

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

 [#DairyFarm2Fork](https://twitter.com/DairyFarm2Fork)

At this week's **EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2023**, our EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** welcomed over 180 participants, including our colleagues from the **Union of Dairy Enterprises of Ukraine**, representatives from the EU institutions and EU member states' permanent representations, dairy executives and key players from the wider agri-food community.

Under the theme '**Farm to Fork Strategy: 2023, the year of delivery?**', our conference was the perfect opportunity to discuss the state of play of the Farm to Fork Strategy and its implementation after three years since its publication.

Our EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** kicked off the conference with a special mention to our Ukrainian dairy friends and colleagues: "We as Europeans, we as European dairy, are in full support of Ukraine and our Ukraine dairy partners."



EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi showing full support to the Ukrainian people during his opening speech

Implementing the Farm to Fork Strategy: the role of Food labelling

Moderated by **Dr Judith Bryans**, Chief Executive of Dairy UK, the first session dived into the role of food labelling within the Farm to Fork strategy. In his concise keynote speech, **MEP Paolo De Castro** (S&D, Italy) highlighted the need to create a food labelling system that does not discriminate and that allows consumers to make informed choices. "These are some of the reasons for us to be against Nutri-Score," he pointed out.

In addition, MEP Paolo De Castro stated that "the agri-food sector is under attack, as it's not treated as what it is, next to a vital food production, it is the most important sector in Europe in terms of production, exports and jobs."



Full house at our EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2023





Moderator Judith Bryans (Dairy UK) kicking off the first session

Sabine Pelsser, Head of Unit at A.1, DG SANTE, European Commission, gave an overview on the different food labelling initiatives of the F2F strategy, like the so-called sustainability labelling. Although the official definition of what is 'sustainable food' is still to be clarified, Sabine Pelsser stated that the sustainability labelling "can incentivize all actors of the food system to become more sustainable, while empowering consumers to make sustainable choices."



EDA Sabine Pelsser (Head of Unit, DG SANTE) and MEP Paolo De Castro (S&D, Italy)

Tomáš Slunecko, diplomat at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, shared the views of the Czech government with regards to the front of pack nutrition labelling, stating that the current legal situation gives already sufficient options for clear labelling to consumers.

Tomáš Slunecko also stressed that a new FOPNL system should not promote alternative highly processed plant-based products as "healthier" and neither evaluate food too simplistically, among other criteria.



Tomáš Slunecko, diplomat at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU

Representing the European Consumer Organization (BEUC), Senior Food Policy Officer **Emma Calvert** shared the perspective of the consumer organization on the different food labelling initiatives. Emma Calvert noted that Nutri-Score is easy to understand for consumers, although "consumer information is only one part of the solution."



Emma Calvert (BEUC) during her intervention

Stephan Peters, manager of Nutrition Research and Food Law at NZO (the Dutch Dairy Association and our Dutch EDA member), gave an insightful presentation on the research-based 'intention-behaviour' gap. He showed that front-of-pack labels like Nutri-Score or Eco-Score are developed because consumers claim that they want information on sustainability and health on products, but in real-life, the vast majority of consumers do not use such information.



Stephan Peters (NZO, Dutch Dairy Association) presenting the consumer 'intention-behaviour' gap

Living the Farm to Fork strategy at farm and dairy level

Moderated by EDA Senior Policy Officer **Alberto Babolin**, the second session welcomed dairy farmer and professor **John Gilliland** (Queen's University Belfast), who showcased how livestock farms can get to net zero emissions by a scientific and pragmatic approach. "Systemic thinking is essential, starting with the individual farm baselines," he stated.



Alberto Babolin (EDA) moderating the second session



Professor John Gilliland during his intervention

Followed by professor John Gilliland, **Marlin Dammann**, Business Acceleration & Innovation Lead at DMK Group, presented how DMK Group, the largest dairy in Germany, is paving the way towards accelerating knowledge on zero carbon dairy production with the company's Net Zero project.



Marlin Dammann (DMK Group) presenting the company's Net Zero project

Also on behalf of DMK Group, we were pleased to have **Sven Kück**, a young, passionate dairy farmer from Northern Germany who shared the story of his 4th generation family-run farm.



Dairy farmer Sven Kück (DMK Group)

With his closing remarks, EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** thanked ASSIFONTE President **Dieter Kuijl** and opened our EDA/ASSIFONTE Annual Cheese Buffet with a great selection of European cheeses.



Thanks to the speakers, moderators and participants for making our conference a huge success!



EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi with ASSIFONTE President Dieter Kuijl

Read here the International Dairy Magazine (IDM) report on the conference:



Save the date!



7-9 November, Brussels, The Hotel

Registrations will be launched soon!

