

19th International Dairy Cooperatives Forum in Białystok, Poland

'Green transition in dairy and food security in crises times' was the theme that **Agnieszka Maliszewska** had chosen for the 2022 edition of the IDCF in Białystok.



In the opening session, Copa-Cogeca Secretary General **Pekka Pesonen**, Eucolait's **Alice O'Donovan** and EDA Secretary General **Alexander Anton** presented the EU perspectives on today's dairy policy and trade agenda.

Florian Hildebrand (StoneX), **Sascha Siegel** (EEX) and **Dr Raja Tathinam** (Indian Dairy Association), together with **Maks Fasteyev** (Infoagro Ukraine), gave an update on the latest ideas in terms of risk management in dairy.

The second day's agenda focuses on dairy sustainability and also includes a high-level policy panel with **EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski** and Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture **Henryk Kowalczyk** discussing with **Jerzy Plewa** (Team Europe) and **Andrzej Babuchowski** (CEO IIPM).

Certification of carbon removals: EDA members meet with EU Commission

Last week, our EDA members had the opportunity to exchange on the certification of carbon removals with **Valeria Forlin** (EU Commission, DG CLIMA), who knows about the specificities of the dairy sector since she was the key speaker at the Assolatte Dairy Sustainability Conference back in January 2020 in Milan, Italy.

During last week's exchange, the EU Commission representative gave the latest update on the upcoming legislative proposal on carbon removals certification, expected in November 2022, and our members had the chance to share and showcase best practices in dairy on carbon sequestration.

Many dairy companies and cooperatives have been working for years to better assess the carbon sequestration potential of dairy pastureland and to implement carbon farming practices, aiming at sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in the soil. As part of our exchange with the EU Commission, we reiterated, amongst others, the need to take into account the work already being carried out by private actors and the risk of trading removals outside of the food value chains. You can check [here](#) our latest EDA positioning on carbon removals.



Agnieszka Maliszewska (CEO Polska Izba Mleka) and Alexander Anton (EDA)



EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi and Valeria Forlin (DG CLIMA) at the Assolatte Dairy Sustainability Conference in January 2020 in Milan, Italy



Timely approval of the first seven CAP strategic plans

The implementation process of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is running smoothly and on time. Last Wednesday 31st of August, the European Commission approved the first package of the CAP strategic plans for seven European Member states: Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, and Spain.

This approval comes after the assessment of the draft individual plans by the European Commission during the last months — with some plans ranging up to 4,000 pages — for each EU member state.

In the words of EU Commissioner **Janusz Wojciechowski**, this step in the CAP implementation process comes in a crucial moment when the importance of providing robust support for the European farming sector has become clear, marked by the sharp increase in production costs due to the Russian aggression over Ukraine, as well as the recent summer droughts.

Regarding next steps, the European Commission continues its work revising the remaining CAP plans. If everything runs as expected, all plans should be adopted in a few weeks.

In parallel, as we have done for the past years, in EDA we are actively following this process and we welcome the continuous progress made on the implementation of the new CAP.

Furthermore, we continue planning our EDA CAP workshop focused on strategic plans for the coming months. Stay tuned!

EDA calls for action on the use of manure-based fertilizers

Recycling nutrients from manure and using them as organic fertilizers for soil has many benefits, including enhanced circularity in agriculture and reduced dependency on imported mineral fertilizers, which is key for guaranteeing security in food and energy.

Furthermore, it can also provide additional source of income for farmers and contribute to the production of renewable energy, like biogas. Nevertheless, the use of manure-based fertilisers is hindered by the current EU legislation, such as the Nitrates Directive, which dates back to the beginning of the 90s. This legislation limits their use as replacement of chemical fertilizers, which are not facing the same restrictions. EDA had already flagged up this issue back in 2017, and we echoed the findings of the EU Joint Research Centre on the safe use of nitrogen fertilizers derived from manure. We also fully support the letter sent on 21 June 2022 by **MEP Jan Huitema** (Renew Europe, NL), co-signed by other 17 MEPs, to EU Commissioner **Virginijus Sinkevičius** asking to take the necessary steps to enable the access of manure-derived fertilisers in the EU market, its application on fields and support its production by way of biogas plants. This is crucial, especially considering the dependence on fossil fuel-derived fertilisers and energy imported from Russia and the current war in Ukraine.

In this context, last week we contributed to the EU Commission's public consultation in preparation for an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan. In our contribution, we flagged up once more the issue related to the restriction of manure-based fertilisers in the EU market and reiterated our call for action to amend the existing legislation on nutrients management. [Here](#) you can have a look at our input to the consultation.

Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED): Inclusion of dairy farms

This week, Alberto Babolin (EDA) and other stakeholders active in the European Livestock Voice ([ELV](#)) had the opportunity to visit two livestock farms in the Walloon region (Belgium), together with **MEP Benoît Lutgen** (EPP, BE – AGRI rapporteur for the IED revision), **MEP Jérémy Decerle** (Renew, FR) and **MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen** (ECR, NL).

The aim of the visit was to raise awareness on the impacts of the revision on the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) on livestock farming. The Commission, in fact, is proposing to extend the scope of the legislation, which currently regulates pollutants emissions from industrial installation, to an increased number of livestock farms above a specific size.

According to the proposal of the EU Commission, dairy farms with more than 150 dairy cows will be qualified as “agro-industrial installations” and included into the IED scheme. Even the EU Commission counts with additional audit and ‘red tape’ costs of several thousand euros per year and per farm.



Professor Bernard Heinesch (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech)

While we share the overall objective of reducing emissions at farm level and to contribute to the EU environmental targets, we are opposed to the IED approach that is tailored for huge industrial production sites.

The increase of the administrative burden and the extra costs for farmers will lead inevitably to negative impacts on the farms’ economic sustainability, on farm investment and on farm succession — see [here](#) our EDA input to the public consultation.

This field visit was also the opportunity to know more from **Professor Bernard Heinesch** from Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (BE) about GHG emissions fluxes on pastureland, which gives the possibility to sectors such as dairy to offset part of the GHG emissions from farming operations.



MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR, NL), MEP Jérémy Decerle (Renew, FR), Mr Adrien Paquet (Paquet farm, Yvoir, BE)

September comes with a busy EU dairy agenda! Coming up in Brussels:

SAVE THE DATE

European Dairy: Pathways to a more sustainable food system.

27 September: 'European Dairy – Pathways to a more sustainable food system' symposium at TownHall Europe.

Organized by the **European Milk Forum** (EMF) and hosted by **MEP Asger Christensen** (Renew, DK) and **MEP Tom Vandenkendelaere** (EPP, BE), the event will count with a keynote address by EU Commissioner for Agriculture, **Janusz Wojciechowski**.

Through the symposium, dairy councils from five European countries will join forces to demonstrate their efforts and commitment to be part of a sustainable food system. Click [here](#) to register!



22 September: the first InLac Dairy Sustainability Forum held in Brussels.

Ignacio Elola (InLac President, FeNIL President and CEO Lactalis Iberia), **Luis Calabozo** (CEO FeNIL) and their teams are organizing the first edition of this promising forum in the framework of an EU-funded programme. The event will dive into the importance of sustainability when it comes to European agri-food promotion. You can register [here](#)!

Thank you, H el ene

After more than 13 years of committed and outstanding work dedicated to EDA and the European *lactosph ere*, **H el ene Simonin**, our Director of Food, Environment & Health department, is embarking on a new professional adventure within the EU agri-food sphere.

H el ene Simonin's strong conviction and leadership are reflected on what the European dairy sector represents today: a frontrunner when it comes to providing and promoting healthy and sustainable nutrition in Europe and beyond.

The excellent [Dairy Product Environmental Footprint \(PEF\)](#) is just one example of the many achievements H el ene has accomplished at EDA, contributing to making environmental, economic and social sustainability a pillar of the daily work of the European dairy sector.

We feel extremely lucky and grateful to have had you with us, H el ene, and wish you the best in the future!



Your favourite dairy product?

"Plenty! It has changed so often during lifetime with needs, mood and taste, and will continue doing. Best is a special occasion and a beautiful array of cheeses, with lots of character, fruity, delicate and colourful!"

H el ene Simonin

EDA Director of Food, Environment & Health