



Dairy Flash

3 / 2026
26 February

Connect to the world of dairy

EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2026: Competitive, Resilient & Sustainable our European Dairy Strategy

EDA is delighted to invite you to our **Dairy Policy Conference 2026**, held on **Wednesday 25 March** under the theme "**Competitive, Resilient & Sustainable —our European Dairy Strategy**".

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



Programme

14:30 Registration

15:00 Welcome & Opening by EDA President **Albert de Groot**

15:10 Paradigm shift for European Agriculture & Dairy?

Chair: **George Morrison**, Director of Global Public Affairs, Arlafoods

"The new EU framework for agriculture & dairy"

Elisabeth Werner, Director General DG AGRI (tbc)

"The Irish Presidency focus & priorities"

Damien Flynn, member of the Special Committee on Agriculture, incoming Irish EU Presidency

"Getting the new policy directions on the ground"

MEP **Asger Christensen** (Renew, DK)

16:00 Coffee break with Luxlait yogurt

16:30 Global trade – what else to expect in 2026?

Chair: **Lise Andreasen Høyer**, Chief Consultant, Danish Dairy Board, Brussels

Set the scene: **Denis Redonnet** DDG DG TRADE

Angela Esquivel, Asia Corporate Affairs Director, Frieslandcampina

Songkhla Chulakasian, Minister Counsellor (Agriculture), Royal Thai Embassy to the EU

Winarti Halim, Attachée Agricole, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to the EU

17:45 Conclusion by EDA President **Albert de Groot**

18:00 EDA/ASSIFONTE Annual Cheese Buffet

#FutureDairy

[Register here](#)

Before Friday 13 March

Address: ACE Events Conference Centre, 22 Avenue d'Auderghem, 1040, Brussels

Crisis Management in agriculture

The Secretary General of **CEFS** (European sugar industry association), **Marie-Christine Ribera** invited EDA to a public round table discussion to explore how different agri-food sectors deal with 'market crisis' and in what way the existing and potential new CAP tools can address market disturbances.

"What we as dairy sector are missing most in today's CMO discussion is a clear commitment to the market orientation and to the subsidiarity principle to allow for well-established national solutions when it comes for instance to the contractualisation. As a new CAP instrument, a robust support for the dairy sector in terms of futures markets and hedging must be added", pleaded EDA's Alexander Anton.



CEFS President Giovanni Tamburini (Italia Zuccheri) with EDA's Alexander Anton

"It is impressive to walk through the broad range of similarities of the sugar and the dairy sector – in terms of CAP market management instruments, the dairy sector has already today a more comprehensive toolbox at hand, with a track record of implementation", concluded CEFS President **Giovanni Tamburini**.



Tuesday, 24 February, marked the fourth year since the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine and 12 years since the invasion of Crimea and the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk.

As the rest of the country, the Ukrainian dairy sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience. Ukrainian dairies have operated under extreme conditions. Thanks to their incredible efforts, dairy shelves remain stocked, demonstrating a functioning production chain and showcasing dairy resilience.

EDA supports the integration of the Ukraine dairy sector into the EU Single Market and we are part of the **EU Integration Committee of the UA dairy sector**. With the current population of around 40 million people, a milk production of around 7 million tons and with modern industrial equipment, the Ukrainian dairy sector fits well within our European *lactosphère*.

Ukraine's flexibility, rapid crisis management, and continued multinational investment into its dairy send a powerful signal of confidence. For EDA, Ukrainian dairy integration strengthens European food security, resilience, and solidarity in the face of war.

"A speedy accession of Ukraine to the EU would be the fruit of successful peace negotiations, hence the earlier, the better!", comments Alexander Anton on the December 2025 U.S. peace plan, that proposes an EU accession of Ukraine as early as 2027.

What's your favourite dairy product?

*"My all-time favorite dairy product is the Danish "Vesterhavs" cheese. Its consistency is like many continental kinds of cheese such as **Gruyère** and **Parmesan**. However, it is produced locally in Denmark by the windy coast of Jutland, not far from my farm. It is essentially a taste of home."*



Asger Christensen
MEP (Renew, DK)

MIV Milk Summit 2026 in Brussels



Friederike Staat, attachée agricole and Deputy Head of the NRW-Representation in Brussels with – from left to right – MEP Norbert Lins (EPP, DE), MIV President Detlef Latka, Dr Wolfgang Löhe (German Federal Ministry of Agriculture) and Fabien Santini (DG AGRI)

The North Rhine-Westphalia Agricultural Minister, Ms **Silke Gorißen**, and MIV President **Detlef Latka** (CEO, Hochwald) welcomed the MIV Board and many Brussels agricultural experts for the 2026 edition of the **MIV Milk Summit** in Brussels this week.

Under the overall theme '(Over)Regulation in the milk market?!', a high-level panel discussed the modifications of the **Single Common Market Organisation** (sCMO) – also known as article 148/168), the revision of the **UTP Directive** (unfair trading practices) and other dairy relevant topics on today's Brussels agenda.

MEP **Norbert Lins** (EPP, DE): *"We acknowledge that the EU Commission has made quite some efforts over the past 18 months to cut red tape, but we must speed up this process – and I hope that the discussions on the revision of the sCMO will go in the right direction."*

From the EU Commission, **Fabien Santini** (DG AGRI) echoed the simplification process via the so-called Omnibus proposals and underlined the role of the EU Commission in this procedural stage of the sCMO discussion, which is to facilitate the negotiations between the co-legislators, the EU Parliament and the Council.

On-Farm Sustainability Compass: EDA brings dairy experience to the EU debate

Last week, EDA steered the discussions on sustainability benchmarking in agriculture during the **Livestock Workstream meeting** organised by **DG AGRI**, contributing to the EU Commission's reflection on how to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of Europe's livestock sector. EDA delivered a dedicated presentation on the dairy sector's experience in sustainability measurement, feeding into the development of the proposed "On-Farm Sustainability Compass", a voluntary framework to assess environmental performance at farm level.



EDA's Alberto Babolin

EDA's Alberto Babolin emphasised the importance of a holistic, science-based approach, as reflected in the **Dairy PEFCR methodology**, which measures environmental impacts of dairy products across a wide range of indicators and along the value chain. The methodology has been developed by EDA and approved by the EU Commission and Member States as the reference method for environmental assessment in dairy.

EDA also highlighted the need for policy coherence across environmental and climate initiatives in Europe and for practical tools that enable reliable data collection while avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens for operators.

Chinese import tariffs –“it’s not a technical dossier”

With the publication on 12 February of the MOFCOM Announcement No. 9/2026, the Chinese authorities have confirmed the maintenance of the additional import tariffs (“countervailing duties”) previously published at the end of January 2026.

Following constructive engagement with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), the initial tariff level of 42.7% was reduced to 11.7%. While this significant reduction reflects the strength and substance of the arguments presented by the competent EU Commission services, the three sampled companies and the European Dairy Association (EDA), we regret that the further technical assessment and calculation-based arguments shared in recent weeks were not taken into account in the final determination.

The general additional tariff of 11,7%, as well as the individual company-specific tariffs ranging between 7,4% and 11,7%, remain unchanged. These measures entered into force on 13 February 2026 and will remain in place for a period of five years.

The “countervailing duties” are applied on top of the existing “normal” import tariffs, which are about 8% on cream and 15% on cheese.

The European Union currently exports approximately 30.000 tonnes of cheese and 100.000 tonnes of cream annually to China. These exports already operate in a highly competitive market environment, particularly as other exporting countries benefit from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with China. The additional tariffs will therefore significantly curb European dairy exports to the Chinese market.

This development once again underlines the importance of the European Commission’s efforts to conclude comprehensive Free Trade Agreements that ensure stable and predictable trade relationships for European exporters.

Supreme court ruling on U.S. tariffs

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that former President Donald Trump’s emergency tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) were unlawful, and U.S. Customs is no longer collecting those duties.

In response, Trump announced new temporary tariffs under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, took effect on 24 February and potentially requiring Congressional approval to remain in place. Regular U.S. tariff schedules and existing trade agreements remain unchanged.

For EU dairy exports into the U.S., this is extremely concerning. For many cheeses, the MFN rate is already as high as 15% (for example, Gouda or Italian-type cheeses). Under the new structure, the tariff on Gouda would rise from 15% to 25%, and Italian-type cheeses would face the same increase.

Dairy in Georgia – next steps



Sante CEO Christian Hubert with EDA’s Alexander Anton in Tbilisi, 20 February 2026

Christian Hubert, CEO of Sante, the leading dairy company in Georgia and within DairyGeorgia,

highlighted in our last week’s meeting, the progress made over the past years in securing and expanding the Georgian milk pool: “It is through our long-term commitment, that we were able

to increase our raw milk supply from Georgia. And we will continue this strategy, that benefits the full dairy chain in Georgia.”

