



Dairy Flash

4 / 2026
12 March

Connect to the world of dairy

EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2026 on 25 March:

Competitive, Resilient & Sustainable

- our European Dairy Strategy

[Register here](#)

Before Friday 13 March

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

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.

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"

Pierre Bascou, Deputy Director General DG AGRI



"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, DDB Brussels

Set the scene: Catherine Combette, Head of Unit, DG AGRI



Maria Angela N. 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

EDA: sCMO trilogue agreement preserves market orientation and subsidiarity

EDA welcomes the political agreement reached on 5 March in the trilogue negotiations on articles 148/168 of the targeted revision of the **Single Common Market Organisation (Regulation 1308/2013)**. Throughout the negotiations, EDA has emphasised the importance of safeguarding market orientation, contractual freedom and subsidiarity in the dairy sector. It's our understanding that the final compromise safeguards these core principles. In particular, the opt-out possibility for Member States regarding specific contractual clauses ensures that the diversity of dairy market structures across the Union is respected. The derogation for cooperatives is another commonsense compromise.

EDA recognises the role of shadow rapporteurs **Barry Cowen** (Renew, IE) and **Bert-Jan Ruissen** (ECR, NL) and MEPs **Norbert Lins** (EPP, DE) and **Stefan Köhler** (EPP, DE), in shaping this compromise in an extremely politicized dossier.

Alexander Anton, secretary general of EDA:

"While the European Commission's intention to react swiftly to the farmers' protests of early 2025 was understandable, the resulting legislative process proved rather sub-optimal - with no prior impact assessment and a parliamentary drafting phase that relied on a rather selective range of external stakeholders, which created avoidable tensions within the agri-food sector. This dossier is therefore not a highlight of EU governance.

Despite these shortcomings in the process, the final trilogue outcome preserves the essential minimum standards of market orientation and subsidiarity requested by the whole dairy sector, the processing industry and the vast majority of dairy farmers.

The dairy sector has always operated on the basis of written contracts - whether through private agreements or cooperative statutes. The key issue was preserving flexibility to reflect different national models that have proven to work."

EDA remains committed to constructive engagement with EU institutions to ensure that future agricultural legislation is evidence-based, proportionate and fully aligned with the realities of the dairy value chain.

Italian quality excellence and the international trade environment



Lactalis Italia CEO Giovanni Pomella with EDA's Alexander Anton

*"With Lactalis Italia CEO **Giovanni Pomella**, we discussed today's issues in the international trade arena and the milk market situation in Italy and Europe. 5.300 employees run the 30 Lactalis processing sites in Italy, producing, inter alia, a total of eight GI cheeses. So, of course, we also touched on the added value of the EU Quality Policy and the EU Promotion Policy for the Italian and the European dairy sector", summed up EDA's Alexander Anton.*

Chinese tariffs – potential next steps by the EU Commission

On 13 February 2026, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) issued its final decision in the anti-subsidy investigation into European dairy products, imposing an additional tariff of 11.7% on imports of European cheese and cream for the next five years.

The European Commission services are now assessing the possible next steps in this dossier following the conclusion of the Chinese investigation.

"Over the past 18 months, the European Commission services, the sampled companies and EDA have invested significant time and effort in this process. Together, we succeeded in reducing the proposed additional tariffs from 42.7% to 11.7%," said Laurens van Delft, EDA's Director of Trade & Economics.

"The Commission will now take the necessary time - likely several months - to evaluate the next step, which could include pursuing the case further at the WTO. After all, the Common Agricultural Policy is effectively under attack in this case."

On-Farm Sustainability Compass: EDA brings dairy expertise to technical discussions

Last week, EDA participated in the technical workshop organised by the European Commission's DG AGRI on the **On-Farm Sustainability Compass**, the initiative announced in the Vision for Agriculture and Food to strengthen sustainability benchmarking in agriculture. The workshop brought together stakeholders to discuss on a voluntary framework for sustainability measurement at farm level.

The discussion built on earlier exchanges at the Live-stock Workstream, where EDA presented the dairy sector's approach to sustainability benchmarking and highlighted the role of the [Dairy Product Environmental Footprint \(PEF\)](#) as a harmonised methodology for environmental assessment in the dairy sector.

"Ukrainian agriculture in the EU: the view from Kyiv"



UCAB Director Nazar Bobitski with EDA's Alexander Anton

Under this title, the Director of the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB), **Nazar Bobitski**, invited key players from Ukraine and Europe to discuss the EU integration process of Ukraine and its agri-food sector with a focus on the integration into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) framework.

UA Deputy Minister of Economy, **Denys Bashlyk** and MEP **Pekka Toveri** (EPP, FI) welcomed the efforts of the UA agri-food sector, to prepare for EU accession: *"The question today is less if Ukraine is EU-ready, the question is more whether the EU is Ukraine-ready!"*

What's your favourite dairy product?

Greek yogurt is my favourite dairy product because it's thick, creamy, and very versatile. Its higher protein content makes it more filling than regular yogurt, and I love its slightly tangy taste, which works well both in sweet combinations and in savoury recipes.

Shaïsta Kassamaly

EDA FEP Trainee

Welcome Shaïsta!