eda Dairy Flash

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Connect to the world of dairy

Low-carbon dairy farm: Visit by EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski and the EU Agri Council

Carbon farming is currently the hot topic in the political agenda of EU agriculture. The term refers to the agricultural practices enhancing the sequestration of atmospheric carbon and its storage in the soil.

During an informal meeting organised by the French presidency of the EU Council, the 27 national EU agriculture ministers and EU Commissioner for Agriculture **Janusz Wojciechowski** gathered in Alsace (France) to share their experience of climate-friendly farming and to visit a concrete example of a low-carbon dairy farm.

"While carbon stockage in trees and forests are often top of mind, the by far largest stockage capacity is in the sea and also in the soil and hence in agriculture and farming – the farmers are true climate soldiers," highlighted French agricultural minister **Julien Denormandie**.

France Carbon Agri President Marie-Thérèse Bonneau detailed the French approach to the EU agri ministers during their Alsacelait dairy farm visit

EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski (centre) with his team member Magdalena Majerczyk (right) and EDA secretary general Alexander Anton (left) at the farm visit.

EU Commissioner for Agriculture **Janusz Wojciechowski** welcomed this joint approach on low-carbon agriculture: "There is a strong alignment on the basic principle within the European Union, we now have to flesh out the details in a legislative proposal – and we're committed to publish our proposal on the certification of carbon removals by end 2022. And we can create a win-win-win situation, for the climate, for the quality of our soils and for the farming community in terms of better productivity and an opportunity for additional income."

Natural carbon sinks will play a key role in the transition towards a carbon neutral continent by 2050. And here, the carbon sequestration of dairy grassland can offset a significant volume of emissions. The France Carbon Agri initiative is set to be an inspiration and an example for the whole European Union – that's why I am looking forward to further elaborating this initiative at the EDA Dairy Policy Conference in Brussels on 15th of March," underlined President **Marie-Thérèse Bonneau**, President of France Carbon Agri.

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EU-Japan trade: 28 more Geographical Indications (GIs) protected by each side

Last 1 February was the third anniversary of the entry into force of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the most important EU agreement so far when it comes to agri-food trade. After last year's extension of protected products which led to the protection of 56 new Geographical Indications (Gis) from the EU and Japan, since the beginning of this month both parties will protect 28 additional GIs such as Pecorino Sardo cheese, Pimentón de la Vera spice, Yoshikawa Eggplant or Nissato green onion.

As EDA presented in spring of 2021 in the EU's Promotion Export Seminar for agri-food products in Japan, more than 300 cheeses are bearing the EU quality brand for GIs. European quality framework is a story of uniqueness, instrumental to uncork the potential of regional and traditional dairy products. In a moment when the European Commission is revising the legislation of the European quality framework - where EDA is being very active highlighting the unrivalled excellence of dairy and the European GIs system- the extension of the GIs framework between the EU and Japan is celebrated by the European dairy sector.

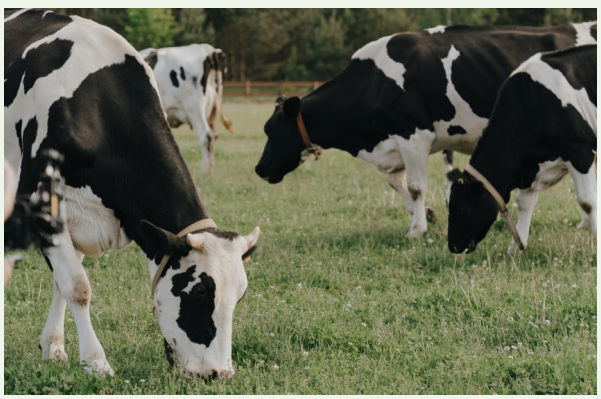
EU - African Union Summit: 17-18 February

One week ahead of the sixth EU-African Union Summit which will take place on the 17-18 February in Brussels, preparations from both sides seem to be on point. By means of this forum the European Union hopes to take the current EU-Africa strategic partnership to the next level and build a new Europe -Africa alliance to tackle the challenges of the 21st century together.

Regarding participants, on the European side, the aim is to hold a summit with heads of state of the EU. Nevertheless, recent tensions with several West African countries members of the Africa Union make a bit unclear who will be finally present in the summit.

The event will be composed by seven interactive roundtables on a wide range of topics, from agriculture and sustainable development to climate change and energy transition, health systems and vaccine production, economic integration or peace, security and governance.

EDA will attend the conference as part of the work conducted in the Africa Task Force: dairy can be a backbone of the agricultural value chains in the continent, and the European dairy sector can help to modernise the dairy industry in Africa and to increase its performance.



Dairy Policy Conference 2022

Tuesday 15 March 2022

Brussels, Belgium

Register here!

On 15 March, our EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2022 on **'The New Political Framework for European Dairy'** will take place with a high-level panel.

Our EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** will welcome DG Agri Director General **Wolfgang Burtscher** and **Jiří Šír** , Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic.

We will also have the honour to get an insight into the regional ambitions for the future of agriculture and dairy by **Barbara Otte Kinast** (Minister of Agriculture, Lower Saxony, Germany) and **Clotilde Eudier** (Vice President of Normandy, France).

Anne-Catherine Dalcq, vice chair of the young Farmers' Organization CEJA and Belgian dairy farmer, will voice the expectations of the "European Dairy – Next Generation".

Another highlight will be the low carbon farming insights by **Marie-Thérèse Bonneau**, President of France Agri Carbon, who presented this initiative to EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski and the 27 national farming ministers of the EU at the informal EU Agri Council in Alsace earlier this week.

After a podium discussion and Q&A session, we will enjoy the EDA/ASSIFONTE annual cheese buffet.

Here you can see the full programme in detail. Register before Friday 25 February and come join us!

Your favourite Dairy Product?

"Due to its versatility, goat cheese has always been my favourite dairy product. Whether served by itself or in a dish, hot or cold, combined with sweet or savoury, it can be incorporated in many different recipes all year long and always tastes delicious"

Julia Faure
EDA Junior Nutrition, Health and Food Law Officer

"As a proud French citizen, it's a hard choice to pick one product. But I do love goat cheese that you can spread on bread, like the Picodon or Le Sainte-Maure de Touraine. For breakfast, nothing can beat a good, salted butter spread on a baguette or even on crêpes"

Chloé Geslin
EDA Communication Intern