

EDA's Washington DC Door

Knock

In troubled times—not only due to the U.S. government shutdown as of 1 October, - we organized our EDA Washington DC meetings with our U.S. partners, colleagues and friends from the U.S. administration and from the U.S. dairy community.



Our EDA delegation was led by **Paolo Zanetti** (CEO, Zanetti S.p.A.), the President of our Italian member federation ASSOLATTE, who remarked:

"A perfectly timed, very well-orchestrated and tightly packed meeting schedule with key people in DC. Speaking with one voice as European lactosfera in these times was essential and I had the impression that all our partners will do everything in their power to bring the political U.S.-EU trade agreement to the next level".

*"We had the opportunity to kick off our meetings with an informal get-together with former EU Commissioner for Trade **Phil Hogan** (2014 – 2021). With his unrivalled strategic mind, his deep insights into the global agri-trade and his great knowledge of the key players on both sides of the pound, he helped us to understand today's environment of the U.S.- EU relations", stated EDA's Alexander Anton.*

On the first day of our EDA Washington Door Knock, we had the honour to exchange with **Silke Boger**, the Agricultural Attachée of the EU embassies in Wash-



Silke Boger, Attachée for Agriculture at the EU embassy in Washington with EDA's Alexander Anton and starring Parmigiano Reggiano Zanetti

With IDFA President **Michael Dykes** and his team, we touched on our common U.S. – EU dairy challenges and our strong common ground. And we were very honoured that NASDA CEO **Ted McKinney** and his team gave us the opportunity to learn more about the role of NASDA and to discuss today's state of play of the U.S.-EU relationship from a federal states' perspective. The U.S. – EU political trade agreement of 21 August 2025, its benefits for the U.S. and EU *lactosphère* and the ongoing implementation process were the main subject of our meeting with **Dana Fager**, Director Europe of the U.S. Trade Representative office, and her colleagues. The day ended with a very constructive get-together with our friends from the CIAA (Cheese Importers Association of America) President **Andrea Berti**, CIAA Vice President **Laurra Lyden McGregor** and the CIAA leadership team to define common objectives for our cooperation in 2026 – a full and packed day in Washington DC, that underlined the shared fundamentals of our industry.



The EDA Washington delegation (from left to right): Conor Mulvihill (CEO DII, EDA Board member IE), Koert Verkerk (RFC, EDA Board member NL), François-Xavier Huard (President & CEO of our French member federation FNIL), Lise Andreasen Høyer (DDB, Co-chair of the EDA TEC), Paolo Zanetti (CEO. Zanetti S.p.A., President of our Italian member federation ASSOLATTE), EDA's Lara Llorente and Alexander Anton

On the second day of our EDA Washington visit, we had the possibility to exchange with U.S. Senator **John Boozman**, the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. We focussed on the policies to support farming communities, and the role trade can play here. Our colleagues from USDEC (U.S. Dairy Export Council) and NMPF (National Milk Producer Federation) hosted us at their offices for a meeting on our future dairy challenges and on joint U.S.–EU dairy projects.



Paolo Zanetti with U.S. Senator John Boozman, the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

Another highlight of our Washington visit was without any doubt our dairy-specific meeting in the **White House** with the business outreach team, where ASSOLATTE President **Paolo Zanetti** showcased the strong bond between the U.S. and EU with the history of his own company and its decade-long, mutual beneficial cooperation with the U.S. company **Schuman Cheese**. Followed by an insightful and very constructive meeting with the Trade Counsel of the Senate, we headed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to meet with Administrator **Daniel B. Whitley** and his team – a perfect opportunity to take a ‘world dairy tour’ and to dive into the agricultural policies in the U.S. and in the EU.

Paolo Zanetti and his ASSOLATTE team had organized a dinner with H.E., **Marco Peronaci**, the Ambassador of Italy to the U.S.A., NASDA CEO **Ted McKinney**, **Alexa Fox**, Chief of staff of Congressman **Jim Costa** and EU Attaché for Agriculture **Silke Boger** – a perfect finishing line for our 2025 Door Knock in DC!



Daniel B. Whitley (centre) with his great team and the EDA delegation

EDA vocal in the UK-EU SPS Agreement discussion with DEFRA



Pictured (centre) Lizzie Chaterjee of DEFRA and Reece Connolly of the UK Mission to the EU, meeting EDA and other EU stakeholders in Brussels on 1 October 2025

In early October, EDA had the pleasure of being invited by the UK Mission to the EU for a roundtable discussion on the upcoming EU-UK SPS Agreement. This event was a great opportunity for a fruitful exchange between **Lizzie Chaterjee**, Deputy Chief Negotiator of the UK Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), **Philipp Seising** and **Reece Connolly** of the Food, Veterinary & Health Services of the UK Mission to the EU and the different EU food sectors. The discussion focused on the best way forward to ensure a smooth transition towards less non-tariff barriers to trade that will benefit both EU and UK agri-food sectors while safeguarding food safety.

The EDA delegation took this opportunity to express our support for a speedy delivery of the UK-EU SPS Agreement and its strong endorsement of the dynamic alignment principle in order to keep coherence between the EU and the UK in terms of food law.

EDA Annual Convention 2025

We are delighted to announce the speaker lineup for the **EDA Annual Convention 2025**, hosted by our Dutch member association, **NZO**. The event will take place in **Utrecht** (Netherlands) on **12–14 November**. Featuring high-level speakers and panel discussions, our convention will spotlight a competitive, resilient, and sustainable dairy industry by nurturing innovation and enhancing value through sustainability — the future of our sector.



Highlights of the programme:

Welcome and Opening: EDA President **Albert de Groot** (CEO, Vreugdenhil) and **Mireille Einwachter**, President NZO

Keynote: **Femke Wiersma**, Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

Session 1: **Competitive, resilient and sustainable dairy – the future of our industry.** **Rob de Wijk** (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies), Mary Ledman (Dairy Strategist), **Jan Derck van Karnebeek** (CEO, Royal FrieslandCampina), and **Katja Seidenschnur** (Global Head Sustainability, Nestlé)

Session 2: **Nurturing innovation – enhancing value through sustainability.** **Ernst van de Ende** (Wageningen University), **Thom Huppertz** (University College Cork), **Mark van Nieuwland** (dsm-firmenich), **Jan Bobbink** (Qlip), **Lorenzo van Haelst** (Tetra Pak France, Belgium & NL).

Moderator: **Donatello Piras**

[Register here](#)

EP Vote on sCMO Article 148 – a disappointing outcome

EDA regrets the outcome of the vote on 8 October in the European Parliament on the targeted amendments to the **CMO Regulation**, particularly concerning **Article 148 on the mandatory content of written contracts**. The adopted text risks adding unnecessary administrative burden and limiting flexibility in well-functioning dairy supply chains.

The Commission's proposal of 10 December 2024 remains of serious concern to our sector. It lacks both proper stakeholder consultation and a comprehensive impact assessment and is not supported by farmers nor by the dairy industry concerned. Unfortunately, the European Parliament did not adequately address the shortcomings of the Commission's proposal.

We welcome that our sector is now part of the dialogue and trust that the upcoming trilogue discussions will allow for a more balanced approach that respects the diversity of contractual relations across Member States and ensures that cooperation between processors and farmers continues to rely on trust, efficiency, and market orientation.



Lactalis European Regulatory Network at EDA

Last week, EDA had a pleasure of welcoming a delegation of **Lactalis EU Regulatory Affairs** colleagues from France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, UK, Switzerland and Turkey. EDA's Kinga Adamaszwili presented our structure, ways of working and the unique role of EDA in coordinating input from dairy associations into harmonized positions of the whole European dairy sector. It was highlighted that engagement of national dairy associations and company experts in EDA Working Groups and Committees is a fundament of our successful activities. Participants welcomed the exchange with EDA as helpful in understanding the important role of European trade associations in the EU policy making. Thank you, **Mathieu Fourcade** and **Clément Benoist**, for organising the event!



Lactalis European Regulatory Network at the EDA offices in Brussels on 1 October 2025

Commission finds Romania's Nutri-Score proposal incompatible with EU rules

The European Dairy Association welcomes the European Commission's detailed opinion on Romania's draft legislation to introduce the **Nutri-Score labelling system** at national level.

In its assessment, the Commission concluded that the proposed measure would duplicate existing EU nutrition labelling rules and lock in an outdated version of the Nutri-Score algorithm, potentially **undermining the integrity** of the **EU Single Market**.

EDA supports this evaluation, which aligns with our long-standing position that any front-of-pack nutrition labelling scheme should be harmonised, science-based, and developed at EU level to ensure consistency and fairness across the internal market.

Canada's raw-milk import restrictions



EDA has raised concerns with the European Commission over Canada's new import bans on raw milk and raw-milk cheeses from EU Member States affected by lumpy skin disease (LSD).

While EDA supports science-based animal health measures, these restrictions appear disproportionate and not aligned with international or CETA principles. EDA calls for a risk-based reassessment to restore science-driven and proportionate trade conditions.

EDA calls for a risk-based reassessment of these measures to ensure that EU-Canada trade continues to be governed by science, proportionality, and mutual trust under CETA.

Exchange on dairy markets in China

The Chinese anti-subsidy procedure on European cheese and cream has been prolonged until February 2026. After the on-site verification visits of Chinese MOFCOM officials in different Member States, the Chinese authorities are now assessing the situation in light of the arguments put forward by the European Union and the three sampled dairies.

EDA is fully committed to this process and is working closely with the concerned companies and the competent EU Commission services.

Together with **Ran Qin** from the EU Chamber of Commerce in China and **Linda Wang**, the Chair of the Chamber's dairy group, we aligned during a meeting in Brussels and exchanged on the Chinese dairy markets.



EDA's Alexander Anton with Linda Wang and Ran Qin

Maria Libertini

Head of European Public Affairs, Assolatte



COP30: highlighting innovative livestock solutions for climate mitigation

EDA, in collaboration with the **International Dairy Federation (IDF)**, **Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC)** and the **International Meat Secretariat (IMS)**, will host an official side-event at **COP30**, the United Nations Climate Conference scheduled for November 2025 in Brazil. The session, taking place on **Tuesday 18th November**, will focus on innovative approaches that strengthen the environmental sustainability of livestock farming, with particular attention to how stronger animal health systems can support climate change mitigation. The event will also serve as a forum to exchange knowledge and showcase practical examples from around the world. By taking part in this event, the dairy sector underlines its determination to keep increasing its ambition on sustainability in livestock production in Europe and globally, and to actively contribute to the achievement of the international climate objectives, as set out in the [EDA Sustainability Strategy](#).

Arrivederci Maria

After almost 10 years in the European lactosphere, **Maria Libertini**, an active member of our EDA Special Committee, Trade and Economics Committee (TEC) and Food, Environment & Health Committee (FEPC), will be leaving the Italian association Assolatte to pursue a new career within the European institutions.

Maria's professionalism, energy, and commitment have been invaluable throughout her many years of collaboration with EDA. Her engagement and contributions have greatly supported our work, and she will be missed both as a colleague and as a friend.

We take this opportunity to thank Maria sincerely for her dedication and to wish her every success and happiness in her new role and future endeavours. *Arrivederci et grazie tanto* Maria, we will stay in touch!