



Dairy Flash

12 / 2024

10 October

Connect to the world of dairy



14 - 15 November - Rome Italy

EDA Annual Convention 2024

Let's shape the future of our European *lactosphere* together! [See the full program here](#)

[Register here](#)

The 2024 edition of our **EDA Annual Convention** will be hosted by our Italian member association **ASSOLATTE** in Rome on **14 and 15 November 2024** at the Westin Excelsior Hotel.

In these pivotal times for our European Union, with its renewed leadership, our "Next Gen EU Dairy" event will focus with an outstanding speakers' list on "What Dairy brings for the Next Generation" and on "Dairy Excellence – Next Generation". We will highlight the role of dairy for our Union and for each of the citizens: healthy and sustainable nutritional excellence supporting our economy especially in rural Europe. ASSOLATTE President **Paolo Zanetti**, EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** welcome you to Rome.

Speakers include: MEP **Herbert Dorfmann** (EPP, IT), **Emmanuel Besnier** (CEO, Lactalis, FR), **Pat Murphy** (CEO, Kerry, IE), **Jan Vreugdenhil** (CEO, Vreugdenhil, NL), **James Neville** (CEO, Volactive, UK), **Gianpiero Calzolari** (Chairman Granarolo Group, IT), **Esben Egede Rasmussen** (Managing Director, DDB, DK), Prof. **Guendalina Graffigna** (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, IT), **Giulia Leonardi** (Head of Sustainability, IGOR Gorgonzola, IT), **Tatiana Liceti**, (Executive VP Market Operation, Tetra Pak)

Moderator: **Rose O'Donovan** (Agrafacts), **Kinga Adamaszwili** (EDA)

EPP Study Days 2024 in Naples

The EPP, the largest political group in the European Parliament, held its "Study Days 2024" last week in Naples, Italy —a brilliant opportunity to bring together almost all 188 EPP MEPs to discuss and fine-tune the strategy for the next legislative term of our Union.

"Our study days focus on security and defense, but for us, the defense of European agriculture and food security is always a priority," stated MEP **Norbert Lins** (DE), just ahead of the "EPP Agri Meeting" in Naples, during which, MEP **Herbert Dorfmann** (IT), the group's coordinator for agriculture, also welcomed MEP **Christophe Hansen** (LUX), the Commissioner-designate for Agriculture and Food.



MEP Sander Smit, MEP Christophe Hansen, MEP Norbert Lins, and Alexander Anton at the EPP Study Days 2024

Welcome to U.S. Agriculture Minister Counselor Ali Abdi in Brussels

The U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels has welcomed a new leader for its agri-food team: Agricultural Minister Counselor **Ali Abdi**, a leader with rich experience: Ali has served in the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington, D.C., and abroad since 1994. His previous postings include Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa. In his first speech in Brussels, Ali demonstrated his energy and commitment to strengthening U.S.-EU cooperation in the coming years. We look forward to continuing another fruitful collaboration.



Welcome to Brussels, dear Ali !

IDF-World Dairy Summit and Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF) Annual meeting in Paris

Next week, the global dairy community will gather at La Défense in Paris for the World Dairy Summit 2024.

IDF President **Piercristiano Brazzale**, along with his IDF team and our dairy colleagues from CNIEL, has organized a fantastic conference program ([see link](#)).

One of the key highlights will undoubtedly be the "Dairy Leaders' Forum on Sustainability" on 18 October 2024, where dairy leaders from around the world will endorse the "Paris Manifesto"—our global dairy commitments to sustainability—and call on governments and institutions to create enabling environments and engage in dialogue to support sustainable dairy practices.



EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** will speak on the EDA's approach to sustainability and will highlight our EDA Sustainability Strategy.

On 14 October 2024, the global Dairy Sustainability Framework ([see link](#)) will hold its Annual Meeting in Paris, chaired by EDA's Alexander Anton.

EDA attends SNE Panel

On 24 September, EDA attended the Specialised Nutrition Europe (SNE) Panel Discussion on "Food Processing and Fortification: Between Facts and Fiction," where we engaged with leading experts and policy-makers. The panel explored key insights on ultra-processed foods from three different perspectives: science, civil society, and consumers.

Thanks to contributions from panellists such as Prof. **Bruno de Meulenaer** of the University of Ghent and **Laura Fernandez**, Director General of the European Food Information Council (EUFIC), the session fostered a deeper understanding and more nuanced debate on the future of food processing and fortification.



DG AGRI Expert Group on EU Food Security, Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism

The fifth ad hoc meeting of the DG AGRI expert group this week focused on the potential risks of disruptions in the feed chain due to raw material and feed additives dependency.

DG AGRI Deputy Director General **Pierre Bascou** chaired the discussions around presentations by **Koen Dillen** (DG AGRI), **Alexander Döring** (FEFAC), **Jörg Seifert** (FEFANA) and **Silvia Sonneveld** (DSM-Firmenich).

"When discussing feed and protein security, the competent EU services take roughage into account – a more than essential protein source for dairy cows. The specific website launched today by DG AGRI will for sure help to base the discussions on EU feed supply on facts and figures", stated EDA's Alexander Anton.

1st International Conference on Buffalo Mozzarella & Milk Products in Naples

At the iconic University of Naples Federico II, the President of the Consorzio Tutela Mozzarella di Bufala Campana DOP, Dr. **Domenico Raimondo**, and its Director General, Dr. **Pier Maria Saccani**, welcomed 200 guests from around the world last week. In addition to the scientific sessions on buffalo breeding and feeding, as well as on the human nutrition and health aspects of buffalo milk, the speaker panels included prominent figures such as **Tim Groser** (former NZ Minister & Ambassador), **Rupinder Singh Sodhi** (Indian Dairy Association), **Paolo Zanetti** (President ASSOLATTE), **Piercristiano Brazzale** (IDF President), **Ettore Prandini** (President of COLDIRETTI), **Giovanni Guarneri** (Confcooperative, Chair of the Copa-Cogeca Milk Committee), and **Jaime Castaneda** (U.S. Dairy Export Council).

"A real show of force, not only of the Consorzio to organize such a global event, but also a show of force of the buffalo milk sector at world level – with an incredible expansion potential, not only in India", said EDA's Alexander Anton in his speech.



Giovanni Guarneri, Ettore Prandini, Paolo Zanetti and Alexander Anton

EU Commission and China ready to launch a consultation procedure in the anti-subsidy probe

Since the announcement by Chinese authorities to open an anti-subsidy probe into European dairy products, EDA is involved in the procedure and supported the competent EU Commission services in DG TRADE and DG AGRI in their efforts to defend European dairy against Chinese allegations. EDA has registered as an interested party, along with many other members, and welcomed the calls from several esteemed AGRI MEPs for the Commission to initiate diplomatic and technical dialogues with Chinese authorities to resolve the investigations before any punitive measures potentially affect the sector. The Commission has responded swiftly and is preparing to launch a consultation procedure with MOFCOM. EDA places full trust in the competent Commission services and stands ready to collaborate to prevent further trade retaliations.

DG AGRI's 4th Forum on Best Practices in the Agri-Food Supply Chain

On 9 October, EDA's Laurens van Delft participated in the 4th Forum on Best Practices in the Agri-Food Supply Chain in Brussels. The event, organized by the EU CAP Network and the European Commission, featured opening remarks from **Pierre Bascou**, Acting Deputy Director-General of DG AGRI, and closing remarks from **Fabien Santini**, Head of Unit at DG AGRI.

The forum focused on improving producers' returns within value chains and emphasized the need for transparent, equitable partnerships that benefit farmers and ensure profitability throughout the entire supply chain. These objectives align with the EDA's commitment to supporting sustainable practices and fostering stronger cooperation across the food supply chain for a better future.



Acting Deputy Director-General of DG AGRI Pierre Bascou

Join EDA at COP29 in Baku!

On 18 November 2024, EDA will host a joint side event at COP29 in Baku, focusing on "Animal Health, Mitigation, and Adaptation: Innovative Financing for Sustainable Livestock Development."



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

The side event, co-organized with the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), will explore how tailored actions to improve animal health can boost productivity, reduce emissions, and enhance livestock keepers' ability to adapt to climate challenges. This event will showcase how innovative climate finance can unlock these opportunities, driving sustainable progress in the livestock sector. Don't miss this essential discussion on financing a sustainable livestock industry.

Find out more about [COP29 here](#).

EDA attends the EU Organic awards ceremony

EDA had the pleasure of attending the closing ceremony of the EU Organic Awards, which took place in Brussels on 23 September 2024. This event was organized by the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, as well as COPA-COGECA and IFOAM Europe, with the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union participating as members of the jury. The awards are an excellent platform for actors across the organic value chain to showcase innovative projects that add real value to organic production and consumption. We congratulate the winners, **Reinhild Frech-Emmelmann** from Austria and **Benny Schöpf** from Germany, for their efforts and commitment to organic production.



Reinhild Frech-Emmelmann from Austria and **Benny Schöpf** from Germany, for their efforts and commitment to organic production.

The European Commission releases the latest agri-food trade report

The report, covering developments up to June 2024, shows a 15% increase in the EU agri-food trade surplus from the previous month, reaching €5.8 billion, though this remains 10% below June 2023 levels. Overall, the first half of 2024 recorded a surplus of €33.7 billion.

In June, EU exports totaled €18.9 billion, a 5% drop from May. However, exports for the first half of the year rose by 1% compared to 2023, with notable increases to the US and Brazil. In contrast, exports to China fell by 9% (€689 million) due to reduced shipments of key products such as pigmeat, dairy products, and cereal preparations.

Dairy product exports were 4% lower than in the first half of 2023, representing a decrease of 427 million EUR

EU imports in June were valued at €13 billion, a 12% decrease from the previous month and 1% lower than in June 2023. Cumulative imports for the first half of 2024 remained stable at €82.7 billion.



Cloudy outlook for the Spanish dairy market

The latest FeNIL [Dairy Sector Barometer](#) highlights the challenges facing Spain's dairy industry. For the past 18 months, raw milk prices have remained above the EU average. Despite having lower solid content, Spanish milk is on a higher price level than in France, Germany or the Netherlands.

In the first half of 2024, Spain imported a record 200,000 tons of cheese, a 15% increase from 2023. These lower-cost imports are gradually replacing domestically produced cheeses on supermarket shelves. Additionally, domestic producers are under pressure due to high milk prices and supermarket price wars, particularly in the UHT milk segment, where it is being used as a loss leader to attract consumers.

Despite these challenges, Spain's dairy production saw a slight overall increase during the first eight months of 2024, with milk production rising by 1.8% compared to the same period in 2023, reflecting the sector's resilience and potential for recovery.

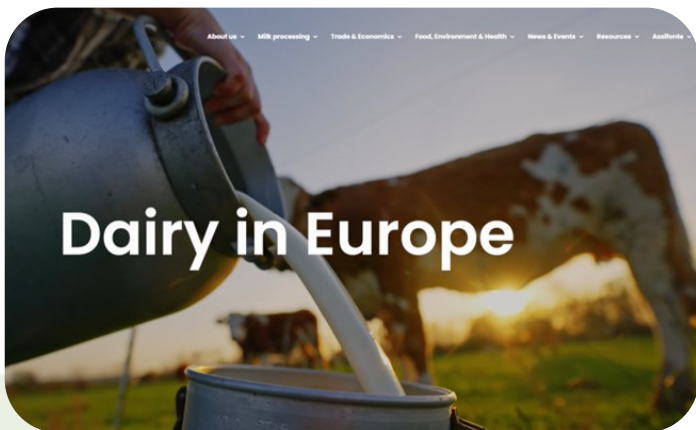


MONITORING EU AGRI-FOOD TRADE

DEVELOPMENTS in June 2024
Publication: September 2024

EDA to launch a new website

EDA is in the process of launching our new website, a project that has been in the plans for over a year. The new website is designed to offer an enhanced user experience, easier navigation, and a fresh look at all that EDA has to offer. Whether you're looking for updates on our latest initiatives, upcoming events, or resources. Keep your eyes open in October for the reveal.



4% more dairy lovers in Germany

At the start of this week, the German Ministry for Agriculture released its annual nutrition report, revealing that the dairy lovers of Germany have increased with 4% from previous year.

Read the [full report here](#) (in German).

In Memoriam: Claus Heggum (1960-2024)



The global dairy community mourns the passing of Claus Heggum, a remarkable leader and visionary in the field of dairy science. Trained as a dairy engineer, Claus joined the Danish Dairy Board in 1986 and quickly established himself as an expert in food safety, risk analysis, and product standards.

Claus was a long-standing EDA expert in the EDA Food Safety WG and he led a number of projects in the field of hygiene, including re-use of water, criteria for listeria, the protein conversion factor, centrifuge sludge, to name a few. One of his most prominent EU accomplishments was the "EDA/Euclait Guide for use of cheese as raw material for further processing", which has been supported by the EU Commission and Member States and published in 2018.

At international level, Claus was instrumental in implementing HACCP and ISO 22000 standards in the dairy industry, leaving a lasting impact on product quality and safety. His work in developing guidelines for the safe production of raw milk cheeses earned him the Danish Dairy Industry's Initiative Award in 2012. As an internationally recognised food safety dairy expert, Claus contributed significantly to the work of International Dairy Federation and Codex Alimentarius, where he led a major update of global cheese standards.

Beyond his professional achievements, Claus will be remembered for his warmth, integrity, and good humour. His passion for his work, combined with his humility and kindness, made him a cherished colleague and a respected figure across the European and international dairy industry. His contributions to food safety and dairy standards will continue to influence generations to come.