

EDA 2023 Dairy Policy Conference: Farm to Fork Strategy - 2023, the year of delivery?

Under the theme 'Farm to Fork Strategy - 2023, the year of delivery?', our **EDA 2023 Dairy Policy Conference** will take place on **Wednesday 8th of March 2023** in Brussels to take stock of the state of play of some of the main initiatives announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy.

The first session, moderated by **Judith Bryans** (CEO of DairyUK), will dive into food labelling in the framework of the Farm to Fork strategy, and will count on the participation of **MEP Paolo de Castro (S&D, Italy)**, who will deliver a key note speech, as well as a DG SANTE representative, **Tomáš Slunecko** (Czech Permanent Representation), **Emma Calvert** (BEUC, the EU Consumer Organization), and **Stephan Peters** (NZO, our Dutch EDA member organization).

The second session, titled 'Living the Farm to Fork strategy at farm and dairy level' and moderated by **Alberto Babolin** (EDA), will welcome as speakers Professor **John Gilliland** (Queen's University Belfast), **Marlin Dammann** (DMK), and dairy farmer **Florian Stümmler** (DMK).

Stay tuned to our Dairy Flash and social media channels — registrations will open next week!

'Grüne Woche' in Berlin: "Fair prices through regulation, does that work?"

Peter Stahl, CEO of Hochland and President of our German EDA member Milchindustrie-Verband (MIV), welcomed last week a wide range of representatives from the German dairy sector at the Bavarian Embassy during Berlin's *Grüne Woche* (Berlin's Green Week).

Speakers from academia, the dairy industry, the farming sector and the German consumer organization all concluded *unisono* that state intervention into markets never delivers. **Eckhard Heuser**, CEO of MIV, highlighted: "Just compare the average 2022 milk prices across Europe – the more these prices were ruled by semi-state intervention, the lower the milk price."



MIV President Peter Stahl at the 'MIV Milchpolitischer Frührschoppen' in Berlin's International Green Week



Dairy Policy Conference 2023

Farm to Fork Strategy - 2023, the year of delivery?

Wednesday, 8 March 2023
14:00 - 17:30

From 17:30 - Annual Cheese Buffet

22 - 28, Avenue d'Auderghem
Brussels, Belgium

#DairyFarmToFork



EU Animal Welfare Fitness Check: “When you want to establish new animal welfare rules, talk to the farmers first”

On Tuesday 31 January, **MEP Jérémy Decerle** (Renew, France) hosted a conference in the European Parliament organized by CNIEL (French Dairy Interprofessional Organization) under the theme ‘Animal Welfare: Key Objective of Sustainability for the Dairy Sector’.

The event was perfectly well timed, taking place right after the COMAGRI discussions with DG SANTE representatives on potential future animal welfare legislation. The EU Commission is currently evaluating 38 [sic!] different policy options, including new species-specific requirements on dairy cows and an EU animal welfare labelling.

MEP Jérémy Decerle emphasized the high diversity of dairy farm management types across France and Europe, and underlined that “animals and animal welfare are close to the heart of each farmer. It seems to me that the EU Commission has not yet exchanged sufficiently with livestock farmers,” a statement applauded by the attendees, including the 25 students and young generation farmers from Angers School of Agriculture of Angers, France.



MEP Jérémy Decerle (Renew, France) with CNIEL CEO Caroline Le Poutier at the European Parliament

The role of innovation for a sustainable European agriculture and food system

Last week, a seminar on innovation for a sustainable European agriculture and food system took place at the European Parliament, organized by the Renew group. Hosted by **MEP Ulrike Müller** (Renew, Germany), the event focused on innovative solutions to increase the sustainability of agriculture and food production in Europe.

The seminar also counted on the interventions of **MEP Elsi Katainen** (Renew, Finland), **MEP Martin Hojsik** (Renew, Slovakia) and **MEP Asger Christensen** (Renew, Denmark), who introduced specific sessions on practices to mitigate the environmental impact and improve food security, such as carbon farming and bio fertilization. In this context, EDA has been working in the last months to highlight the numerous benefits of the use manure-based fertilizers, and joined the 18 MEPs call to **EU Commissioner for Environment Virginijus Sinkevičius**, from June 2022, to enable the access of manure-derived fertilizers on the EU market, its application on fields and support its production, what can play a key role for increasing the environmental and economic sustainability of dairy farming. See our [EDA paper on the potential of manure-based fertilizers](#).



MEP Ulrike Müller (Renew, DE) at the seminar on Innovation for a sustainable European agriculture and food system

Green claims initiative and Dairy PEFCR: the way to go to assess products' environmental performance

The EU Commission is currently expected to publish its initiative on substantiating environmental (green) claims in March this year, after it was delayed several times since 2021. According to a leaked proposal currently circulating, specific requirements will have to be met by companies willing to measure and communicate the environmental performance of their products.

Although companies will not be obliged to use one specific methodology, the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) method and its sector-specific category rules (PEFCR) are strongly incentivized, with claims on aggregated scores not to be allowed unless they are validated by a PEFCR.

EDA, who developed the Dairy PEFCR already in 2018 and received the approval by the EU Commission and EU member states, is currently renewing the validity of the methodology and related datasets, together with a group of experts from the sector and the support of a consultancy. This will allow dairy companies to continue using the dairy-specific rules and taking a harmonized EU approach when measuring and communicating the environmental performance of dairy products.

See our [EDA factsheet on the Dairy PEFCR](#).

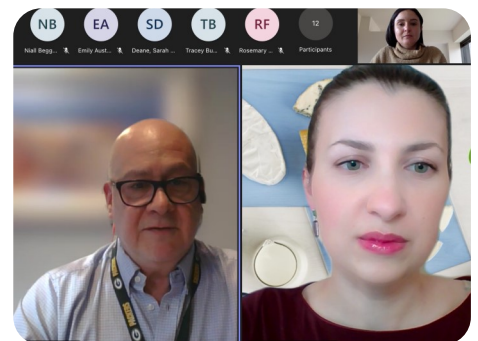


EU developments on labelling high on Dairy UK agenda

Earlier this week, **Kinga Adamaszwili**, our EDA Director for Food Policy, Nutrition and Regulatory Affairs, had the pleasure to speak at the Dairy UK 'Labelling and Composition Committee' on the latest developments on EU labelling dossiers.

Kinga informed the Dairy UK members on the state of play of the revision of the EU Food Information to Consumers Regulation (FIC), in particular on front of pack nutrition labelling, origin labelling and date marking. Participants heard about the EU policy options that are currently under consideration by the EU Commission as well as EDA position and outreach strategy on each of the labelling topics. While the FIC revision and consumer information is one of the priorities of the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy, and the legislative proposal was originally meant to be presented by end of 2022, it is now clear that the divergent views of Member States and within the European Parliament make it challenging for the EU Commission to publish the draft proposal in time to be adopted during the current mandate of the EU Commission and the EU Parliament (2019-2024).

The European dairy sector remains extremely active in the labelling discussions by voicing the dairy views to the policymakers and all relevant stakeholders. The EU discussions remain highly relevant also for Dairy UK as any potential changes in the EU labelling legislation might also affect the UK products placed on the EU market.



Ian Simpson (Fayrefield Foods), Luisa Candido (Nutrition & Technical Consultant, DairyUK), and Kinga Adamaszwili (EDA)

EU-Mercosur FTA: will 2023 be the year of ratification?

In the framework of the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement (FTA) ratification process, EDA attended on 31 January a coalition meeting of pro-ratification EU trade associations from several sectors to discuss potential ways to support the process. The ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement is on standby, and there are no clear signals indicating what will happen during 2023 and before the European Parliament elections of 2024.

On the one hand, EU Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen stated in September 2022, as well as a couple of weeks ago at the Economic Forum in Davos, that the ratification process of the EU-Mercosur agreement is one of the highest priorities on the EU Commission's trade agenda. In this line, the Swedish and Spanish rotating Presidencies of the EU Council are in favour of the Mercosur agreement. However, the EU Commission has been working on a complementary sustainability instrument to be added to the FTA that still must be published to continue with the ratification process. On the other hand, on the Mercosur countries' side, Brazil, with its recently elected new President Lula da Silva, seems keen to ratify the agreement as he is pushing the block internally to intensify the talks with the EU and finalize the ratification. The option to split the agreement and to focus on the trade part only, which was chosen for the agreement with Chile, is on the table and would not detract from the democratic legitimacy of the trade agreement, as the European Parliament must approve it.

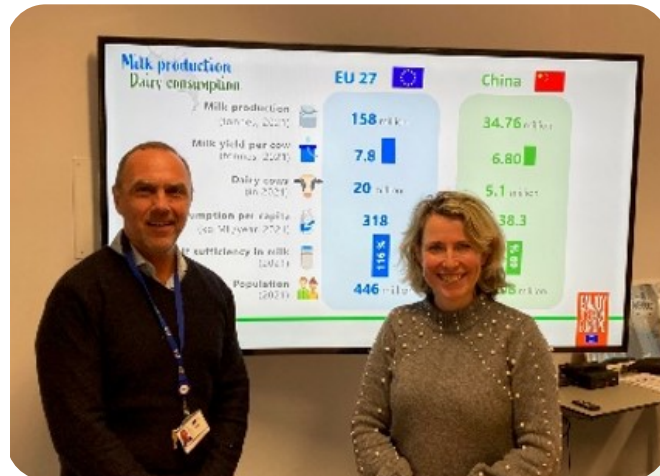
EDA welcomes the comprehensive trade agreement and looks forward to its ratification, as it is the largest deal ever made on Geographical Indications within a trade agreement. Thanks to the EU-Mercosur Agreement, 350 European GIs, such as Fromage de Herve (Belgium) or Comté (France), will be protected from imitations in the four Mercosur countries.

EU-China: Chances for EU dairy exports

Earlier this week, we had the pleasure to welcome **Damien Plan** (DG TRADE) in our offices. Damien Plan was until recently the agricultural counselor in the EU delegation in Beijing, and is now responsible for agrifood policy in DG Trade.

Our meeting offered an excellent opportunity to discuss the wider EU-China dairy trade relationship as well as more specific dossiers like the implementation of the Chinese Decree 248 and the approval of infant formula recipes by China.

Chinese dairy imports have slowed down during the Covid period, but the outlook for 2023 is positive. China is still far from self-sufficient when it comes to milk production, so we see lots of opportunities for exports.



Damien Plan (DG TRADE) and Lise Andreasen Høyer, co-chair of our EDA Trade and Economics Committee

Forging close dairy ties down under

The momentum in the trade negotiations between the EU and Australia has picked up steam in the last months and an agreement is expected to materialize in the coming months. Having said that, the question is now to what extent Australians are willing to accept the EU Quality Policy, meaning the protection of our European Geographic Indications (GIs). This week, the Australian dairy industry launched a desperate appeal, claiming that a deal protecting our European heritage would herald the end of days.

These days, GIs protection is an integral part of any EU trade agreement with third countries, as the GIs chapter is negotiated by the EU Commission in close alignment with the concerned member states.

We as EDA meanwhile continue our constructive dialogue with Dairy Australia. We might not agree on everything, but there is a shared feeling that an EU – Australia FTA will greatly facilitate our good trading relationship between our friends down under and the EU27, especially in these geopolitical turbulent times.

Have you ever wondered what are the benefits of whey protein?

Proteins are the building blocks of our body. They help us stay strong and healthy. You can get protein from many sources, but not all proteins are the same – they differ in their nutritional quality.

Whey protein is a naturally occurring foodstuff that contains all the essential amino acids. If you want to learn more about the importance of proteins in our body, to find out the multiple benefits of whey protein in particular, or to discover how to add whey protein to your diet, you are in the right place.

Whatever your question, the answer is probably on [WheyForLiving.com!](https://www.WheyForLiving.com)



Your favourite dairy product?

"All cheeses, in their great diversity. But if I had to choose just one, I would mention Charolais, a goat cheese produced very close to my home, which has an AOP since 2014."

Jérémy Decerle

MEP (Renew Europe, France)



DairyAustralia delegation with Catherine Taylor, Karl Ellis and Bruce Ross celebrating World Milk Day 2022 at EDA offices