check out our [Portuguese EU Presidency Dairy Focus!](#)



eda Dairy Focus on Portugal

The EU Commission launches a "Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices"

In the light of the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, the EU Commission launched its initiative on a "Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices". In the official launch event, EU Commissioners **Frans Timmermans** and **Stella Kyriakides** highlighted that the objective of this initiative is to foster the transition towards a more sustainable food environment, encouraging the uptake of sustainable practices and commitments by all the relevant actors in the food chain.

The speakers at the launch event from Unilever, Nestlé and Danone welcomed the initiative, while SMEs and farming representatives shared a more cautious view.

In a joint letter with Copa-Cogeca and other agri-food organisations, EDA questioned the official approach to focus on the 'middle of the chain', hence leaving out large parts of the food chain. The EU dairy industry is proud to contribute to increasing the sustainability of the food sector, with ambitious commitments and targets across a wide range of environmental, social, and economic indicators.

⋮ *European dairies are global front runners when it comes to sustainability!*

We believe however that the responsibility should be shared along the entire supply chain, from primary producers to consumers, and that all actors should be adequately consulted before adopting initiatives that could have a big impact on different sections of the food chain.

The EU Parliament debates the Farm to Fork strategy

On Monday, the EU Parliament AGRI and ENVI Committees held a joint debate on the Farm to Fork strategy. In their draft report, MEPs welcome the EU Commission's strategy and highlight the need for a fair distribution of responsibilities across the entire food chain in the transition towards a more sustainable food system. During the exchange with the EU Commission, the need to limit the environmental footprint of the food chain was stressed, for instance by adopting concrete actions on pesticides, fertilizers, and food waste reduction. Carbon sequestration practices at farm level should also be adequately rewarded.

MEP Herbert Dorfmann (EPP, IT), the co-author of the report, underlined that agricultural production is part of the solution in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation and should therefore be treated accordingly when developing environmental policies.

EU Promotion Policy

Review of the legal framework

The Farm to Fork strategy includes a revision of the EU agri-food promotion policy by the end of this year with 'a view to enhancing its contribution to sustainable production and consumption'.

The existing promotion scheme was analysed by the EU Commission in a report published on 22 December 2020 with the conclusion that the promotion policy has a clear EU added value.

In our digital meeting with EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski (see also our EDA Dairy Flash #1 2021), he underlined that an exclusion of product categories is not intended.

Today, [the EU Commission has launched the calls for proposals](#) with a submission deadline of 28 April 2021.



"The comparison organic vs. conventional is too simple, there is no good or bad agriculture"
highlighted **MEP Herbert Dorfmann** (EPP, IT) at today's #EUAgriPromo info day.