

EDA's Dairy Focus on the Polish Presidency

EDA has published its focus on the Polish dairy sector and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. For the next six months, the agri-food policy in Europe will be overseen by **Czesław Siekierski**, the Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, who has outlined the policy priorities of the Polish Presidency for our Focus. The agri-food sector is of vital importance to Poland. The dairy sector ranks as the third-largest milk producer in the EU and twelfth globally, having experienced steady growth in milk production over the past 30 years, particularly in the last decade.

Our discussions with the Polish Presidency have clearly demonstrated that agriculture and dairy are high on their agenda. Together with our Polish EDA members, we look forward to fruitful cooperation.

[Read the EDA Focus on the Presidency here](#)



MIV Grüne Woche Milk-Summit 2025

New MIV President **Detlev Latka** (Hochwald) welcomed the crème de la crème of the German dairy industry, political and administration executives and science eminences at the Milchmontag of our German member MIV. In his speech, Detlev Latka as well as German dairy farmers president **Karsten Schmal**, underlined the priorities for the German *Milchwelt*: managing the foot-and-mouth disease situation in Brandenburg (and taking lessons from the situation), strengthening the EU Single Market and focussing on competitiveness and export opportunities in a market driven approach.

Lars Dammann, DMK head of Sustainability and Innovation) presented the DMK strategy on "How we get to climate neutral dairy?" highlighting the strengths and challenges on this journey, that started back in 2011.



Detlev Latka (CEO, Hochwald) new MIV President with EDA's Alexander Anton

Study: consuming milk and yogurt may lower the risk of colorectal cancer

Consuming dairy products, particularly milk and yogurt, significantly lowers the risk of colorectal cancer, according to a large British study analysing data from over 540,000 women as part of the Million Women Study. Conducted over an average period of 17 years, the study identified 17 dietary factors influencing colorectal cancer risk. Drinking 200 grams of milk daily reduces the risk by 14%, and 50 grams of yogurt by 8%, primarily due to calcium, which binds harmful substances in the colon. However, researchers caution that more research is needed to determine whether calcium supplements and calcium-fortified foods offer the same protective benefits. "We couldn't look at the association between taking calcium supplements and bowel cancer risk in this study," explained lead researcher **Keren Papier**, emphasizing the need for further studies in diverse populations. Experts consider the study a strong confirmation of previous research, with findings likely applicable to men as well.

[Read the study here.](#)

EDA welcomes the EU-Mexico Political Agreement

EDA applauds the EU Commission on concluding negotiations for the modernized EU-Mexico Global Agreement. This milestone strengthens EU-Mexico trade ties and creates new opportunities for EU dairy exporters.

With Mexico's population of 130 million and its reliance on imports to meet demand, the agreement offers significant benefits for European dairy. It includes Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) of 20,000 tons for mature cheeses, 5,000 tons for fresh cheeses, and 50,000 tons for skimmed milk powder, all phased over five years.

It also entails reduced tariffs, with tariffs on infant formula being halved within five years. Additionally, the deal provides protection for 340 EU Geographical Indications (GIs).

These provisions will boost exports of EU dairy favourites like milk powder, cheeses, and butter. EDA welcomes this agreement as a vital step in strengthening EU dairy's global competitiveness.

Decrease in livestock and moderate increase in raw milk production in 2023

Between 2013 and 2023, livestock populations across the EU declined by an estimated 7,0%, dropping from 296 million to 275 million. However, bovine animals experienced the smallest decrease, with a reduction of only 5,5%. Similarly, EU output price developments for cattle remained stable, with the latest increase noted at 1,6%.

In 2023, milk production on EU farms was estimated at 160,8 million tonnes of raw milk, marking a modest increase of 0.8 million tonnes (or 0,5%) compared to the previous year. The vast majority of raw milk production in the EU is delivered to dairies. Farms retained 11,6 million tonnes, which were either consumed by farmers' families, sold directly to consumers, used as animal feed, or processed on-site. Of the 149,3 million tonnes of milk delivered to dairies, 145,0 million tonnes consisted of cow's milk, with the remainder coming from other livestock such as ewes (sheep), goats, and buffaloes.

Germany led the EU in the production of key dairy products in 2023, including drinking milk, whey, butter, and cheese. On the consumer side, the report also highlighted annual changes in consumer prices for certain food categories, with a notable increase in the price of butter.

These findings were highlighted in the recently published 2024 Eurostat report, [Key Figures on the European Food Chain](#).

EDA advocates for contractual freedom in the CMO Regulation Amendments

EDA has voiced strong opposition to proposed changes to Article 148 of the Common Markets Organisation (CMO) Regulation that would make contracts mandatory and has emphasised the importance of preserving the principle of freely negotiated agreements under private contract law, warning such changes would negatively impact farmers.

Compulsory written contracts would restrict the freedom of economic operators to negotiate agreements, create unnecessary bureaucracy for milk producers and dairies, and increase compliance costs for authorities. Experiences in France and Spain have shown no improvement in milk prices under mandatory frameworks compared to countries where Article 148 has not been implemented.

These discussions were prompted by the EU Commission's proposal, unveiled on 10 December, for targeted amendments to the CMO Regulation. This initiative followed earlier reflection papers and farmers' demonstrations. EDA was joined by **Amelie de Grahl** (Head of MIV Brussels) at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 13 January to address these amendments.



EDA engages with EU Commission to tackle market access challenges

On 7 January, the EDA Secretariat held a productive meeting with the EU Commission's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Unit to address critical market access issues affecting dairy exports to Brazil and China. The discussion focused on the challenges faced by European dairy exporters in securing and maintaining registrations for these key markets. Enhancing the registration process in Brazil was identified as a significant opportunity, particularly within the context of the MERCOSUR agreement and subsequent negotiations, which could act as a catalyst for improved market access.

Regarding trade with China, the situation from an SPS perspective is relatively stable, with fewer pressing concerns compared to Brazil. However, the EDA and the Commission remain committed to monitoring and supporting the efficient functioning of SPS-related processes to sustain positive momentum in the Chinese market.

What's your preferred dairy product?



I have always very much enjoyed drinking kefir and tasting different yoghurts or white cheese with herbs

Czesław Siekierski

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland

Save the date!



Wednesday 26th March 2025, Brussels
EDA Dairy Policy Conference

***Nourishing a sustainable future,
nurturing innovation***

Already confirmed speakers include:

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, DG AGRI

Magdalena Montaigu, SCA Spokesperson of Poland

Dr Judith Bryans, DairyUK

Sophie Gregory, UK dairy farmer

