

Dairy Flash

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The latest news from the world of dairy

EDA meets EU Commissioner Andriukaitis

EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Mr. Vyentis Andriukaitis (Lithuanian) discussed today health related dairy topics with EDA President Michel Nalet, the executive manager of Dairy UK Mrs. Judith Bryans, and EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton and EDA Director H el ene Simonin. Michel Nalet gave an overview on the economic core data of the European dairy sector and underlined the high per capita milk and dairy consumption in Lithuania, where the structure of the dairy sector has changed to a dramatic extent over the last 25 years following the structural changes of the country itself.

Judith Bryans, holding a PhD on nutritional research, was impressed by his clear understanding of the health related topics on the EDA agenda: "With his professional background as an medical doctor and former Lithuanian Minister of Health, Commissioner Andriukaitis really caught our core message, when he stated that the health topics related to dairy are truly multi-factorial, that clearly milk has so many important components and it is important to have milk-traditions in life and

society". EU Commissioner Andriukaitis referred to his very personal milk experience as a child. He had his very first glass of milk only at the age of 6   years and he witnessed: "A glass of milk has a big value, especially for children".

In this very context, EDA President Michel Nalet highlighted the efforts of the European dairy industry in the 'School Milk Scheme' and the wish of EDA to cooperate with the EU Commission's services to develop further this scheme.

Dairy focus 1/2015: Latvian EU presidency online

On 01st January 2015, Latvia has taken over the EU Presidency from Italy. This is the first Latvian EU Presidency ever. The smooth transition to the end of the milk quota era will be one of the dairy priorities of the Latvian presidency.

Enjoy reading our "[EDA Dairy Focus 1/2015: The Latvian EU Presidency](#)". We thank the Latvian Permanent representation, especially Ms. Dace Ar ja, the Counsellor / Agriculture and the Chairman of the Latvian Dairy Committee, Mr. J nis  olks for their support and contribution.

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European Parliament S&D AGRI workshop under the title of “Crisis in the milk market: management of the post-quota system” attended by EDA

The Socialists & Democrats (S&D) of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee organised on Wednesday 7th January a workshop on “Crisis in the milk market: management of the post-quota system”. Chaired by MEP Paolo de Castro (IT, S&D), the workshop introduced view from Jorge Rita, President of the Farm Federation in Azores, Cesare Baldrighi, President of the Consorzio del Grana Padano and Román Santalla, Expert at the Union de Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos. Following their presentations, MEPs of the S&D Group took the opportunity to ask questions and present their views on the milk market.

This workshop, attended by EDA as an observer, will prepare the work of the S&D shadow rapporteur of the milk report to be prepared by MEP Jim Nicholson (UK, ECR). Shadow rapporteur MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos (PT, S&D) drew up the conclusions of the workshop by summarising the main views given such as the need for other forms of intervention where a public body could intervene on the market or the MMO would review the intervention price. Another idea raised in this workshop was a milk quota for certain regions for a specific time frame.

EDA continues lobbying by presenting this week to the COMAGRI MEPs its recommendations for the EU dairy market and its management, asking for policy stability in order for the dairy sector to realise its competitive potential. For more information, please see the EDA [press release](#).

Dairy Agenda of the European Parliament in January 2015

After the internal meeting of key Members of the European Parliament from the S&D group (Socialists & Democrats) on 07th January, a regional dairy conference is scheduled on 21th January 2015 focusing on the future of the dairy sector in Spain, Portugal, Italy and France and, on 27th January, a public hearing on the EU dairy policy will take place in the Committee for Agriculture of the European Parliament.

This week, EDA has met and discussed with several MEPS and MEP assistants to share our EDA Policy Recommendations (see above).

SAVE THE DATE: 18th March 2015, EDA Conference in Brussels

On 18th March 2015, we will organise our conference “EU Dairy Policy for the 21st Century” in Brussels (14.30 – 18.00). The conference will be followed by the ASSIFONTE / EDA Cheese Buffet.

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