


EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen chairs the 6th African Union–EU Agriculture Ministers' Conference in Rome



EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen with his colleague AU Commissioner Moses Vilakati

Last Friday, the Ministers of Agriculture of the 55 Member States of the African Union (AU) and the 27 Member States of the European Union were invited to discuss "A Sustainable Future for Agri-food Systems" at the FAO headquarters in Rome. 

"Our AU–EU agri-food cooperation is a cornerstone for sustainable development on both continents. Together with my colleague, the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, **Moses Vilakati** we had the pleasure of welcoming most of 'our' agricultural ministers to Rome. High level panels discussed around four thematic blocks: Investment and financing, sustainable practices and climate resilience, research and innovation as well as market access and trade facilitation. Another highlight was the signing of the AU–EU Cooperation Agreement on soil health between the two continental Unions," stated EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food **Christophe Hansen**.

With the active participation of the Ministers of Agriculture **Francesco Lollobrigida** (IT), **Annie Genevard** (FR), **Luis Planas** (ES), **José Manuel Fernandes** (PT), **Martin Heydon** (IE), **Mateja Čalušić** (SI) and **Martine Hansen** (LU) and State Secretaries **Jacek Czerniak** (PL), **Jean Rummenie** (NL) and **Daniel Liljeberg** (SE), the EU showcased at the highest level its major interest in AU–EU cooperation, especially in the agri-food sector.



Irish Minister for Agriculture Martin Heydon with EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen

EDA Board meets with DG AGRI's Brigitte Misonne and MEP Herbert Dorfmann

At last week's EDA Board meeting, our EDA President **Albert de Groot** welcomed Director **Brigitte Misonne** (DG AGRI) and MEP **Herbert Dorfmann** for



Director Brigitte Misonne (DG AGRI) and EDA President Albert de Groot at our offices in Brussels

an exchange on the dairy topics that are at the top of the Brussels agenda: EU Livestock Workstream, the proposed changes in the Single Common Market

Organisation (sCMO) and the structure and setup of the next CAP.

EU–Ukraine agreement in principle: a good step towards dairy integration



EDA welcomes this week's agreement in principle between the EU and Ukraine as an important step toward long-term, rules-based dairy integration. The reported expansion of duty-free access to include whole milk powder and fermented products is a clear signal of progress and reduces uncertainty in our trading relationship. Last year's Memorandum of Understanding, signed between EDA and SMPU, and the launch of the joint EU Integration Committee, underscore our commitment in supporting Ukraine's full alignment with EU standards and practices.

As long-standing advocates for trade liberalisation, **we welcome the overall direction of the agreement**. We also recognise that our call for a **balanced approach** - including targeted safeguards - has been taken into account. We now look forward to the swift finalisation of the agreement and to supporting Ukraine's structured integration into the EU Single Market, to the benefit of dairy sectors on both sides.

EDA at GIs meeting in Rome

In a side event of the 6th AU-EU Agriculture Ministers' Conference, French Minister **Annie Genevard**, Italian Minister **Francesco Lollobrigida** and EU Commissioner **Christophe Hansen** discussed with

their African counterparts and FAO leadership the added value of geographical indications for the agri-food communities on both continents.



Luxembourg's Minister of Agriculture, Martine Hansen, with EDA's Alexander Anton at the FAO in Rome

EDA highlights cost burdens for dairy producers



This week, EDA participated in a workshop organised by the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the EU Commission on the Costs and Benefits of Sustainability Regulations for Operators in the EU Food Supply Chain. The objective of the workshop was to gather stakeholders' input on the direct impacts of sustainability-related regulations and improve policy analysis. **While we support the EU's sustainability ambitions, we highlighted the economic pressures that dairy producers are already facing due to the increasingly stringent environmental requirements.** We emphasised the need for adequate financial and policy support to help mitigate these cost burdens ensuring that environmental goals do not come at the expense of the economic sustainability of dairy production in the EU.

Sweeteners: Communication lab on food and healthcare

On 25 June 2025, we participated in the European Food Information Council's Communication Lab on defining recommendations for healthcare practitioners regarding the use of sweeteners. The workshop brought together experts to discuss best practices for communicating accurate information about sweeteners in food—particularly in conversations with healthcare practitioners, who play a key role in determining the best care for patients, including dietary guidance.

Participants shared common misconceptions about sweeteners, proposed effective communication strategies, and exchanged insights based on their diverse expertise.

EDA Board meets with DG AGRI's Brigitte Misonne and MEP Herbert Dorfmann



MEP Herbert Dorfmann (EPP, IT) with EDA President Albert de Groot at the EDA offices in Brussels

*"We had a really intensive discussion with Director **Brigitte Misonne** – the competitiveness of our sector in a world market exposed environment depends on our capability to react to the price volatility: dairy staples have the highest volatility rate of all agri-food commodities. The international milk price reacts very quickly on external factors beyond our power, not least—and increasingly—on weather events, animal diseases, developments in other milk exporting regions and tensions in the international trade arena – to name just a few. Cooperative and private dairies support our farmers in coping with the price volatility, but this volatility is part of our business as entrepreneurs in both, in the processing and the production of milk", summarised EDA President **Albert de Groot**.*

MEP **Herbert Dorfmann** (EPP, IT) briefed the EDA Board on the latest CAP discussions in the Council and European Parliament.

*"As agri-coordinator of the most important political group in the European Parliament, MEP Herbert Dorfmann underpinned his leadership with a concise description of the situation and with his strategy to assure the best possible outcome of the political negotiations in terms of finances (MFF – Multiannual Financial Framework) and in terms of keeping an agricultural pillar within the upcoming regulatory framework", stated EDA President **Albert de Groot**.*

Dialogue, trust and cooperation: French-Chinese business summit in Paris

H.E. Ambassador **Deng Li**, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to France, opened this week's "Soirée Pourpre" organised by the French China Committee in Paris. Ambassador Deng Li underlined in his speech his wish to further deepen the relationship between France and China: "That's what I am accountable for".

Introducing a 'French-Chinese cheese platter,' **Jean-Baptiste van Elslande** (CEO, International Savencia), highlighted in his "fireside chat" with former French Prime Minister **Jean-Pierre Raffarin** the deep and integrated cooperation of Savencia with its Chinese partners at all levels.

Dr **Zhigang Hao** (CEO ADISSEO), shared the success story of the global animal nutrition champion ADISSEO: "A company with a Chinese-French DNA, combining the best of the two cultures not only in terms of performance and innovation". With its products, like Smartamine®, ADISSEO is a recognized and appreciated part of the competitiveness and sustainability efforts of the European and Chinese dairy industries.

SAVENCIA
颂味佳乳业



Former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin with Jean-Baptiste van Elslande (Savencia)



DK stands for "Dairy Kingdom". Denmark took over the EU Presidency from Poland on 1 July.

To mark this occasion, we are happy to present this edition of our EDA Dairy Focus, dedicated to Denmark's EU Presidency and its influential role in European dairy policy.

Explore the priorities of the Danish Presidency through the insights of Danish Minister of Agriculture **Jacob Jensen**, who shares his vision for agriculture and dairy within the EU framework. We also delve into the reasons why Denmark's dairy sector is consistently ranked among the most efficient in Europe.

[Read it here](#)

Register for the EDA Annual Convention 2025 in Utrecht!



EDA President **Albert de Groot** warmly welcomes you to the **EDA Annual Convention 2025** in the Netherlands—his home country—in the beautiful city of Utrecht. Our Annual Convention is a high-level conference that brings together industry leaders and policymakers to discuss and set the stage for the coming direction of the EU dairy industry—the world's leading dairy industry. *Welkom!*

Register here

Early bird fee until 1 August

Hosted by



nzo nederlandse zuivel organisatie



"All our Italian cheeses are a cultural heritage and a culinary treasure. My personal favourite is maybe the Stelvio/Stilfser cheese from my home region South Tyrol - a true masterpiece of European cheese making that was recognized as a GI in 2003."



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Herbert Dorfmann
MEP (EPP,IT)



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