

Dairy and dairy Ingredients at DG AGRI's Outlook Conference

This year's flagship event of DG AGRI was opened by **EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen**, who highlighted the role of agriculture in the 'Green Deal' ambition. *"If you choose to go green, it will pay off"* she summarized as her perspective of the future for European farming.

Andrea Čapkovičová (DG AGRI) set the scene at today's dairy session with a positive 2030 outlook on EU dairy, where **Robert Erhard** (Nestlé) shared a strong message on the dairy commitment of Nestlé and highlighted the '[Sustainable Dairy Partnership](#)' at European and global level.

Dairy ingredients on the rise

"15% of the milk volumes are used for dairy ingredients. 'Cracking' the milk is the key word for the milk ingredient industry: milk is a unique blend of micro- and macronutrients and we single out the different milk constituents according to the needs and wishes of the markets. High value functional foods, affordable quality nutrition or indulgence products are part of our outlets", explained **Jean-Luc Bordeau** (Lactalis

Ingrédients) in his high level speech. A real first class promotion for dairy and dairy ingredients!

Jean-Luc Bordeau
(Lactalis Ingrédients)



Portuguese EU Presidency

EDA exchanges with ANIL Board

Last week, the Board of our Portuguese member federation ANIL welcomed **David Gouveia** from the Portuguese ministry of agriculture and **EDA secretary general Alexander Anton** to exchange on the priorities of the upcoming Portuguese EU Presidency and the impact of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork initiatives, on the Portuguese and European lactosphere.

This meeting was also a great opportunity to share with the ANIL Board the high appreciation of the Portuguese dairy commitment, especially by **Maria Cândida Marramaque** (ANIL) and **Fernando Cardoso** (FENALAC) to our EDA work in Brussels.



And for the occasion, we are glad to issue today our bi-annual Dairy Focus on the Portuguese Presidency.

[Check it out on our website!](#)

Renew Europe (EP) webinar "Sustainable Agriculture"

Last week's Renew Europe webinar chaired by **MEP Ulrike Müller** (Renew Europe, DE) focussed on 'The Dimensions of Sustainability and their trade-offs'. "The CAP is a social contract between the agricultural sector and our society, that defends our valued European (...)





family farming system where sustainability has to be defined more as a journey, than as a goal. And before deciding on sustainability goals, we need to have a clear assessment of their trade-offs", stated MEP Ulrike Müller, the Renew Europe Agriculture leader.

"We know, on short term, that the transition will be disruptive and painful. We have to accompany this process", acknowledged Director **Nathalie Chaze** who is in charge for 'Sustainable Food Systems' in DG SANTE.



EDA workshop on methane emissions

Last month, EDA led an online workshop on methane emissions to tackle essential topics like the opportunities for mitigating methane emissions in the dairy sector or the revision of the calculation of the Global Warming Potential of methane. Organised in the context of the [recently published EU Methane Strategy](#), the workshop gave the possibility to discuss the policy framework proposed by the EU Commission and to highlight the importance of having the right scientific basis behind European policies.

In this context, it is important to highlight that Europe is one of the most efficient world regions for milk production, with a carbon footprint per produced unit of milk that is one of the lowest in the world, achieved through a significant reduction of emissions from dairy operations since 1990. Dairy production in Europe also contributes to carbon sequestration on pastureland and renewable energy production. Read more in our EDA paper "[The Dairy sector and the Green Deal](#)".

EDA contributes to the EU Commission's consultation on "green claims"

EDA answered to the EU Commission's public consultation on substantiating green claims. The initiative aimed at gathering stakeholders' views on the substantiation of environmental information on products via the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology.

EDA, [who developed the PEF methodology for the dairy sector](#) and obtained the approval of the EU Commission and Member States already in 2018, reaffirmed its support of a voluntary framework requiring the use of PEF whenever green claims are made, as well as the importance of mentioning at least the 3-5 most relevant environmental impacts when communicating the performance of a product. It is also important that comparison between products is restricted and that the specificities of each member state are considered when performing verifications. For more information, check out our [EDA position paper on green claims](#).

Front-of-pack nutrition labelling schemes

EDA publishes revised guiding principles with a detailed analysis of FOPNL schemes



EDA is committed to ensure accurate, useful and credible information to EU consumers. This is why we put forward guiding principles to evaluate any (...)

potential EU front-of-pack scheme with the objective of better informing the consumer and encouraging a healthy balanced diet.

We believe that such a scheme should be in line with dietary recommendations, ensure improved information to consumers about the overall nutritional quality of foods, take into account their long-recognised nutritional contribution and health benefits, and always be based on sound scientific evidence. The scheme should be voluntary and harmonised across the EU. Interested to see our detailed analysis? [Check it out on our website!](#)

Results of Tuesday's AGRIFISH Council

No conclusions on front-of-pack nutrition labelling, nutrient profiles and origin labelling

For good reasons, the Council of European Agriculture ministers this week did not find a political agreement on conclusions on front-of-pack nutrition labelling, nutrient profiles and origin labelling.

Italy, Greece and Czech Republic rejected the German EU Presidency proposal, therefore the text was adopted as [Conclusions from the German Presidency of the Council](#) rather than as Conclusions from the full Council. Also, Cyprus expressed reserves on the draft Conclusions.

The EU Commission's initiative to extend mandatory COOL at EU level to other product categories was supported by Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain, while Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg and Sweden voiced doubts about extension of mandatory origin labelling rules.

However, [the Council approved Conclusions](#) on an EU-wide animal welfare label, inviting the EU Commission to submit a proposal for a harmonised label on food produced under high animal welfare standards.

Protection of Dairy Terms



While the opponents of consumer and quality protection prepare the next steps in their strategy to convince the trilogue parties (EU Member States, EU Commission and EU Parliament) to lower the protection level for dairy terms, our EDA strategy has been assessed by a master class of the Milano based IULM university.

The IULM study highlights the *"paid and aggressive sponsorship campaign"* of our opponents, while our EDA outreach is qualified as *"a coherent approach that aims to help the European institutions to make informed decisions"*.

The trilogue discussions on the Common Market Organisation, including the protection of dairy terms, will start in 2021. We will for sure see more of that *"paid and aggressive sponsorship campaign"* of the opponents to consumer and quality protection. We will go on countering this polemic by providing factual information.

9th meeting of the EU Food Losses and Food Waste Platform

Back in 2016, and in recognition of the successful work on food waste carried out by the EU dairy industry, EDA was appointed member of the EU Food Losses and Food Waste Platform, led by DG SANTE.

The mandate of the Platform – initially foreseen to end in October 2019 – was extended until the end of 2021, and EDA remains an active member. In 2022, the Platform will be re-established and the membership renewed.

The 9th meeting of the EU Platform of the EU Food Losses and Food Waste Platform took place last week with a keynote speech by **Claire Bury**, Deputy Director General for Food Sustainability in DG SANTE, who gave a key note at our EDA Annual Convention on 20th November 2020.

Apart from highlighting the progress and future outlook of EU actions to prevent food loss and food waste, the meeting was an occasion to have EFSA presenting its [recently published Scientific opinion on date marking and related food information](#), which is particularly relevant to the dairy sector as this opinion will support food business operators and national authorities to implement correct and consistent practices.

The EU Commission implements the “No woman, no panel” initiative

The European Commission strongly supports gender equality and is recommending to implement the “No Women, No Panel” policy when preparing the agenda of conferences. This campaign, initiated by **EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel**, aims at raising awareness on gender balance in panels and public events. It invites the EU Commission services to make sure that all line-ups include both female and male speakers. Besides, the EU Commission insists on finding a balance between the panel speakers, not only in terms of gender but also of age, ethnic background, etc.

“To make it very clear: our guiding principle when setting up conferences is quality, not gender balance. And for exactly this reason, over the past years, gender balance has become part of our dairy world – our EDA

*Annual Virtual Convention in November 2020 was a perfect example with two female and two male speakers”, commented **EDA President Michel Nalet**.*

CAP update: three regulations - three trilogues

The process of shaping the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is moving forward. On Tuesday 10th November, the first meeting of the interinstitutional negotiations and trilogues - between the co-legislators of the EU (EU Parliament and EU Council) and the EU Commission was held.

The European Parliament and the EU Council reached a provisional agreement on an EU recovery package of €8.07 billion for farmers, food producers and rural areas to boost their resilience. In parallel, as for the negotiations of the Transitional Regulation of the CAP, another provisional agreement was reached to extend CAP payments until the end of 2022.

We welcome the agreements as important steps to reinforce the resilience capacity of the dairy sector and we will remain in contact with all parties to provide them with our analysis of the most dairy-relevant points of the Regulations, and our proposed EDA positions and recommendations.

After the first negotiation meeting, three more trilogues were held to tackle strategic plan Regulation, the common markets organisation Regulation (CMO), the financing, management and control Regulation.

Regarding the next steps, in the upcoming weeks and months, the EU Parliament, EU Council under the Portuguese Presidency and EU Commission will pursue the interinstitutional negotiations in order to reach a final agreement on the new CAP by Spring/early Summer 2021.

New PDO: Mozzarella di Gioia del Colle

Last week, *Mozzarella di Gioia del Colle* officially entered the register of protected designations of origin (PDO). This soft pasta filata cheese owes its name to the town in Apulia which *Mozzarella di Gioia del Colle* has been associated to since the first half of the last century.

The *Mozzarella di Gioia del Colle* is produced and packaged in the provinces of Bari, Taranto and Matera, in the south of Italy. This region has a unique cheese making tradition that has been transmitted from generation to generation and this region is also home to our EDA secretariat team member [Maria Libertini!](#)

Can whey protein boost your immune system?

With the rapid spread of Covid-19 around the world, staying well and healthy has never been so important. A healthy immune system helps us fight off colds and illnesses, recover faster, and generally feel good. While no one will ever claim that eating well can protect us against Covid-19, there are at least certain foods that can support your immune system! Check out how whey protein can help you boost your immune system, on [EWPA's Wheyforliving platform!](#)



2021: Save the dates!

Wednesday 24 March 2021

EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2021

Brussels, Belgium

28 September –
01 October 2021

EDA European Dairy Platform 2021

“Milk & Dairy – Essential for Your Life”

Co-hosted by FeNIL

Madrid, Spain



The whole EDA team
wishes you a Merry
Christmas and a happy
New Year !