

60th edition of Salon de l'Agriculture in Paris

Once again the Salon de l'Agriculture in Paris showcased both the excellence of French food culture and the unique link of the French nation with its agri-food sector.

Kinga Adamaszwili, EDA Director of Food Policy, Nutrition, and Regulatory Affairs, and **Julia Faure**, EDA Policy Officer for Food Law and Regulatory Affairs, had the distinguished honor of participating as judges at the official Concours Général Agricole in Paris in 2024. This prestigious competition, known for its rigorous standards and celebration of excellence in cheese, allows for the awarding of medals to the best-in-category cheeses each year.

EDA's attendance at the Salon de l'Agriculture also provided a great opportunity for engagement with our

French EDA members, such as **Bertrand Rouault**, ATLA Co-President, and our colleagues from the French Dairy Association, ATLA, as well as our French EDA experts from various French dairies (Lactalis, Savencia, Sodiaal, Alsacelait, Bel, Danone, to name a few).



Kinga Adamaszwili (EDA FEP Director), Mathieu Fourcade (Director Regulatory Affairs, Lactalis), Julia Faure (FEP Officer) at the Lactalis stand during the 2024 edition of Salon de l'Agriculture in Paris



Peter Stahl (MIV President), Minister Silke Gorißen (NRW), Eckhard Heuser (CEO MIV), Alexander Anton (EDA secretary general)

MIV Milk Summit Brussels : "Milk pricing in the value chain: regulation vers competition and market economy?"

The North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of Agriculture, **Silke Gorißen**, and MIV President **Peter Stahl** (CEO, Hochland SE) welcomed 150 dairy executives and experts in Brussels to discuss this week's initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture to implement Article 148 of the Common Market Organization (CMO) in Germany (see page 3).

Fabien Santini (DG AGRI) explained that the role of prices is not to be 'fair', but to give market signals. A fair remuneration of farmers and fair distribution of the added value throughout the value chain is another topic – which is very much in the focus of the EU Commission.

Minister Silke Gorißen summarized in her closing remarks the lively discussion: "Dairy farming is, for many reasons, a precious part of our agricultural sector and our economy. A fair standard of living for farmers is a condition for a future-proof dairy sector. We have to find ways to ensure that the value chain delivers, but in a competitive and market-driven approach."

EDA welcomes the adoption of the new rules on Geographical Indications

On 28 February, the EU Parliament granted its approval to new rules designed to strengthen the Geographical Indications (GIs) system for wines, spirit drinks, and agricultural products. Rapporteur **Paolo De Castro** (S&D, IT) praised the adoption of “a better system, generating added value, without public funds” particularly in light of recent crises such as the pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, which have impacted production costs and farmers' livelihoods.

The approved changes entail heightened protection for GIs in online domains, wherein domain names exploiting indications unlawfully may face closure or access restrictions through geo-blocking. Additionally, the revised rules stipulate that a GI assigned to an ingredient product may only be utilized in the naming, labeling, or advertising of the processed product if it significantly contributes to its distinctive characteristics and no equivalent product is employed. Furthermore, the EU Commission will retain its role as the overseer of the system, as emphasized in a joint declaration by the EU Parliament and the EU Council. The new regulation also aims to introduce a streamlined registration process, featuring a six-month approval deadline.

EDA welcomes the approval by the Parliament and will continue to monitor legislative developments in the run-up to the upcoming EU elections.

What's your preferred dairy product?



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.

Paolo De Castro
MEP (S&D, IT)

CLAL releases latest market forecast analysis

EDA joined on 22 February the latest dairy market forecast organised by CLAL, an Italian Dairy Economic Consulting.



Energy and transport costs continue to be significant factors affecting agricultural markets, alongside concerns about the impending El Niño weather phenomenon. Brazil faces persistent droughts, impacting corn and soybean crops and

causing supply chain pressures. Conversely, the United States experiences a reduction in drought-affected areas. Northern Europe grapples with heavy rainfall, posing challenges for farmers and crop health.

According to their data, global demand for dairy products remains tight, with lower EU dairy prices expected to boost exports, particularly of milk powders. EU milk supply is forecast to remain stable in 2024, despite high energy and fertilizer prices, inflation, and increasing interest rates, leading to uncertainty for dairy farmers. Notwithstanding a smaller increase in EU milk deliveries, cheese production could rise, supporting export growth due to demand recovery in key markets. Easing EU food inflation may also positively impact domestic use. However, production of skimmed milk powder (SMP) may remain stable, with lower exports compared to a strong recovery expected in 2023.

EU-Chile agreement

EDA welcomed the EU Parliament's approval to the EU -Chile Advanced Framework Agreement (AFA) and its complementing deal on trade and investment liberalisation (ITA), on 29 February. While the current tariff rate quotas for EU cheese will remain temporarily unchanged, they will eventually be liberalized under the new agreement, within seven years of its entry into force. The EU is one of the top suppliers of cheese to Chile, after Argentina and the United States.



Erekle Gamkrelidze President DairyGeorgia with EDA secretary general Alexander Anton in Tblisi, February

EDA meets DairyGeorgia

“The Georgian dairy industry is making good progress: with a per capita dairy consumption of around 200 kg ME per annum, we are still not self-sufficient in milk production and hence dependant on dairy imports. On the other hand, our farming structures in the formal milk market are clearly improving at a very good path”, underlined the President of our EDA member DairyGeorgia, **Erekle Gamkrelidze**, (CEO Sante) in a meeting with EDA secretary general Alexander Anton in Tblisi.

Strengthening future-proof dairy farming

The German Minister of Agriculture, **Cem Özdemir**, published this week his “4 points plan to foster future-proof dairy farming” ([read it here – in German only](#)).

- Strengthening the position of dairy farmers in the milk market (especially through the implementation of Article 148 of Regulation 1308/2013)
- Fostering future-proof milk production through targeted support measures (especially by supporting organic dairy, quality markets, and diversification of sales structures)
- Supporting research for future-proof dairy farming (especially on climate-adapted animal agriculture and optimized feeding) and

- Enhancing animal health and support of robust farm animal breed (where breeding is defined as a key element to face the future challenges)

French-German agriculture and dairy discussion in Paris

“The Agriculture Minister of Saxony-Anhalt, former MEP **Sven Schulze** (EPP, DE) has taken up the initiative of his regional farming organizations to deepen the exchange with the French agricultural and dairy sector. Alsacelait President **Michel Debes** had helped to set up meetings with COPA President **Christiane Lambert** and co-op President **Dominique Chargé**, with **Michel Biero**, CEO of Lidl France and **Arnaud Gaillot**, the President of French Young Farmers. Another highlight was for sure the discussion at the U.S. Embassy in France with high-level U.S. agricultural representatives and the agricultural attachés of the U.S., **David Leishman** and of Germany, **Heiner Thofern**. A huge *merci* also to **Caroline Helleisen** CEO of CNIEL, for both, her time to discuss French and EU dairy topics with the German delegation and for hosting the meetings at the CNIEL booth”, summarized EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.



Saxony Anhalt farmers’ President Olaf Feuerborn, CO-PA President Christiane Lambert, Minister Sven Schulze and Alsacelait President Michel Debes

Apply for the Early Career Researcher Award Competition

The **11th International Whey Conference 15—18 September** will fuel the energy and enthusiasm of the whey sector around the globe and will provide a unique forum to bring everyone involved in whey processing together for an interactive dialogue – a high level platform to get the latest insights into all business relevant aspects of whey production, processing and applications.

The conference has a carefully constructed balance of technical and commercial contributions and will inform scientists of the needs of whey processors and end users and will present the latest scientific findings and processing technologies.

The conference Market Place will offer delegates unique networking opportunities with equipment, technology, software and other solution providers for the whey processing industry.

The Scientific Committee of the 11th International Whey Conference invite applicants for an **Early Career Researcher Award Competition**.

Six successfully shortlisted applicants will be invited to make a short five-minute oral presentation during the main conference oral programme. The top three applicants will also receive a monetary award. To enter, you must be an early career researcher and your submitted abstract must be accepted for a presentation in the poster sessions.

For further information about entry requirements and prizes please view the conference website: <https://www.internationalwheyconference.com/young-scientist-award.html>

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT!

Deadline: 22 March 2024

Welcoming our new trainees

We are proud to welcome new young talents to our offices. **Fanny Courivaud** holds a Master's Degree in EU Affairs from Sciences Po in Lille and from Aston University. She has previously been a trainee at DG SANTE. **Marc-Florent Touati** is a Master's student in Agricultural Technical Engineering at AgroParisTech and has been a trainee at the Institut Technique de la Betterave.

What's your preferred dairy product?



Saint-Marcellin from Yser, I eat it with honey and a good baguette.

Fanny Courivaud
FEP Trainee

What's your preferred dairy product?



My favourite cheese is a special cheese from the French alps Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage

Marc-Florent Touati
EDA Trainee



EDA Dairy Policy Conference

Focus on the European Elections 2024

Wednesday 10 April 2024, Brussels

Confirmed Speakers: Wolfgang Burtscher, Director-General, DG AGRI, Albert de Groot, CEO, Vreugdenhil Dairy Foods, Maks Fasteyev, infoagro, Kyiv

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More details coming soon