

EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski leads Trade Mission to India

At **SIAL** (Salon International de l'Alimentation) in New Delhi, EU Commissioner **Janusz Wojciechowski** opened the "European Pavillon" under the heading "more than food".

The Commissioner, his cabinet members and the DG AGRI-team around Director **João Onofre** and **Maria Fladl** (EU Delegation in India) had set up high level meetings with the Indian authorities for trade and for agriculture as well as with the Indian Food Safety Authority.

"For our Free Trade Agreement negotiations, we have a good basis of understanding and parallelism in our farm policy approaches and our product portfolios are rather complementary. We have seen a lot of goodwill to speed up import authorizations and to revise procedures. When back in Brussels, I will continue this mission and follow up with the Indian authorities", stated Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski in the debrief session for the business delegates.

Our secretary general Alexander Anton had the opportunity to speak at the 'EU Feature Conference' at SIAL India about the unique excellence of European dairy.

EDA urges Nutri-Score modification for dairy products

At EDA we are disappointed to see that despite recent updates, the Nutri-Score algorithm fails to align with Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs), especially for milk, liquid dairy products and cheeses.

The Nutri-Score system, promoted in several EU countries, requires urgent adjustments for dairy products to be more useful to consumers and correctly reflect the nutritional quality of dairy products. In our recently published EDA Position Paper on Nutri-Score, we point out that the Nutri-Score system not only does not differentiate among different types of cheeses but also reclassifies milk and liquid dairy products as beverages (instead of food), and by that drastically lowers their Nutri-Score ratings.

Have a look at why Nutri-Score is not adapted to dairy products here: [EDA Position on Nutri-Score](#).



My favourite dairy product is "Burrata di Andria PGI", because I'm proud that it was invented in my hometown, Andria, and obviously for its traditional, distinctive and creamy taste

Matteo Sanguedolce, Manager, Sanguedolce S. R.L.



Matteo Sanguedolce (Saporosa) and EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski in New Delhi, 09 November 2023





DG Agri: Agri-Food Days 2023

EDA seized the opportunity to actively take part in the **EU Agri-Food Days**, which took place in Brussels from December 5 to 8, 2023. The event featured interventions from EU Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** and EU Commissioner for Agriculture, **Janusz Wojciechowski**. The overarching goal was to foster dialogue and ignite transformative ideas to shape the future of the agri-food sector.

As an active contributor, EDA remains committed to shaping the future of the EU's dairy sector by navigating challenges and exploring opportunities for sustainable growth. A significant highlight of the Agri-Food Days was the **EU Agricultural Outlook Conference**, an annual event during which the Commission presents the much-awaited **Agricultural Outlook Report**. The outlook acknowledges the mounting pressure from national and EU environmental policies, which may pose challenges and potentially lead to declines in production. Despite facing significant disruptions in recent years, the EU's milk and dairy sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience. Over the last decade, EU milk deliveries have shown a steady increase, reinforcing the EU's position as a world-leading dairy exporter. While the pace of the increase in yields is expected to continue, it is anticipated to be at a slower rate compared to the past. In response to these challenges and in anticipation of an expected increase in the added value of milk and dairy products, the report suggests a probable rise in the raw milk price within the EU in the foreseeable future.

New technologies, consumer protection and Protection of Dairy Terms

We are proud to share our new EDA Position Paper addressing the regulatory landscape for lab-grown ingredients in the EU. Thanks to clear EU rules protecting dairy terms, our European consumers can trust that products labelled as milk, butter, yoghurt or cheese are indeed the original dairy products. This high EU legal protection covers also emerging technologies like bio-identical proteins obtained through fermentation or cell-based methods which are expected to enter the EU market in the coming years. Our EDA Paper explores regulatory considerations around novel foods and genetically modified organisms status and underscores the importance of accurate labelling for novel food ingredients and final products. We also highlight that adherence to EU laws need to be consistent across EU countries to ensure high level of consumer protection against misleading practices.

Curious to know more about this topic? Read more here: [EDA Position Paper on the regulatory situation in the EU on lab-grown ingredients](#).

EU-U.S. trade dispute: The clock is ticking



On 7 December, EDA co-signed a [broad industry call](#) for the permanent removal of tariffs on sectors unrelated to the steel, aluminum, and large civil aircraft disputes. Regarding dairy, we suffered from substantial retaliatory tariffs between 2019 and 2021 due to the civil aircraft dispute.

As EDA, we observe an increasing trend where agri-food products, and consequently the farming community, are consistently caught in trade disputes. Not only does it intensify pressure on agri-food businesses worldwide, including both the U.S. and the Union, but it also affects food prices. It is imperative that the EU and the U.S. promptly resolve the civil aircraft dispute. Without an agreement, retaliatory tariffs of up to 25% could be reinstated by June 2026.

IDF-EDA Side Event at COP28: How Animal-Sourced Food Nourishes the World in Times of Climate Change

Official COP28 Side Event

How animal source food nourishes the world in times of climate change

Speakers:

- Caroline Edmond, IDF Director General
- Amb. Carlos Cherniak, Chair of the Subcommittee of Livestock, FAO
- Dr. Lynnette Neufeld, Director of the Food and nutrition division of FAO
- Dr. Namukolo Covic, ILRI Director General's Representative to Ethiopia
- Mr. Lloyd Day, Deputy Director General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- Smith Singh, Manager, WOOB Foundation
- Ms Jeanette Coombs, Sustainability Advocacy Director, Danone
- Ms Evangelista Chekera, Youth Farmer leader, WFO

Dec 5, 11:30-13:00 local time
In-person: SE Room 9
Online: www.youtube.com/@UNClimateChange




Last week, EDA and the **International Dairy Federation** (IDF) organized an official side event at **COP28**, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, focusing on the role of animal-sourced food in nourishing the planet.

Represented by **Alberto Babolin**, Senior Policy Officer for Environment and Sustainability, EDA joined IDF President **Piercristiano Brazzale** (Brazzale Spa) and IDF Director General **Caroline Edmond** in Dubai. Together, they welcomed a panel of experts who contributed to the fruitful discussions during the side event. The session explored the role of territorial animal-sourced food in ensuring nutrition security and taking climate action. The event's objective was to raise awareness of sustainability's different dimensions and potential trade-offs when focusing solely on one dimension.

The panel included, among others, H.E. Ambassador **Carlos Cherniak**, Chair of the Subcommittee of Livestock at **FAO**, Dr. **Lynnette Neufeld**, Director of the Food and Nutrition Division of FAO, **Jeanette Coombs**, Sustainability Advocacy Director at **Danone**, and was moderated by Caroline Edmond.

During the event, Ambassador Carlos Cherniak underlined that "livestock is part of the solution for climate change," and Dr. Lynnette Neufeld explained that terrestrial animal-sourced food is crucial for healthy diets, leading to improved nutrition and health outcomes.

Foods with high nutrient density are fundamental for a healthy diet, and they contribute to tackle malnutrition. They provide energy and essential nutrients like protein, fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals less prevalent in other food types. Livestock farming has positive environmental impacts, including carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection. Emissions reductions have been achieved through diverse measures such as productivity improvements, carbon storage in pasturelands, and sustainable manure management. Moreover, dairy farming significantly contributes to the economic sustainability of rural areas, and school milk programs are fundamental in ensuring children's nutrition and growth. The exchange emphasized the importance of a holistic approach involving all relevant stakeholders in recognizing the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental dimensions when considering livestock farming, as outlined in our EDA factsheet "[Feeding the World with Dairy.](#)"

COP28 provided a platform for major EU dairies and global food companies to launch '**the Dairy Methane Action Alliance**' (DMAA). The DMAA aims to account for and disclose methane emissions within dairy supply chains, implementing comprehensive methane reduction plans. This initiative underscores the dairy industry's significant efforts in combating greenhouse gas emissions worldwide while continuing to provide nutritious food. European dairies stand as frontrunners in climate action, with many already implementing ambitious strategies for emission reduction and aiming for climate neutrality in the coming decades.





XV Ukrainian Dairy Conference 2023

The key dairy industry meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, brought together the leading figures of the Ukrainian lactosphere along with high-level representatives from Ukrainian authorities.

Arsen Didur, the Director General of our Ukrainian partner organization SMPU, welcomed **Nadiia Bihun**, Deputy Minister of Economy, **Mykola Solnskyi**, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, as well as **Jerzy Plewa** from Team Europe.

During his welcome speech, Alexander Anton, secretary general of EDA, emphasized the European dairy industry's full support, stating:

"Our confidence and commitment in Ukrainian dairy is underlined by the significant investments by European dairy companies in Ukraine. Our joint agenda centers on three key objectives: A commitment to a reciprocal long perspective 'no tariffs, no quotas' approach, a shared dedication to remove trade barriers and an integration of Ukraine dairy into the 'EU facility program.'"

MMO Economic Board

On 5 December, **Monika Wohlfarth**, the chair of our EDA's MMO task force, participated in the quarterly meeting of the **Economic Board of the Milk Market Observatory** (MMO). She contributed significantly to the overall discussion and also presented the EU dairy

stock levels. Her update included the observation that the production of SMP and butter had begun to decline due to lower milk intake. Participants were also briefed that EU dairy exports had increased since the beginning of the year, and domestic demand had also shown signs of recovery. The dairy market appears to be balanced, with stock levels showing a decline.

Agrial/Eurial next generation dairy leaders in Brussels!

In line with the motto of Agrial "open up to the world," the "Get in Touch with Brussels" day is an integral part of the training program for the next generation of leaders within the French dairy cooperative **Agrial/Eurial**.

Sarah Deysine, Chief CSR Officer at Agrial/Eurial, organized high-level meetings with European institutions. The program also encompassed a visit to the EDA, where Alexander Anton had the opportunity to discuss, among other topics, the future of CAP 2027 with the group of French dairy farmers.



Strong message for European livestock

Just before returning from his highly intensive and successful mission in India to Brussels for this week's Agricultural Council, EU Commissioner **Janusz Wojciechowski** made a bold pro-livestock statement:

"There is a quite strong political pressure to reduce the livestock sector in Europe. I am in favour of EU animal agriculture – for good reasons: we need livestock farming for a sustainable future of our agriculture, for environmental, economic and social sustainability of our farming and food system."

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



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EDA Policy Conference

Focus on the European Elections 2024

Wednesday 10th April 2024, Brussels