

## EU Parliament EU-Mercosur Meeting: EDA promotes EU dairy trade



EDA was invited to the meeting of the EP Delegation for relations with Mercosur (DMER) on 6 March 2025, focusing on the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and examining the trade provisions affecting agricultural and livestock products.

EDA secretary general Alexander Anton joined the exchange alongside representatives from the European Commission and dott. **Andrea Rossi** from the wine sector. The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight key opportunities for the dairy sector and engage in dialogue on the future of EU-Mercosur trade relations.



EDA's Alexander Anton exchanging with the EP Delegation for relations with Mercosur

## EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2025 - 26 March in Brussels

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.

### Speakers

EDA President **Albert de Groot**

**Raschad Al-Khafaji**, Director of FAO Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium

**Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle**, Director, DG AGRI, European Commission

**Magdalena Montaignu**, SCA Spokesperson of the Republic of Poland

MEP **Norbert Lins** (EPP, DE) Vice Chair of the AGRI Committee, European Parliament

Dr **Judith Bryans**, CEO, Dairy UK

**Marie Eismann**, University of Applied Sciences Kiel

**Sophie Gregory**, UK dairy farmer at Home Farm/Arla

**Hanne Søndergaard**, EVP Agriculture, Sustainability and Innovation, Arla Foods

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

[Register](#)

## EU-India FTA discussed at Forward Global's Power Breakfast

India and the EU are pushing to finalize the their FTA by the end of the year: "This would be the largest deal of this kind anywhere in the world", [stated EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen](#) at her visit to India two weeks ago.

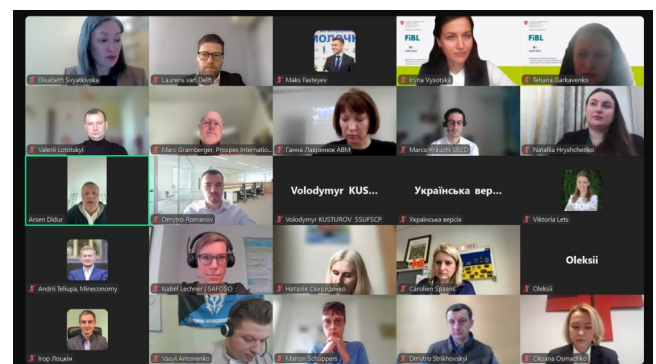
Hence, this week's "Forward Global's Power Breakfast" on the India-EU relationship was well timed. EDA's Trade and Economics Director **Laurens van Delft** took part in Forward Global's Power Breakfast, bringing forward the interests of the EU dairy sector in the ongoing EU-India FTA negotiations. The discussion on EU-India relations featured insights from H.E. **Saurabh Kumar**, Ambassador of India to the EU, with **Lizza Bomassi** (EUISS) adding perspectives from the European side.

For the Q&A session with room for questions on the FTA, moderated by **Lina Aburous** (Forward Global), there was broad agreement that these negotiations cannot be a zero-sum game—both sides must work toward a balanced and forward-looking agreement. Dairy is considered one of the most sensitive sectors in the discussions, making EDA's contribution particularly relevant.



*Lizza Bomassi (EUISS), H.E. Saurabh Kumar, Lina Aburous (Forward Global)*

## Strengthening EU-Ukraine dairy integration: key stakeholders convene



EDA continues to support the integration of Ukraine's dairy sector into the EU market. The kick-off meeting for the "Roadmap for EU Integration – Dairy Sector Ukraine" on February 27, 2025, moderated by **Elisabeth Svyatkivska**, Secretary of the European Integration Committee, Union of Dairy Enterprises of Ukraine. Next to **Taras Vysotskyi**, First Deputy Minister of agrarian policy and food of Ukraine, **Oksana Osmachko**, Deputy Minister of EU integration, **Andrii Teliupa**, Deputy Minister of economy of Ukraine, **Laurens van Delft**, EDA Director of Trade and Economics also participated in the discussion. From the EU Commission **Brigitte Misonne**, Head of Unit for animal products at the European Commission, focused her intervention on trade liberalisation, regulatory alignment and investment strategies.

EDA firmly supports reciprocal free dairy trade and the long-term integration of Ukraine into the EU single market, ensuring market stability, competitiveness, and a resilient dairy supply chain for both Ukraine and Europe.

## EU dairy needs contractual freedom -our contribution to the CMO Regulation Amendments

EDA strongly opposes any amendments to Article 148 that would make written contracts mandatory. Contractual freedom is essential for a well-functioning dairy supply chain. Such a measure would impose unnecessary bureaucracy on milk producers and dairies, increase costs, and ultimately fail to deliver better prices for farmers, as seen in countries where similar rules have been applied.

This is –in a nutshell– the contribution that EDA submitted to the European Commission’s public consultation on targeted amendments to the CMO Regulation and other CAP-related regulations. As the legislative debate moves forward, EDA remains committed to advocating for policies that support a competitive dairy sector.

## EU agri-food chain observatory meeting: maintain supply chain costs

**Laurens van Delft**, EDA’s Director Trade and Economics, took part in the EU agri-food chain observatory meeting on 13 March, where the state of the agri-food chain, ongoing efforts to monitor supply chain costs, and ways to enhance market transparency by making more data publicly available, were covered.

The evidence of EDA shows that ‘price transparency’ can be a double-edged sword and excessive price transparency can restrict competition and harm the interest of primary producers as well as processors.

## EWPA work on contaminants in dairy ingredients showcased in the scientific paper

It took years of testing and scientific effort of the EWPA&EDA Task Force to investigate why some levels of semicarbazide (SEM) can be found in dairy protein ingredients. SEM is often used as a marker metabolite for detection of illegal veterinary medicine (nitrofurazone) use in agricultural products (particularly for meat). Our investigation showed however that no SEM was detected in raw materials (milk) which confirms there is no illegal nitrofurazone use in the dairy sector in the EU.



Almost 500 commercial dairy protein ingredients were analysed to reach the conclusions that SEM occurrence in dairy ingredients can be explained by natural formation during processing (including spray-drying conditions) and storage.

Our work has now been published in a peer-reviewed International Dairy Journal under free access – “[Semicarbazide formation during processing and storage of dairy protein ingredients](#)”.

We would like to thank Professor **Thom Huppertz** (FrieslandCampina & University College Cork) who is the main author of the paper, as well as all members of the EWPA&EDA Task Force who have contributed.

## EDA's response to U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminium and EU countermeasures

In December 2024, we asked the EU Commission to prepare for the yesterdays' predictable U.S. announcement on the 25% extra tariffs on steel and aluminium imports. The swift reaction by the European Commission underlines that the EU has prepared itself and takes the defence of our trade interests very serious. The EU response will – for obvious reasons – not follow the retaliation principle *stricto sensu* ("steel for steel, aluminium for aluminium"): beyond reinstating the suspended duties on key U.S. products, the EU Commission intends a proportional reaction vis-à-vis other U.S. products.

*"Not only have the U.S. and the EU the largest bilateral trade and investment relationship and the most integrated economic relationship in the world, but the overall (goods & services) U.S. – EU trade balance is basically in an equilibrium – this is an ideal basis for a prosperous trade relationship. A trade dispute between the U.S. and the EU therefore is clearly in the loose-loose category. And, as it stands today, once again, unrelated goods sectors will be the collateral victims of this trade dispute",* comments EDA's Alexander Anton.



## EU dairy prepares for key hearing in China's anti-subsidy investigation



As China's anti-subsidy investigation into EU dairy intensifies, EDA continues its strong coordination efforts to defend the sector.

On 5 March, EDA organized a strategic coordination call with key industry stakeholders and the EU Commission in the run-up to the 18 March hearing in Beijing, which was requested the EU Commission the three sampled companies and EDA. In this hearing, EDA will be represented, ensuring a united front in challenging the allegations. The EU dairy sector remains committed to defending its compliance with international trade rules in the face of increasing global trade tensions.

## Your favourite dairy product?

**Norbert Lins** is the Vice Chair of the AGRI Committee of the EU Parliament and a speaker at our EDA Dairy Policy Conference on 26 March in Brussels.

**"Together with a few pieces of fresh fruits, yogurt is a very light and refreshing dessert or the basis for a healthy muesli"**

**Norbert Lins**  
MEP, EPP, DE

