



Dairy Flash

14 / 2023

21 September

Connect to the world of dairy



The EDA annual convention

The EDA Annual Convention 2023 will take place from the **7** to **9 November** at The Hotel in Brussels.

On the afternoon session on 9 November a panel of Members of the European Parliament will discuss '2024-2029 shaping the future of EU-agriculture/dairy'. It will be the perfect opportunity to meet colleagues from the European and global dairy sector and EU-lawmakers, to learn about the latest developments and about policy in the lactosphere and why **'The Future is Dairy.'**

Register for our Annual Convention on eda2023.eu

Discover our MEP panelists:

Norbert Lins

MEP (EPP, DE)



Paolo de Castro

MEP (S&D, IT)

Martin Hlaváček

MEP (Renew, CZ)



Martin Häusling

MEP (Greens, DE)

Bert-Jan Ruissen

MEP (ECR, NL)



Director John A. Clarke, the Grandseigneur of agri-trade diplomacy is moving on

"Director **John Alistair Clarke** is already aware and on his way" was the usual answer when the European dairy industry 'alerted' his services of any trade disturbances anywhere on this globe. And now, after thirty years of outstanding dedication to Europe, to European agriculture and to global trade, John Clarke is retiring and moving on to academia.

Dear Director Clarke,

Dear John,

You look back at an unrivalled success record of conducting and concluding most difficult trade negotiations and of finding solutions in complex trade turbulences. Subliming Horace's *'ridens verum dicere'* in *'litterae citatione verum dicere'*, you used the combination of your unique diplomatic skills and your profound passion for literature as a powerful negotiation technique.

The European dairy sector is deeply grateful for your excellence, your dedication, your support over all these years and for your *bienveillance* towards the European lactosphere.

Merci infiniment,

Alexander

What's your preferred dairy product?

This is a no-brainer. A large wedge of crumbly Wensleydale cheese from North Yorkshire - "the land of green acres" - washed down with a pint of Theakston's Bitter brewed in the next valley.

John Alistair Clarke

Director, DG AGRI, European Commission





The EDA meets UKDairy in London

The new DairyUK President **Paul Vernon** (Leprino Foods) underlined the three main priorities of the UK dairy business: resilience, efficiency and driving the environmental sustainability agenda forward.

DairyUK President Paul Vernon and EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton

"The UK dairy is ambitious for the future: we play an important role in food safety and nutrition, in livelihoods and economies and in sustainable food systems Paul Vernon stated in his speech at the DairyUK Annual Dinner in the prestigious Old War Office in London, last week.

The UK Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries, Rt Hon **Mark Spencer** MP, marked in his speech the full support of the UK government to UK dairy:

"Our objective is to have 60% of our food produced in the UK. Food production is the first objective of farming. And also for the environmental sustainability, dairy must be recognised to be part of the solution".

Minister Mark Spencer underlined the success of the DairyUK Dairy Road Map and thanked DairyUK CEO Dr **Judith Bryans** for the seamless cooperation.

MEPs to assess Wopke Hoekstra and Maroš Šefčovič

On October 2, the European Parliament will assess **Wopke Hoekstra**, the Dutch government's pick for replacing Frans Timmermans as the new EU commissioner for climate action.

On October 3, the Parliament will assess Commission Executive Vice President **Maroš Šefčovič** over his new role as Green Deal chief. Following **Frans Timmermans** departure, his responsibilities were split up into two, which would see Hoekstra reporting to Šefčovič.

International Dairy Federation Board meeting in Brussels

With less than a month to go for the IDF World Dairy Summit in Chicago (from 16 to 19 October 2023, see: 2023 [IDF World Dairy Summit](#), IDF President **Piercristiano Brazzale** chaired an IDF Board meeting in Brussels.

"The EDA exchange with Piercristiano Brazzale and the IDF Board members was a great opportunity to take stock of different world dairy dossiers that are dealt within IDF, not least the positioning of our global dairy federation vis-à-vis the overall impact of new processing technologies. We were also able to further finetune our EWPA project of a global dairy ingredient campaign 'world.wide.whey' that we want to establish jointly with [wheyforliving.com](#) and [thestronginside.com](#) of our U.S. colleagues from ADPI and IDF", stated EDA secretary general **Alexander Anton**.



IDF President Piercristiano Brazzale at our 2022 Annual Convention

20th International Dairy Cooperatives Forum in Białystok

The 20th edition of the International Dairy Cooperatives Forum highlighted once more the vibrant energy and the economical and political importance of the Polish laktosfera – with a special focus this year on the dairy relations with Ukraine.

Agnieszka Maliszewska of Polish Chamber of Milk, welcomed next to EU COM **Janusz Wojciechowski** and **Robert Telus**, Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and high-level representatives from the Ukrainian government and the leaders of the Ukrainian dairy industry in Białystok



From left: Vadim Chagarowski (President of the Ukrainian Dairy Union), Pekka Pesonen (Copa-Cogeca), Agnieszka Maliszewska, chair of the IDCF, Dr Jerzi Plewa (Team Europe), Prof Andrzej Babuchowski and Alexnder Anton (EDA)

European Commission shares its recent data on the milk market situation

DG Agri, represented by **Krystian Keciak** and **Fabienne Alcaraz**, attended EDA's Trade and Economics Committee meeting on September 7.

Our regular and fruitful discussions allow us to share EDA's members' concerns and to provide the Commission with any information and data they may need.

Topics discussed include updates on policy areas such as EU Marketing Standards Revision, EU Promotion Policy Revision, EU School Scheme Revision, and updates on the expected timelines for international trade agreements.

Our recurring meetings with DG AGRI are furthermore an excellent opportunity to discuss the overall future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). EDA kicked off this debate in spring with our CAP workshop ([see dairyflash #10](#)), in anticipation of the European Commission's planned consultations later this year. The design of the CAP post 2027 will be one of the major topics in the next legislative period and we already see an increased interest from politicians and policymakers. We saw over summer that Members of the European Parliament are already inquiring about the future of the milk market (e.g., **Peter Jahr**, MEP, EPP - Parliamentary question - E-002231/2023) and European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** announced that the European Union will launch a "strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture". EDA is more than ready to play its role in such a dialogue.



Béranger Guyonnet (co-chair TEC/ Sodiaal), Krystian Keciak (DG Agri), Fabienne Alcaraz (DG Agri) and Lise Andreasen Høyer (co-chair TEC/ Danish Dairy Board) at EDA offices.

The EPP hosts a debate on the future of Agriculture in Europe

The event, titled The European Farmers' Deal EPP vision for Agriculture in Europe, was hosted by MEPs **Siegfried Mureşan**, **Norbert Lins** and **Herbert Dorfmann**. The two panels, moderated by MEPs, and composed by prominent members of national ministries of agriculture and the academia, debated on the importance of sustainability in agriculture and the need for global food security. Worldwide food systems need to provide sufficient food at an affordable price, while producing at low economic and environmental costs.

The dairy industry was highlighted by the Swedish Minister of Rural Affairs, **Petter Kullgren**:

"If cows didn't exist, we would have to invent them. Cows consume things that humans often can't eat and turn them into nutritious food in the form of meat and milk. They even provide us with natural fertilizers as an extra bonus, while at the same time contributing to biodiversity and land, when they are also sequestering carbon into the soil. Cows are miracle machines."

The EPP's newly adopted vision for agriculture restates the need to support European farmers and include them more in the decision-making on the future of Europe. For that, it puts forward the commitment to defend decent living standards, to reduce bureaucracy and strengthen budgetary means to secure the strategic importance of food production in Europe.

[Link to the recordings of the event.](#)

What's your favourite dairy product?

I love all dairy products, but yoghurt is my favourite one: in the morning with fruit and granola, or in the evening for dessert!

And of course, I do not drink my coffee with milk, but I rather add a little coffee to my milk

Esben Egede Rasmussen
Managing Director,
Danish Dairy Board



Milk processing visually acknowledged in State of the European Union Speech

