

EDA 2023 Dairy Policy Conference - Register now!

Join us on **8 March** for our **2023 Dairy Policy Conference**, where we will analyze the state of play of the main initiatives announced in the Farm to Fork strategy.

Moderated by **Judith Bryans** of Dairy UK, the first session will dive into the role of food labelling with a keynote speech by **MEP Paolo de Castro** (S&D, Italy), followed by the interventions of **Sabine Pelsser** (DG SANTE, European Commission), **Tomáš Slunečko** (Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU), **Emma Calvert** (BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation), and **Stephan Peters** (Nederlandse Zuivel Organisatie, Dutch Dairy Association and Dutch EDA member).

'Living the Farm to Fork strategy at farm and dairy level' will be the topic of the second session, moderated by **Alberto Babolin** (EDA) and joined by Professor **John Gilliland** (Queen's University Belfast, UK), **Marlin Dammann** and **Florian Stümmeler** (DMK, Germany).

More information and registration via [this link!](#)

"Farm to Fork - Feeding Europe in times of crisis"

On Friday 10th of February, former Bulgarian Prime Minister and **MEP Sergei Stanishev** (S&D, Bulgaria) invited **MEP Clara Aguilera** (S&D, Spain), **MEP Carmen Avram** (S&D, Romania), **MEP Ivo Hristov** (S&D, Bulgaria) and **MEP Asim Ademov** (EPP, Bulgaria), as well as Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture, **Yavor Getchev** and Romanian Agricultural Secretary of State **Sorin Moise** to Sofia (Bulgaria), for a discussion on the Farm to Fork strategy, its competitiveness and trade aspects, and the growing regional inequalities within the EU.

"Of the total Bulgarian national milk production (800.000 tons, hence 0.5% of the EU milk production), around 25%, mostly cheese - like the iconic Sirene cheese or Kaskaval - is enjoyed in other EU member states, while Bulgaria is importing around 40% of its dairy consumption from other EU countries. The EU Single Market is of essential importance for the European lactosphere as well as for the Bulgarian dairy sector," stated EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton in his speech.



Dairy Policy Conference 2023

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

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

14:00 - 18:00

22 - 28, Avenue d'Auderghem
Brussels, Belgium

From 18:00 - Annual Cheese Buffet

#DairyFarmToFork



European Dairy Association @EDA_Dairy · Feb 10

EDA @dairyanton is today in Sofia at @TheProgressives Conference 'Feeding Europe in times of crisis,' showcasing the importance of EU dairy trade for 🇪🇺 and 🇧🇪:

"Frictionless dairy trade within the #EUSingleMarket, as well as global trade, are cornerstones of food security"



Dairy leads the way in sustainability strategies

Sustainability strategies in the food and drink industry were discussed last week during a conference organized by ENG, the European Networking Group.

The event provided the opportunity to exchange on the optimization of supply chains to improve, amongst others, responsible sourcing, biodiversity protection, water management and food waste prevention.

The presentations and panel discussions included the interventions of **George Morrison**, Director of Global Public Affairs at Arla Foods, and **Sanne Dekker**, Researcher Environmental Impact Assessment – Corporate R&D at FrieslandCampina, as well as co-chair of our EDA working group on sustainability, who provided insights into the sustainability strategies in the dairy sector.



Sanne Dekker (FrieslandCampina) and George Morrison (Arla Foods) at the ENG conference

Swedish Presidency shares its priorities



In the framework of FoodDrinkEurope Committee of Directors General (CDG) meeting in Stockholm on 10 February, EDA had the occasion to hear directly from **Dan Ericsson** (State Secretary/ Deputy Minister to the Swedish Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs) on the ongoing work of the Swedish Presidency.

While the Presidency is committed to continuing the ongoing work on new genomic techniques (the EU Commission is expected to publish a proposal for EU legislation for plants produced by certain NGTs in the second quarter of 2023) and plans to hold a series of events on animal welfare (in relation to the ongoing revision of the EU legislation on animal health and welfare with the EU Commission proposal expected in the third quarter of 2023), there is a growing uncertainty around the progress on the revision of the Food Information to Consumers Regulation (FIC).

The EU Commission was supposed to publish a proposal for major changes in the EU labelling rules already at the end of 2022 (including rules for extended mandatory origin labelling, mandatory front of pack nutrition labelling and nutrient profiles as well as revised rules on date marking), the apparent political deadlock in the Council on the FIC revision caused a major delay in the publication of the EU Commission proposal.

The Swedish Minister expressed his doubts whether it will be at all possible to continue this work during the current Swedish Presidency, which ends in June 2023, despite the fact that the FIC revision was originally among the top priorities of the Swedish Presidency.

The CDG meeting in Stockholm was kindly hosted by the Swedish Food & Drink Federation (Livsmedelsföretagen).

EU-Indonesia: untapped potential in Southeast Asia

The EDA secretariat met on 10 February with representatives from the Indonesian Embassy to discuss the dairy trade relationship between the EU and the Republic of Indonesia.

The Indonesian market, with more than 270 million consumers, offers huge potential for our European dairy exports as well as for EU operators that are already active in the country, something that Indonesia is set to facilitate further through a tax allowance facility.

Southeast Asia is one of EDA's top priorities when it comes to our trade agenda, so our meeting came at an opportune time. The ongoing negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Indonesia have the potential to further boost our economic relationship, so we will remain in close contact with our esteemed guests.

EU-India trade: public consultation coming soon

After the low success of the EU-India negotiations between 2007 and 2013, the European Union and India relaunched in 2022 their talks on a "balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial" Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

In this framework, we organized an EDA meeting in New Delhi with the EU delegation in September 2022. Moreover, we are currently working with the competent EU services at this very early stage to evaluate the potential dairy opportunities of an EU-India FTA.

Within the coming weeks, a first public consultation will be launched, and we will define our line to take.

EU-Qatar workshop on trade barriers

EDA Director of Trade and Economics **Laurens van Delft** took part in a workshop on trade barriers with Qatar this week. Organised by DG TRADE, the workshop addressed current barriers that hinder our dairy exports to Qatar.

Participants were welcomed by **Flavio Coturni** (Head of Unit, DG Trade) and **Nele Eichhorn** (Head of Unit, DG Trade), after which the program started. The workshop included presentations by DG TRADE, DG AGRI and DG SANTE and representatives from Qatar explained their current import restrictions. The workshop gave a greater insight into each other's trade policy and the parties agreed to continue the dialogue in order to find a solution to the trade barriers in place.



Mr. Rachman (Agriculture Attaché), Astrid Vangerven (BCZ-CBL), Laurens van Delft (EDA), Lise Andreasen Høyer (DDB and co-chair EDA TEC), Mr. Widhiastono (Minister Counsellor) and Mr. Mogadishu Djati Ertanto (Industrial Attaché)

MEPs and Ministers discuss the role of livestock in the Green Deal

Last week, a conference on the livestock sector and the Green Deal took place in Brussels, organized by Interbev, the French Livestock and Meat Association.

Several Members of the European Parliament, including **MEP Jérémy Decerle** (Renew, France), **MEP Benoît Lutgen** (EPP, Belgium), **MEP Paolo de Castro** (S&D, Italy), **MEP Dacian Cioloș** (Renew, Romania), and ENVI Committee chair **MEP Pascal Canfin** (Renew, France) took the floor to discuss the current challenges affecting the EU livestock sector and highlight the benefits of livestock farming on biodiversity protection, carbon sequestration, rural development and food security, together with experts and representatives from the sector. In addition, they were joined by the Agricultural Ministers of France, Slovenia and Austria.

Underlining the environmental, economic and social benefits of livestock farming and having a holistic approach when assessing the environmental performance of farming activities is of paramount importance for acknowledging the efforts of thousands of livestock farmers across Europe, including their contribute to the achievement of the environmental and climate goals.



MEP Paolo de Castro during his intervention at the conference, organised by Interbev

Her Excellency, the Allgäu Cheese Queen visits Brussels

Last 6th of February, Ms **Fabienne Kerler**, the 8th Allgäuer Cheese Queen, presented the excellence of cheese from the region of Allgäu (Germany) in Brussels.

The chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, **MEP Norbert Lins** (EPP, Germany) and former MEP **Elisabeth Jeggle**, welcomed Fabienne at the Embassy of Baden-Württemberg, where they enjoyed a tasteful 'Käsehappen'.



Fabienne Kerler, the 8th Allgäuer Cheese Queen, with EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton

Dairy in a healthy and sustainable European food system

The dairy sector is strongly committed to continue nourishing the world with highly nutritious and affordable milk and dairy products, and to do so by combining environmental, economic and social sustainability.

In order to provide further insights into the European dairy sector's proven efforts and pathways to keep up sustainability on the agenda, the European Milk Forum (EMF) has just published its annual factbook: 'Dairy in a healthy and sustainable European Food system'.

With a special focus on how European dairy farmers can use their land to store carbon on the farm, the publication showcases the variety of methods for carbon sequestration including the use of grasslands, where we cannot only ensure carbon storage, but also increase biodiversity.

'Dairy in a healthy and sustainable European food system' is available to download via [this link!](#)

EWPA Whey Protein Paper: Outlook 2030

Did you already read the [Whey Protein Paper Outlook 2030](#), published by the European Whey Processors Association (EWPA)?

With insights from key experts, the EWPA paper dives into the main factors that will influence the whey market today and in the future.



Your favourite dairy product?

"It is not easy to identify a unique dairy product that cannot be missing in my daily diet. However, if I have to choose among the various Italian excellences such as Mozzarella di Bufala Campana, Gorgonzola, Asiago or Pecorino, my mind goes to Parmigiano Reggiano: great alone, even better with a glass of good wine, it is ideal to enhance and develop any Mediterranean recipe. It is an excellent product which represents one of the best known Italian GIs, being exported and, unfortunately, copied all over the world."

Paolo de Castro
MEP (S&D, Italy)

