



EDA Focus 2024 European Elections

**“As EDA, we are a convinced pro-Europe voice and we are grateful to the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola and to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, for their forewords to this EDA Focus - 2024 European Elections”,
Giuseppe Ambrosi - EDA President**



Roberta Metsola,
President of the European
Parliament



Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European
Commission

“ The challenges our Union has faced in the past years have been of unprecedented nature and have undeniably forced us to rethink the way we do things. The world is changing and we must be ready to change with it. This is a team effort. Only together can we build a strong and resilient European future for all. The European agri-food and dairy sector has always been and will continue to be a key pillar of this European future. This is about far more than just food production and farming. It is about supporting our rural communities, promoting sustainable production and healthy consumption, ensuring food security as well as contributing to Europe’s economic prosperity. Ultimately, it is about people.

In June 2024, we will elect a new European Parliament. Our Union prides itself on its democracy. We listen to and defend the interests of all people, to constantly change and improve for the benefit of all of our communities and sectors. This is why I can only encourage every European to make their voice heard by voting in the upcoming elections, because every vote matters. Europe’s future matters. A future of hope, change, possibility for all. For a strong and resilient agricultural future.”

“ In Europe, dairy has deep cultural and culinary roots. Every country is proud of its local speciality that uses dairy ingredients. From Crème Fraîche to Bryndza, Greek Yoghurt to Irish Butter, or Manchego to Italian Gelato – European taste is enriched by diverse dairy traditions that stretch back centuries. In fact, there are more than 250 EU-protected geographical indications for dairy foods in Europe. Behind every such delicacy, there is a profession. It is the dairy farmers, cheesemakers, veterinarians, agronomists, food scientists, quality control inspectors, and artisans who guarantee that European dairy is the best in the world.

Since its beginning, the European Union has supported dairy products and professions. With our trade power, we actively help market European dairy products around the world. With our Common Agricultural Policy, we protect dairy farmers and stakeholders from market volatility or natural disasters.

And the European Green Deal actively supports sustainable innovations that strengthen Europe’s competitiveness. I am proud that European dairy professionals are leaders in precision dairy farming, alternative feed sources, methane reduction techniques, water recycling systems, renewable energy on farms, and eco-friendly packaging. Together, we are protecting not only our cultural and culinary traditions in Europe, but also the livelihoods of dairy workers and the wellbeing of all citizens.

The role of the European Dairy Association in ensuring that the voice of your stakeholders is heard in Europe is key. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation to ensure that dairy has a promising future in Europe.”

 #useyourvote





The European elections in numbers



400 millions voters
across 27
Member States



Today

705 MEPs in 7 political
groups



For 2024-2029

720 MEPs

Each vote counts for EU dairy

The European Dairy industry is **facing challenges**: geopolitical tensions, price fluctuations on the world market and of course, the impact of climate change.

However, we know that **the success of our EU dairy industry is based on the European project and hence the work of the European Parliament** to build a strong Single Market and a robust EU trade policy, strengthen our Common Agricultural Policy and support our environment and climate agenda.



United in diversity for 67 years

Founding of the European Economic Community with Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

1957



The 'European Parliamentary Assembly' officially becomes the 'European Parliament'

1962



First European elections by direct universal suffrage

1979



1958

First 'European Parliamentary Assembly' meeting in Strasbourg

1973

First enlargement of the EU with Denmark, Ireland and the UK

1981

Accession of Greece

The EU and European dairy: united in excellence

Dairy products occupy a prominent place in European culinary culture, being an essential component of many gastronomic traditions across our continent. Cheeses, yoghurts, creams and butters are just some of the many different dairy products that we Europeans enjoy on a daily basis.

With **650,000 committed dairy farmers** and over **300,000 skilled people** working in **12,000 milk and dairy processing sites across the Union**, the dairy sector is the industrial backbone and the economic basis of rural Europe. Our industry is characterized by medium sized dairies but at the same time, **11 out of the global TOP 20 dairies are headquartered in Europe.**

Dairy trade also represents 45,000 jobs and adds nearly **€20 billion** to the EU positive trade balance.



Single Market



EU Trade



CAP

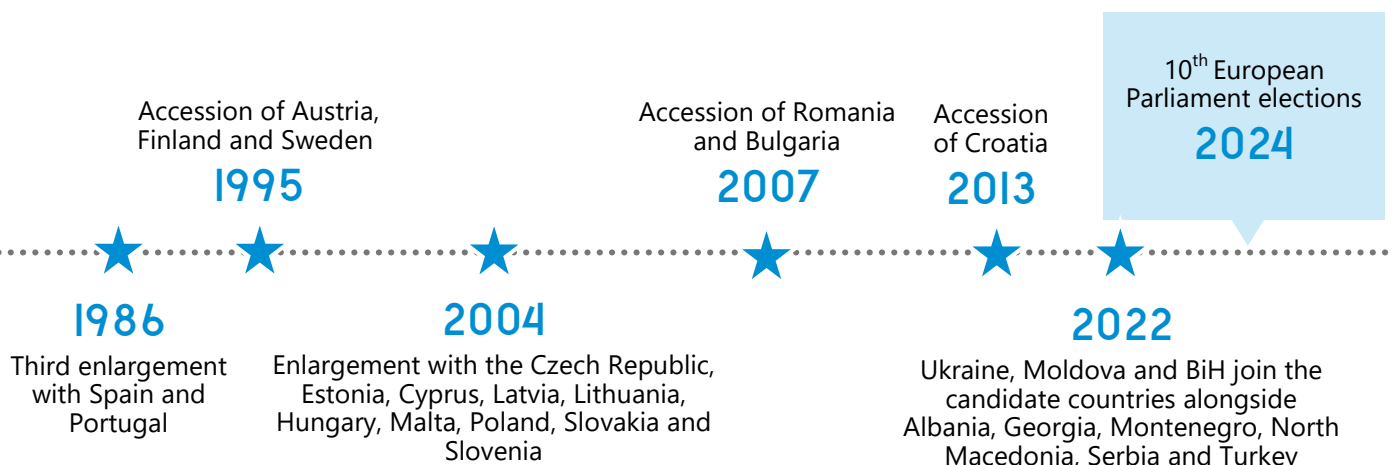


Sustainability



As well as their cultural and economic importance, **dairy products are also recognized for their nutritional benefits.** Rich in proteins, calcium and vitamins, they are an essential and irreplaceable source of nutrients for a balanced diet.

The European Union plays a central role for EU dairy. EU rules set the frame for food safety and traceability and EU quality schemes promote the excellence of our dairy portfolio. Through the protection of dairy terms, consumer confidence is assured, and with the EU trade policy, we can share our excellence with the world.





MEPs favourite dairy products



“ Milk is an essential part of our diets and of our traditions all over Europe. My preferred dairy product is my daily yogurt in the morning.”

MEP Manfred Weber (EPP, DE)

“ A glass of fresh milk and Allgäuer Bergkäse G.I.: that's how I like to start my day!”



MEP Ulrike Müller (Renew Europe, DE)



“ I love yogurt. Together with a few pieces of fresh fruits, yogurt is a very light and refreshing dessert or the basis for a healthy muesli.”

MEP Norbert Lins (EPP, DE)

“ Cottage cheese, mozzarella, ricotta, burrata, emmental, hard cheese, soft cheese, any day, every day. I can't choose, I love them all and simply have to have at least a cheese meal a day.”



MEP Carmen Avram (S&D, RO)



“ 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.”

MEP Paolo De Castro (S&D, IT)

“ As a dairy farmer, I enjoy drinking real fresh and organic milk from my farm. And when it comes to cheese, my organic Hofkäse is a culinary treasure. ”



MEP Martin Häusling (Greens/EFA, DE)