



Dairy Flash

2 / 2026
5 February

Connect to the world of dairy

Save the date!

eda Dairy Policy Conference 2026

Wednesday 25 March *Competitive, Resilient & Sustainable
our European Dairy Strategy*

Conference: 14:30
Cheese buffet: 17:45

Ace Events, 22 Avenue d'Auderghem
B-1040 Brussels



EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2026: Competitive, Resilient & Sustainable

our European Dairy Strategy

We are delighted to invite you to our **Dairy Policy Conference**, held under the theme "**Competitive, Resilient & Sustainable our European Dairy Strategy**." Stay tuned—full programme and registration link coming soon.

The conference will demonstrate how an **EU Dairy Strategy** can deliver a competitive, resilient, and sustainable dairy sector, while addressing the key policy and trade challenges facing the industry.

The programme:

Agri-Policy Session: high-level EU representatives, including the **European Commission**, the incoming **Irish EU Presidency**, and a **Member of the European Parliament**, will discuss current and future policy priorities for the dairy sector

Agri-Trade Session: Featuring contributions from **Denis Redonnet**, Deputy Director-General of DG TRADE, alongside **agricultural attaché/e/s** from third-country embassies, focusing on global trade developments and market access.

The Conference will conclude with our famous **cheese buffet**, showcasing the best of European culinary heritage.



Denis Redonnet
Deputy Director-General
DG TRADE

Eco-Social Forum Austria: animal agriculture seminar

The "**Ökosoziales Forum Österreich & Europa**" highlighted last week the importance of animal agriculture and pastureland in Austria and Europe with its annual "**Fachtagung Grünland & Viehwirtschaft**" in Steiermark.

The President of the Austrian farmer organisation **Bauernbund**, MP **Georg Strasser** made an impressive opening speech focussing on the vital role of our Single Market and trade for the Austrian agri-food sector: "*Our Single Market is essential for Austria's agriculture and must be strengthened*".

"*We have adapted the strategy for our Union to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050, but the objective remains absolutely valid*", underlined MEP **Alexander Bernhuber** (EPP, AT) in his speech at the conference, where EDA's Alexander Anton analysed the milk market developments.



MEP Alexander Bernhuber (EPP, AT) with EDA's Alexander Anton

U.S. Deputy Commissioner for human foods Kyle Diamantas in Brussels



U.S. Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods Kyle Diamantas with EDA's Alexander Anton in Brussels

Brussels, Berlin and Parma were on the European travel schedule of U.S. Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods **Kyle Diamantas** and his USFDA team.

During the meeting, Kyle Diamantas highlighted the new U.S. dietary guidelines and the U.S. policies on ultra-processed foods (UPFs) and standards of identity (protection of dairy terms):

"It is about choice – but we want to underline the importance of whole food, macro- and micronutrient density and proteins. And our policy approach is pragmatic. We do exchange a lot with our U.S. food and dairy industry."

Hope for EU–Mercosur: EDA supports swift ratification

EDA would welcome closer involvement of the European Parliament in the possible provisional application of the **EU–Mercosur Partnership Agreement** by the European Commission. EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food **Christophe Hansen** and Trade Committee Chair **Bernd Lange** have confirmed that discussions are ongoing on how to ensure the Parliament's involvement, a move we can only applaud.

Origin labelling: EDA's position acknowledged in AGRIFISH Council

On 26 January, Member States once again discussed the topic of origin labelling at the AGRIFISH Council. The debate was initiated by France, which called for **an extension of mandatory origin-labelling requirements** to additional products and for greater harmonisation across the EU.

In his response, **Olivér Várhelyi**, the EU Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, in charge for the dossier – acknowledged the importance of consumer trust, but also emphasised that the system must remain simple and workable, avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, and safeguard the smooth functioning of the single market. Referring **specifically to milk and dairy products**, the EU Commissioner warned that national mandatory origin-labelling schemes could fragment the internal market and create additional complexity and costs for operators.

"We fully back the approach of EU Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi which respects the specificities of dairy – one of which is the fractionation of the fat and protein components. My sense is that such a nuanced approach is gaining momentum in countries that are outspoken in favour of extended origin-labelling schemes", commented EDA's Alexander Anton.

European dairy remains committed to ensuring consumer trust and transparency, including on origin labelling. For many years, our [EDA Guidelines on Voluntary Origin Labelling](#) have supported members in responding to consumer expectations. We continue to stress **the importance of keeping origin labelling a voluntary tool**, in order to avoid disruptions to the single market and to safeguard the economic viability of the dairy sector.

Roquefort – the *Roi des Fromages* celebrates 100 years at the European Parliament



Hosted by MEP **Céline Imart** (EPP, FR), the President of the Roquefort Confederation, **Jérôme Faramond** and his Director General, **Antoine Renauld**, organised, with the support of **Insight Consulting**, a high-level conference in the European Parliament to celebrate the 100 years of the Roquefort GI protection.

MEP **Esther Herranz García** (EPP, ES) - Co-Chair of the EU Parliament Intergroup on wine, quality products and spirits - underlined the importance of GIs for territories across the EU and called for better GI protection and promotion.

Director **Diego Canga Fano** (DG AGRI) highlighted in his inspiring speech the increased EU promotion budget with a specific line for GI products and the full support of the European Commission for the more than 3.700 EU GIs (of which 251 cheeses): *"The European GI logo means that your product is playing in the Champions League"*.



DG AGRI Director Diego Canga Fano, MEP Céline Imart, President Jérôme Faramond with Anne-Julia Goutte (Director General, Lactalis AOP & Terroirs)

"Europe is the continent of cheeses" was also echoed by Dottore **Riccardo Pastore**, the Pecorino Romano PDO President and by **Mario Román Esteban**, the Manchego PDO President.

In her speech, **Antonella Rossetti**, member of the cabinet of our agri-food Commissioner **Christophe Hansen**, underlined the unrivalled value of the European Quality Policy for European cheese and food excellence: *"GIs are the ambassadors of our culinary treasures, our regional traditions and are of great economic value for rural Europe."*



Christelle and Cyrille Lohro presented the 'roi des fromages' of all seven Roquefort producers (pictured: Roquefort Caves Barognaudes)



Riccardo Pastore, Pecorino Romano PDO President

EDA at expert dialogue on Ukraine's CAP-readiness

Represented by Laurens van Delft, Director of Trade and Economics, EDA took part in the Expert Policy Dialogue on **"Roadmap for Ukraine's Transformative Adaptation: CAP-Readiness Delivery Architecture"**, held on 4 February 2026 in Brussels.

The event brought together representatives from the EU Commission, NGOs, academia, business to assess practical pathways for Ukraine's alignment with EU agricultural policies.

Moderated by Dr **Olga Trofimtseva** (Ukraine Facility Platform) and **Sachin D. Shah** (The University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs), the discussions benefited from a strong exchange between policy experts and sector stakeholders.



EDA's Laurens van Delft with Dr Olga Trofimtseva, Ukraine Facility Platform

EDA at event on Water Resilience at the EU Parliament

Last week, EDA attended a Food Drink Europe event at the European Parliament, sponsored by MEPs **Michal Wiezik** (Renew, SK) and **Thomas Bajada** (S&D, MT).

The event focused on three pillars: optimising industrial processes and water efficiency, ensuring water sustainability across the supply chain and fostering climate resilience in landscapes beyond facilities.

As a major water user, the dairy sector actively improves water management, showcasing practical initiatives and best practices and is closely following the upcoming **EU Water Resilience Strategy** and continues to enhance water efficiency through sanitation and reuse strategies.

What's your favourite dairy product?



"I enjoy especially sheep yoghurt, for its texture and rich flavour. Creamy sheep yogurt is a luxurious delight from breakfast to dessert or as a healthy snack"

Elisabeth Werner

Director General, DG AGRI

eda stands with Ukraine.

New EDA Factsheet on The Complementary Role of Dairy and Plant Foods in Sustainable Diets

Our new **EDA factsheet** highlights how dairy and plant foods can work together to deliver diets that are nutrient adequate, environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and culturally acceptable. Drawing on nutrient trade-offs, environmental modelling and market trends, the factsheet shows that while fully plant-based diets may be climate-conscious, they fall short in **key nutrients** such as **vitamin B12**, **calcium** and **iodine**, underscoring the key role that **nutrient-rich dairy products** play in healthy, sustainable diets.

[Read it here.](#)

12th Annual International Whey Conference: Register and call for abstracts

The **American Dairy Products Institute** and the **European Whey Processors Association** invite you to the 2026 **International Whey Conference: The Whey Ahead**.

Scheduled for **September 20-23**, 2026 in downtown **Chicago**, the conference will focus on a future that maximizes whey and its coproducts. Conference attendees from the world's top dairy researchers and processors, leading health and nutrition specialists, and food and beverage marketers will take away new insights that will allow them to navigate The Whey Ahead.

[Register here for early bird price.](#)

The Scientific Committee of the Conference is initiating a call for abstracts for oral presentation OR poster presentation. Abstracts will be accepted starting **February 1** until **March 13**, 2026.

[Please visit the website and download the form for more information.](#)

A huge thank you, dear Tomaž/ najlepša hvala, dragi Tomaž/ vielen Dank, lieber Tomaž

With his new role as CEO of Lactalis Germany, our long-standing EDA Board representative for Slovenia and former CEO of **Ljubljanske Mlekarne**, **Tomaž Žnidarič** has left the EDA Board.

In the name of our EDA President and on behalf of the European dairy sector: congratulations on your new step in your lactospheric career and a huge thank you, dear Tomaž/najlepša hvala, dragi Tomaž for your great commitment and energy in driving the European dairy sector!



Tomaž Žnidarič with EDA's Alexander Anton at Lactalis Germany HQ in Grasbrunn, Bavaria

What's your favourite dairy product?



"Fruit yoghurt from regional farmers"

Alexander Bernhuber

MEP (EPP, AT)