



Dairy Flash

3 / 2025
27 February

Connect to the world of dairy

The EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2025

On the afternoon on 26 March the EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2025, will be held under the theme "Nourishing a Sustainable Future, Nurturing Innovation." The Brussels event will serve as a platform for engaging discussions and thought-provoking insights, bringing together leading voices from European policymakers, industry leaders, the private sector, and research and innovation communities. At a time when the dairy sector is facing both challenges and opportunities, this conference will explore the future of agriculture and dairy in Europe, focusing on sustainability, innovation, and policy frameworks that will shape the industry in the years ahead.

The FAO perspective on Agriculture and Dairy



Raschad Al-Khafaji
FAO Director

Session 1: "Our European Vision for Agriculture and Dairy"

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle
Director, DG AGRI



Magdalena Montaigne
SCA Spokesperson of the
Republic of Poland



Norbert Lins
MEP (EPP, DE)



Session 2: "Nourishing a sustainable future, nurturing innovation"

Dr Judith Bryans
CEO, Dairy UK



Marie Eismann
University of Applied Sciences Kiel



Sophie Gregory
UK dairy farmer



Hanne Søndergaard
EVP Agriculture, Sustainability
and Innovation, Arla Foods



Sam de Frates
VP Procurement Europe
and Central Eurasia, Mars
Inc.



[Register here](#)

For further information visit: <https://eda.euromilk.org/event/eda-dairy-policy-conference-2025/>



Emmentaler in the cheese manufacturing site Bouvron (France)

The EU Commission confirms generic character of “Emmentaler”

Following years of EDA opposition to the Swiss application for registration of ‘Emmentaler’ as a protected name, the EU Commission published on 24 January 2025 its long-awaited Decision (2025/107) of refusing the protection. With that, the EU Commission has confirmed the generic character of “Emmentaler”. Among others, the decision says that “the name ‘Emmentaler’ is deemed to be a generic term in the territory of the Union” and that “The protection of the name ‘Emmentaler’, registered as Appellation of Origin from Switzerland in the International Register, should, therefore, be refused in the Union.”

We are grateful for this clear statement of the EU Commission and for the engagement of all our members active on this dossier with a special thanks to Dr **Jörg Rieke** (MIV).

FAO Europe & Central Asia Management Meeting on agri-food systems

The FAO Regional Management Meeting for Europe and Central Asia focussed in its meeting mid-February on growing, fostering and building new partnerships.

*“We were invited to present as representatives of the private sector and to discuss, what FAO can do to enhance our cooperation and to share our expectations vis-à-vis FAO. We are more than confident that dairy is a perfect match for the FAO ‘4 Better’ strategy (better production, better nutrition, better environment, better life) and we will continue our dialogue with FAO Brussels Director **Raschad Al-Khafaji** at our EDA Dairy Policy Conference on 26 March 2025 in Brussels”,* stated EDA’s Alexander Anton.



Vision for Agriculture and Food



EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen, Executive Vice-President Raffaele Fitto

On 19 February, the EU Commission published its “Vision for Agriculture and Food” laying the groundwork for the next 5 years agricultural and food policy. In our statement, we congratulated EU Commissioner

Christophe Hansen

for the long-term vision for the agri-food sector that emphasizes food security, sustainability, economic resilience, global market leadership and assuring a vibrant agri-food sector, especially in rural Europe.

“Congratulations to EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen and his teams for having carried out the mission to lay out the strategic lines for the future of our European agri-food sector. It is time to build a long-term strategy for our sector, that will not only translate into the next CAP and its financial basis, but must have a significant impact on all relevant policy fields. The agri-food sector has been acknowledged as a strategic asset of our Union and the “Vision for agriculture and food” is a perfect starting point for the strengthening of our cooperation to ensure that dairy has a promising future in Europe”, underlined EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

Roundtable on EU agri-food industrial transformation in the European Parliament

Together with **Geneviève Pons** from the ‘Institut Europe Jacques Delors’ and **Pierre-Marie Aubert** from the French think tank IDDRE, MEP **Pascal Canfin** (Renew, FR) organized last week a panel discussion in the European Parliament on the transformation of the food industry.



EDA's Alexander Anton with Pascal Lamy (Notre Europe- Institut Jacques Delors)

Pascal Canfin launched a call to depolarize the political environment on agriculture and asked for a value chain approach.

In the panel discussion under the chairmanship of **Pascal Lamy**, Director **Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle** (DG AGRI) underlined that the ‘Vision for Agriculture and Food’ is the starting point for an in depth dialogue and for collaboration throughout the food value chain:

“We do not want a top-down approach, we want to engage and work with all stakeholders to have measurable objectives – this means: not simply defining targets and enforce those”.

EDA's Alexander Anton highlighted the specificities of the dairy sector and our transformation journey at processing industry level as much as on farming level:

“When it comes to depolarizing the discussion, a common acknowledgment of what we achieved with and thanks to the CAP is on our perspective a good starting point. The points made on carbon farming showed another encouraging common basis: first we have to find a science-based harmonized methodology and then the carbon credits must be earmarked for the sector.”

EDA favours a holistic approach to GHG reduction in agriculture

Last week, EDA published its position paper on the ongoing EU Commission's exploratory work on a EU framework for incentivizing climate change mitigation across the agri-value chain.

While we are in favour of a common European framework for achieving emission reduction in the agricultural sector, the policy options seen today for an obligatory emission trading scheme for food processors (Agrifood ETS) could threaten the economic viability of the EU dairy sector. We call upon the EU Commission to continue exploring different policy options that do not negatively impact the economic viability of dairy operations and have a holistic approach to GHG reduction in agriculture.

EDA awards cheese excellence at Salon l'Agriculture in Paris

EDA had the pleasure of attending the 2025 edition of the Salon International de l'Agriculture in Paris and participating in the prestigious Concours Général Agricole, which rewards the best products, from dairy to wine. EDA's **Fanny Courivaud** took part in the evaluation of eight exceptional Cantal entre-deux AOP cheeses, awarding some with Gold and Silver medals.

Salon International de l'Agriculture, was first held in 1870 and is one of the worlds largest and most important agricultural shows.

EDA finalised the renewal of the Dairy PEFCR

EDA is proud to announce the publication of the updated Dairy PEFCR (Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules), following the approval by the EU Commission at the end of 2024.

First established and approved by EU Commission in 2018, Member States and NGOs as the reference methodology for the sector, it provides a harmonised set of rules at European level for assessing the environmental footprint of dairy production. It takes into account a broad range of criteria and it calculates the environmental performance of dairy products across their life cycle.

The renewal project is extending the validity of the dairy rules, allowing companies to continue using such methodology.

[Read more on the PEFCR on EDA's website.](#)



2025 Paris International Agricultural Show is held from February 22, 2025 to March 2, 2025 in Paris, France.

EDA hosts lunch roundtable on dairy, nutrition and health at the European Parliament

On 19 February, EDA, in collaboration with MEP **Alexander Bernhuber** (EPP, AT), hosted our MEP Assistant Roundtable at the European Parliament to discuss the role of dairy in nutrition and health. The event provided Parliamentary Assistants from across the EU with a deeper understanding of the significant benefits of milk and dairy products.



MEP Alexander Bernhuber, Maira Hutter, Kinga Adamaszwili, Stephan Peters

Kinga Adamaszwili, Deputy Secretary General of the EDA, delivered an presentation on the European dairy sector, laying the foundation for the discussion. **Maria Hutter** (Rural Training Institute, Austria) and Dr **Stephan Peters** (NZO, NL) spoke on the topics of the importance of dairy in European diets, milk as a nutritional powerhouse and sustainable food and the role of dairy in future sustainable diets.

The discussion emphasized dairy's essential nutrients, sustainability, and economic significance. Attendees gained insights into how dairy supports balanced diets and food security. EDA thanks MEP Alexander Bernhuber and his team for enabling this valuable dialogue.

What's your favourite dairy product?

"Fruit yogurt from regional farmers"

Alexander Bernhuber
MEP (EPP, AT)



EWPA and issue joint ADPI Press release on definition of Whey Protein Hydrolysates

The American Dairy Products Institute (ADPI) and the European Whey Products Association (EWPA) have updated the definition of Whey Protein Hydrolysates (WPH), requiring higher protein hydrolysis. This revision enhances functionality, aligns with global standards, simplifies regulations, and strengthens the dairy ingredient market, supporting trade, innovation, and international consistency.

Read the [full press release here](#).