





Dairy Focus 07/2015 Luxembourg EU Presidency



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Foreword

Dairy Focus Luxembourg EU Presidency

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, a founding member of the European Economic Community back in 1958, will hold the EU Presidency for the twelfth time this year. When last time in this position the head of the Luxembourg government was Jean-Claude Juncker, who is now the Chief Executive of the European Commission.

And this seems to become a tradition: Jacques Santer headed the Luxembourg government before becoming President of the European Commission back in 1995.

In todays' geopolitical situation, the main focus of the Luxembourg Presidency in this second half of 2015 will clearly not be on agricultural topics. Todays' Luxembourg Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel, stated that during his EU Presidency he wants 'to build bridges, also with Russia and the Ukraine'. Another focus for Prime Minister Bettel is the progress of the EU – U.S.A. free trade agreement (TTIP), where Xavier Bettel has announced to organize a public conference: "I would like to understand, why TTIP is less accepted in the South of Europe than in the North", he said.

But, for sure, the mission of the Luxembourg Presidency is to finish the trio Presidency (Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg) and to hand over to the next trio (Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta).

There are several important projects for our sector that have to be brought to a successful conclusion during the next six months. The Luxembourg minister of agriculture, Mr Fernand Etgen, clearly points out the importance of the school milk scheme. In this context, it is obvious to us, that only a broad product range within the scheme can help to stop the trend of decreasing dairy consumption and prevalent micronutrient deficiencies in children. Another focus of Minister Etgen is the overhaul of the legislation on organic agriculture, where the European institutions have to come to an agreement, in order to carry on the proposal.

We are also very confident that the Luxembourg EU Presidency will be extremely careful when assessing any need for new legislation with regards to the milk package and its implementation: after a decade of subsequent and deep reforms, the European dairy sector needs a phase of legislative stability!

We are looking forward to an EU Presidency that will cooperate closely with the European Commission under President Jean-Claude Juncker, who visited the Luxlait dairy site before taking his new position. The Luxembourg EU Presidency will for sure help to implement the European approach boosting jobs, growth and competitiveness – which is one of the fields of excellence of our European dairy sector!

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Michel Nalet

EDA President

(Mmm

Alexander Anton EDA Secretary General



The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union

During the second semester 2015, Luxembourg will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the twelfth time. In the field of agriculture, following the decisions on the CAP reform, 2015 is the first year of implementation of this reform concerning direct payments. For rural development the adoption procedures of RDP (Rural Development Plan) are underway at the Commission services.

Regarding agricultural markets, the **ban on imports of EU agricultural products** decided by Russia in August 2014 has had negative effects on most markets, especially on fruit and vegetables, milk and pig meat. Measures have been taken at EU level in the month of September 2014 for fruits and vegetables and dairy products (public intervention, private storage, withdrawal from the market).

Compensation measures were also decided for dairy producers in countries most directly affected by the embargo, namely Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland. At the beginning of 2015 the Commission decided to activate private storage for the pig sector, a measure that has meanwhile been suspended. At the same time, exports to other third countries increased during 2014, therefore the overall agricultural exports are rising despite the Russian embargo.

Sustainability must be the basic principle of the future development of European **agriculture**. This should be done taking into account both economic and social dimensions as well as health and environmental aspects.

This is the context in which the **Common Agricultural Policy** must contribute to the general political objectives of the European Union. To effectively implement these principles, the Presidency will particularly engage in the **simplification of rules and procedures** that will guide its work on various issues. It will also ensure that the Council remains fully involved in the process of simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Presidency will endeavour to complete the decision- making process concerning the Commission proposal in the field of



Fernand Etgen Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection

organic production in order to put in place a regulatory framework adapted to new challenges and to harmoniously develop the sector.

In the context of the **Russian embargo** and the **expiry of milk quotas**, the Presidency will pay particular attention to the developments in the markets for agricultural products and to its impact on farmers. The agriculture and agri-food sector of the European Union are important actors in the world and the Presidency will closely monitor developments in trade policy at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Regarding **milk and fruit programs in schools**, the Presidency will continue the work started by previous Presidencies in order to identify solutions to improve and bring in line the functioning of the two programs and promote healthy and balanced eating habits with students.

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The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Présidence du Conseil de l'Union européenne

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE

The principle of simplification will also be implemented by the new rules to be adopted in **plant health protection**, for which the Presidency will seek an agreement at first reading with the European Parliament, and that will harmonize trade of plants and plant products in the single market of the European Union.

In the same vein, the Presidency will endeavour to conclude an agreement with the European Parliament on the legislative proposal on the **zootechnical and genealogical conditions** applicable to trade and imports into the European Union of breeding animals and their germinal products, to finalize the medicated feed dossier and continue the work on veterinary medicines. In this context the fight against antimicrobial resistance is a major challenge for the preservation of the health of the European citizens.

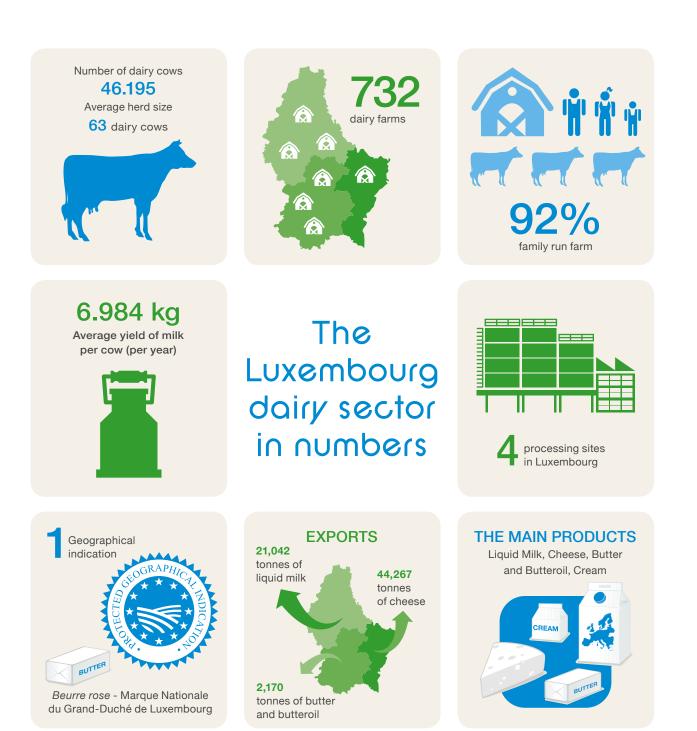
The Presidency will seek to finalize the regulation concerning the **official controls of the food chain** with the objective of promoting a favourable technical harmonization in the single market in particular by standardizing the fees relating to inspections by the competent authorities in the EU and at its borders.

The Presidency hopes to contribute to the democratic debate opening work on the revision of the **genetically modified** organisms authorization procedure in food and feed.

The Luxembourg Presidency is confident that the next six months will allow to complete many important ongoing legislative dossiers in the agri-food sector, thus contributing to continuously improving the competitiveness throughout the whole food chain.

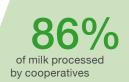
Luxembourg ministry of agriculture





Introduction to...

300.000 t of total milk production 2014









... the Luxembourg dairy sector

In 2014 Luxembourg which is one of the smallest milk producers in the EU, collected from their farmers about 300.000 tonnes of milk. This corresponds approximately to 0,2% of the total EU milk production.

Luxembourg milk is transformed in added value dairy products for about 45 % of their total production and the rest goes as raw or concentrated milk for further processing to other European dairy companies.

In recent years Luxembourg farmers followed the trend to increase focus on cow performance resulting in a higher average output of their milk production. In 2014 the annual milk production per farm reached a peak with an average of 404.000 kg. Our milk was delivered from about 740 milk farmers with 46.200 milk cows (average milk yield per cow in Luxembourg: 6.500kg). In 2014 an average milk price of 0,3773 \in (without VAT) has been paid to Luxembourg dairy farmers.

In Luxembourg we have one main dairy processor, Luxlait, who has established the Luxlait brand, and some small family producers. Nevertheless, the Luxembourg processing activity is also mainly influenced by the world market.

The medium-term prospects for milk and dairy commodities are favourable on both world and domestic markets. World demand remains dynamic (especially in the emerging economies), despite the slowdown in economic growth, the proportion of middleclass households is increasing, enabling dairy products to feature more prominently in people's kitchens. In the dairy sector, 2014 saw an exceptional rise in milk supply, both in the EU and worldwide. This led to a significant price decrease. In Europe, EU milk production is projected to grow now by 1.2% . With the ending of the milk quota system, several EU member states, particularly Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany (Luxembourg as well) are expected to maximize their production, while others with less favourable production conditions may register a decline.

However with the end of the EU quota system and despite strong demand expansion in milk production is expected to face limitations stemming from environmental constraints, which will play an

by Claude Steinmetz CEO Luxlait. EDA Board Member



increasing role not only in Luxembourg, but in most, if not in all Member States. Several other growth limitations include: - many regions feature land-locked farming titles which limits aggregation – feed self-sufficiency risk rises with further intensification – there is a high cultural and financial dependence on supports, such as the EU CAP payments – there are high cost structures on farm land values which prohibit new, young entrants establishing new farm businesses. In addition to this the dairy transforming industry is facing changes with the end of the quota system and are looking mainly outside of Europe in emerging countries for new market opportunities to maximise their return.

So for the future farmers and processors have to establish wider dimensions for the "new" sustainability of the dairy value chain: - improving wellbeing, enhancing livelihoods and reducing impacts – look for productive, competitive and efficient ways to operate, while protecting and improving the natural environment and conditions of local communities – creating shared value – looking after the environment and the communities in which we operate so that things we enjoy today are preserved for the generations of tomorrow.

We believe, that the EU dairy community is perfectly positioned to face this challenge and we, as the Luxembourg dairy sector, are cooperating together with our colleagues from the other EU member states within our European Dairy Association (EDA) with a common vision and a shared objective.

In this way the Luxembourg dairy "world" will make every effort to contribute to the wellbeing of the people's future and wishes the Luxembourg Presidency a successful term to develop together on EU level a bright future for consumers, farmers and dairy processors!

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Milk, Dairy & EDA



What you should know about milk and dairy products

Milk is the basis of thousands of nutritious, tasty, enjoyable and healthy dairy products, as part of a sustainable diet

Milk is a highly nutritional food product combining high nutrient density with high quality protein

Milk and dairy products are safe and natural products made to the highest processing standards

What you should know about the EU milk processing industry

The EU milk processing industry - employing more than 300.000 people across Europe - offers everyone, every day, a broad and diversified choice of natural, nutritious, healthy and tasty food products

The EU milk processing industry has successfully demonstrated its commitment to further reducing its environmental footprint

The EU milk processing industry is an innovative, dynamic and major exporting industry while being the guardian of the EU cultural heritage of dairy





EDA represents the interests of the whole EU milk processing industry, both of cooperatives and private companies. As a beacon for the dairy industry, EDA provides a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas

EDA voices the priorities of the milk processing industry on an EU level and shapes EU strategies for the dairy sector

EDA is proud of dairy! It conveys the positive image of milk at EU level as being a healthy, nutritious, sustainable and diversified food product/drink



EDA Members

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Dairy Focus 07/2015 > 11



EDA World Dairy Forum 2015 14-16 October 2015 The George Hotel, Edinburgh, UK

2015 - A New Start for European Dairy

We are delighted to invite you together with Dairy UK to the EDA Annual Congress and World Dairy Forum in the historical city of Edinburgh.

The British dairy industry is a vibrant sector with high levels of investment, growing exports and a key role to play in the global market. With milk and dairy present in 98% of British households, the industry is committed to delivering wholesome and nutritious products to consumers.

2015 will bring about fundamental changes in European dairy as the end of the milk quota regime opens up new challenges and opportunities for the industry. Join the European and global 'lactosphère' to discuss a new start for European dairy and what the future holds for our sector.

To register for the event and for more information on the programme, venues and logistics, visit **www.eda2015.eu**



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The European Dairy Association represents the interests of dairy processors in the European Union