

EDA highlights dairy sector as a pillar of nutrition, sustainability and rural economies at the AGRI Committee hearing



EDA's Kinga Adamaszwili at the European Parliament, ©European Parliament

On 12 January EDA's Deputy Secretary General Kinga Adamaszwili addressed the **AGRI Committee** MEPs at the hearing on the EU livestock sector at the EU Parliament. She highlighted that the European dairy sector is a pillar of nutrition, sustainability and rural economies — and a global leader in safe, high-quality food. But recent animal disease outbreaks, growing trade uncertainties, and geopolitical shifts remind us how vulnerable the sector can be. The upcoming **EU Livestock Strategy** is a key opportunity to send a strong political signal of support — recognising the nutritional and economic value of dairy, strengthening competitiveness, ensuring strong animal health systems, and securing access to global markets.

The dairy sector stands ready to work with policymakers to remain resilient, sustainable and ready for future generations.

The EU-Mercosur Agreement: time to seal the deal

EDA welcomes the signature of the **EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement** by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on 17 January 2026, following more than 25 years of negotiations and the strong backing expressed by EU Member States.



The agreement represents a major opportunity to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and global standing. The European Commission estimates it could increase EU exports by nearly **40%**, **boost GDP by €77,6 billion**, and significantly expand agri-food trade.

For the European dairy sector, the agreement delivers concrete market access opportunities through the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, robust protection for more than **350 European food products**, and meaningful tariff-rate quotas for key products. These include a **30.000-tonne cheese TRQ**, which is around ten times current export volumes, as well as dedicated TRQs for milk powder and infant formula, supporting value-added European dairy exports.

With the Commission's signature and Member State support secured, the European Parliament now plays a decisive role in advancing this long-awaited partnership. At a time of geopolitical uncertainty and intensified global competition, supporting the EU-Mercosur Agreement will help diversify export markets, strengthen economic resilience, and reinforce the EU's role as a global standard-setter.

EDA is therefore disappointed with the outcome of this week's vote in the European Parliament, but nevertheless looks forward to its swift provisional implementation. We remain optimistic that the European Parliament will reconsider its position.

Celebrate 100 Years of the Roquefort PDO

On Tuesday, 3 February, the **Confédération Générale de Roquefort** will hold an event under the patronage of MEP **Céline Imart**, (EPP, FR), at the European Parliament in Brussels.



This event will mark **100 years** since the first appellation of origin was recognised in France, a founding symbol of European quality policy and a clear illustration of the close link between territories, agricultural know-how, and the European project. It will provide an opportunity to discuss the strategic role of geographical indications in terms of competitiveness, sustainability, and the future of European agriculture.

Register here via this [online form](#).

What's your favourite dairy product?

*My favourite dairy product is **Roquefort**. Its strong character is even more enjoyable when eaten with **butter, a baguette, and accompanied***



Pierre Bascou
Deputy Director General
DG AGRI

EU Livestock Strategy: European Board for Agriculture and Food discussion

The European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food **Christophe Hansen** established, just a year ago, the European **Board for Agriculture and Food** (EBAF) an expert with the mission to provide high-level advice to the EU Commission on the implementation of his 'Vision for Agriculture and Food'.

In this weeks' meeting, the EU Commission had invited EDA and other livestock sector representatives to join the EBAF for a discussion on the **EU Livestock Strategy** (to be published by Q3 2026) and the role of the CAP for the EU animal agriculture.

In the meeting, chaired by Commissioner Christophe Hansen, EDA's Alexander Anton highlighted the importance and specificities of the European lactosphere, that calls for a dedicated **EU Dairy Strategy**. He highlighted that the basis of a strategy must be the 'strategic' objective – not least in terms of livestock production volumes:

"Furthermore, we asked to maintain the market orientation of the CAP and to assure that the 'policy window agriculture' of the EU Competitiveness Fund is used for financing innovation and technology at farm level. Automation and digitalisation is for sure key to attract the new generation of dairy farmers to our sector".



MIV Grüne Woche Milk-Summit 2026



MIV President
Detlef Latka

At the opening of the annual MIV (Milchindustrie Verband) dairy events at Grüne Woche in Berlin, MIV President **Detlef Latka** (CEO, Hochwald Foods) summarised the market outlook workshop of the German member

federation, Milchindustrie-Verband: *"After a year like 2025, which was one of the best for our milk suppliers, we have seen a much smaller-than-expected decrease in milk production since autumn 2025. Today's milk prices reflect this market reality, and we view 2026 with a certain level of skepticism."*



German Secretary of State Silvia Breher with MIV President Detlef Latka and MIV CEO Dr Björn Börgermann

Karsten Schmal, the President of the German Dairy Farmer Organisation, underlined the more than difficult situation for milk farmers today: *"But markets work—that's what we saw in 2025, when prices rose due to lower milk volumes during the first six months, and that's what we see now happening. At least some indicators are showing the first signs of a turnaround."*



EDA Vice President Ingo Müller and Prof Dr Holger D. Thiele with EDA's Alexander Anton

EDA Dairy Focus on the Cyprus EU Presidency

EDA has published its focus on the Cypriot dairy sector and the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union. For the next six months, agri-food policy in Europe will be overseen by the Cypriot Minister for Agriculture, Rural, Development and Environment Dr **Maria Panayiotou**, who have outlined the policy priorities of the Cypriot Presidency for our Focus.

The agri-food sector is of significant importance to Cyprus exports, with the dairy sector playing a central role, particularly through traditional products with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status, such as **halloumi**. Over recent decades, the Cypriot dairy sector has continued to develop, seen a large increase in exports while balancing tradition with innovation.

Our discussions with the Cypriot Presidency have clearly demonstrated that agriculture and dairy are high on their agenda. Together with our Cypriot EDA members, we look forward to fruitful cooperation.

[Read it here.](#)



Michalis Petrou, Vice President Cyprus Dairy Association presenting the EDA Focus on our CY EU Presidency to EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen in São Paulo, October 2025

Save the date

Dairy Policy Conference
Brussels March 25 2026



New decorations at the EDA offices

A new year brings change, and at EDA we've introduced new decorations in our offices. These playful portraits from France celebrate our European culinary heritage — *grand merci to our French Members for their support!*



Source: © Exposition Les Filles à Fromages, Milk Factory

Promotion of Agricultural Products: Info Days 2026

Agri-food sector representatives are invited to join the Info Days on 27 and 28 January in Brussels and online. The European Commission will provide information about the Promotion of Agricultural Products policy and the calls for proposals which will be launched in January 2026. Participants will also hear from current beneficiaries and expert evaluators.

The two-days event, organised by the **European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development** (DG AGRI) and the **European Research Executive Agency** (REA).

Consult the [event programme](#) for more details.

New CEO of Dairy Farmers of Canada

Annie AcMoody has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the **Dairy Farmers of Canada**, effective February 9, 2026.

Annie has worked with Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) for over five years, serving in progressively senior roles and making significant contributions to policy, economics, trade, and sustainability initiatives, the organization said in a release.

What's your favourite dairy product?

I always start my day with a café latté. After all, espresso is a great vehicle for drinking lots of milk!

Annie AcMoody
Chief Executive Officer,
the Dairy Farmers of Canada

