

Happy World Milk Day!



On 1 June, we celebrated the **World Milk Day**, the international celebration of milk as a truly global and highly nutritious food. Established in 2001 by the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Milk Day recognizes the importance of milk as an essential component in healthy and balanced diets, providing high-quality protein and essential nutrients that are not found elsewhere.



EDA at the UK Mission on the

topic of the EU-UK summit

EDA was delighted to be invited by the United Kingdom Mission to the EU for an industry debrief on the recent EU-UK summit hosted by the UK Deputy Ambassador to the EU, **Caroline Read**. She described the summit as a "historical moment" that will allow for a dialogue to start on the alignment of SPS measures which is a decisive step that removes the remaining obstacles, and build a truly future-proof, cooperative trade framework.

As **Conor Mulvihill** (Director, Dairy Industry Ireland) rightly points out: *"In today's uncertain geopolitical landscape, maintaining strong and reliable trade partnerships with our closest neighbour is more important than ever. The SPS alignment agreement demonstrates a renewed commitment to cooperation and mutual benefit, reinforcing the importance of food security and economic stability for both the EU and UK".*

EDA welcomes this conclusion and congratulates both EU and UK delegations for this win for food security, competitiveness, and consumer affordability on both sides of the Channel.

EDA meets with MEP Michael McNamara

On 12 May, EDA met with MEP **Michael McNamara** (Independent, IE) for an exchange on key trade developments and ongoing legislative files.

The discussion focused on the EU's trade relations with the U.S., China, and Mercosur. We outlined current challenges for the EU dairy industry linked to market access, regulatory divergence, and the impact of trade tensions on the competitiveness of the European dairy industry.

The meeting also addressed the EU Commission's proposed amendments to the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation. We reiterated EDA's strong opposition to making written contracts mandatory under Article 148, warning that such a move would impose administrative burdens, raise compliance costs, and undermine contractual flexibility across the supply chain.



MEP Michael McNamara, EDA's Lara Llorente and Alexander Anton at the European Parliament in Brussels

Dairy exchange with the Ukrainian Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Vitaliy Koval

"The EU – UA discussions on the dairy sector are on a different level than for other agri-food sectors. In our meeting with the Ukrainian Minister for Agrarian Policy and Food, **Vitaliy Koval**, ten days ago in Brussels, we focussed on the alignment of the legal frameworks and discussed marketing standards and quality schemes", concluded EDA's Alexander Anton.

Two weeks ago, **Laurens van Delft**, EDA's Director Trade & Economics joined an online webinar on 12 May, "UA–EU Dairy Trade Rules After 5th June" to provide clarity on the EU's position regarding the future of Ukraine's dairy access to the Single Market.



Vitaliy Koval reporting on telegram on his meeting in Brussels



MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen meets with EDA



MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen and Lise Andreassen Høyer (DDB) in Brussels

EDA's **Laurens van Delft**, joined by **Lise Andreassen Høyer** (Danish Dairy Board), Chair of EDA's Trade and TEC Committee, met with MEP **Bert-Jan Ruissen** (ECR, NL) for a discussion on current policy developments impacting the dairy sector. The meeting included a constructive exchange on the proposed targeted amendments to the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation, where the importance of maintaining a market-oriented approach was underlined.

Such dialogues are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that evolving EU legislation reflects the realities of the dairy supply chain and contributes to a sustainable and resilient future for the industry.

What's your favourite dairy product?

"A glass of tasty buttermilk is a perfect way to start the day!"

Bert-Jan Ruissen

MEP, ECR, the Netherlands



EDA showcases dairy's role in the Vision for Agriculture and Food at FEFAC Congress



FEFAC
Experts in Animal Nutrition

At last week's FEFAC Annual Congress in Rome,

EDA steered the conversation on the opportunities and challenges linked to the EU Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food, highlighting the role of the dairy sector in building competitive, resilient and sustainable food systems.

Alberto Babolin from EDA underlined the importance of feed innovation, such as methane-inhibitors feed additives, for cutting emissions in agriculture, and stressed that policy support is key to continue scaling-up these solutions. Our message is clear: sustainability measures need to go hand in hand with economic viability. The event was a great chance to show how collaboration across the value chain, especially with feed partners, is essential in the sustainability transition.



EDA's Alberto Babolin at the panel at the FEFAC Congress in Rome

EDA calls for pragmatic approach to intra-EU certification for export-bound dairy



Christian Bruun Kastrup (DDB) at the SPS MAWG meeting in Brussels

At the SPS Market Access Working Group (MAWG) meeting on 23 May 2025, EDA was represented by **Christian Bruun Kastrup**, chair of the EDA Food, Environment and Regulatory Affairs Committee, who raised a critical issue affecting the dairy sector and the challenges posed by intra-EU trade certificates in the context of exports to third countries.

Christian highlighted how inconsistent or excessive certification requirements for dairy products moving within the EU - simply because they are intended for export beyond the EU - can create unnecessary barriers and costs for exporters. He stressed the need for proportionate, risk-based, and harmonised certification rules that do not penalise EU operators acting as part of global supply chains.

EDA continues to work closely with the EU Commission and Member States to ensure that certification procedures support, rather than hinder, EU dairy's global competitiveness.

"Sailing awhey" our EWPA "Open Session": Get Underwhey

Summer Conference 2025 in Lymington, UK



EWPA President James Neville

Last week, the summer General Assembly of our EDA sister organization, the European Whey Processors Association (EWPA), took place in Lymington, UK. EWPA President **James Neville** welcomed dairy ingredient executives and experts from across Europe, all eager to exchange insights and expertise. It kicked off with **Mary Keough Ledman** (Global Strategist—Dairy, Rabobank), who spoke about the new world of trade. She highlighted the emerging trend of "Making America Healthy Again", which is an opportunity for EU companies to export healthy, non-ultra-processed foods to the U.S.



The EWPA whey performance running team on Wednesday 28 May at Elmer's Court

Our "Open Session" had a programme full of knowledgeable and high-level speakers. Chaired by **Mathias Hauer** (CEO, Sachsenmilch), it started with **Nick Whelan**, CEO of Dale Farm in Northern Ireland, introducing the strategy of Dale Farm and its specificities.



.Paul Vernon, Mathias Hauer, Mary Keough Ledman, Nick Whelan

Mitchell Bowling (Director, Abbott Nutrition) continued the discussion on our international trade environment, emphasising that if U.S. tariffs are reinstated, dairy could find itself on a "carousel" of instability. **Paul Vernon** (Chief Executive Europe, Leprino) spoke about the UK dairy industry's perspective in a changing world. Despite challenges, UK dairy is forging a positive future. Significant investments are ongoing at the processing level and milk volumes are expected to rise.

The first part of the Open Session concluded with **Stefan Nether** (Vice-President, StoneX), who talked about market volatility and risk management. Furthermore, he connected the dots between cheese production, imports from China and India, and whey prices. His advice to attendees: "Invest where you want—just be sure you know your own data before you do."

Open Session: "Sounding the Future"



EWPA President James Neville, Marion Bucas, Kevin Bellamy, Mike McCully

The second part of the Open Session, titled "Sounding the Future" was chaired by **Marion Bucas** (Marketing, Director, Lactalis Ingredients). **Mike McCully** (President, McCully Consulting) shared the U.S. dairy outlook, particularly the expansion in cheese production. However, U.S. economic conditions and consumer demand remain uncertain. **Kevin Bellamy** (International Dairy Consultant, V-Dairy) shifted the focus to the world's largest dairy market—India. *"India is too big to ignore, especially for those in the dairy industry—yet many still do. Due to societal changes driving demand for convenience and increased affluence, demand for whey derivatives is expected to outstrip supply, with 40% of the population vegetarian, dairy isn't just tradition in India—it's essential nutrition"* he concluded.

Daniel Pedraza (Director, Eibens) walked us through the dairy sectors in China and Indonesia. *"In the South China Sea region, supply is up, but consumption hasn't caught up—yet"*, he said. Despite Indonesia's large population, demand is expected to grow steadily due to protectionism and underdeveloped local industry. However, there are meaningful opportunities, as the slow pace of local development will leave a significant gap relative to government promises.

Closing the session was **José Conde**, Commercial Director at Aira Milk Ingredients, who introduced attendees to Aira—a Galician company that processes 42% of Spanish milk with a wide range of products, including powders, milk ingredients, liquids, butter, and cheese.

Mlekovita - Central and Eastern Europe's largest dairy cooperative

During the EWPA General Assembly, attendees had the chance to learn more about Mlekovita, represented by Export Director **Magdalena Szabłowska**, who also serves on the EDA Board on behalf of Poland.



Mlekovita stands as Poland's leading dairy exporter. Its team of 5,000 employees supports a portfolio of 1,550 products. Rooted in sustainability, Mlekovita continues to invest in modern infrastructure, innovative packaging, and consumer-driven product development to meet changing market needs.



We say farewell to the outgoing President of the ADPI (American Dairy Products Institute), Blake Anderson, and welcome new ADPI President Patty Smith.

Thank you Blake for your dedication, energy and for being a trusted partner and valuable friend of the EWPA