



Advancing agrifood sustainability, resilience and investment: FAO co-hosts private sector dialogue with EDA



FAO's Raschad Al-Khafaji and EDA's Alexander Anton

On 22 April, EDA successfully co-hosted with the FAO a high-level private sector dialogue in Brussels, gathering around 50 representatives from EU institutions, agrifood industries and international organisations.

Key FAO representatives, Dr **Lauren M. Phillips** (Director, FAO) **Raschad Al-Khafaji** (Director, FAO Brussels Office), **Raimund Jehle** and **Darya Alekseeva** (FAO Regional Office) organised this consultation, offering a new setup for structured and impact-driven agrifood collaboration.

Discussions focused on three main thematic areas aligned with the upcoming **FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC35)** agenda: integrating climate action, biodiversity and land restoration for sustainable agrifood systems; building resilience of agrifood systems; and financing agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia.



Raimund Jehle, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Speakers included **Ricard Ramon** and **Leonard Mizzi** from the EU Commission as well as World Farmers' President **Arnold Puech d'Alissac**. Industry perspectives were provided by **Hanae Idrissi Ouedrhiri** (Danone) and by **Bongki Engel** (Arla Foods).



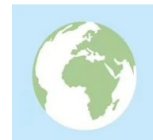
Arnold Puech d'Alissac (EU Economic and Social Committee)

The participation of **Myrle Claessens** (Belgian Ministry of Economics) and **Daphna Tish-Feigenboim** (agricultural attachée at the Israeli Embassy), showed the broad interest in the consultation beyond the private sector.



Ricard Ramon and Leonard Mizzi from the EU Commission

Find more information regarding this meeting in our press release [here](#).



EWPA at ADPI Annual Conference 2026 in Chicago



EWPA's Alexander Anton and ADPI CEO & President Patti Smith



Secretary general Alexander Anton and Deputy Secretary General Laurens van Delft represented the European Whey Processors Association at the **2026 Annual Conference** of the **American Dairy Products Institute** (ADPI) in Chicago, joining key stakeholders from across the global dairy ingredients sector.

The conference offered a comprehensive overview of current market developments and future trends, with discussions focusing on market outlook, value-added dairy ingredients, and the readiness of the dairy ingredients sector for the future. These exchanges highlighted the evolving dynamics of dairy ingredient markets and the strong interconnection between the EU and U.S. industries.

For EWPA, the event provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect with ADPI leadership and engage with members from both organisations. It was particularly encouraging to see the strong presence of EWPA members active on the U.S. market, underlining the global reach and competitiveness of European whey processors.

The Chicago discussions provided strong momentum ahead of **EWPA's Summer General Assembly in Gniew, Poland**, (19–21 May 2026), where members will continue to build on these exchanges and advance key priorities for the sector.

EU–Mercosur: provisional application opens new opportunities for dairy

EDA welcomes the provisional application of the **EU–Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement** as of 1 May 2026, marking a key milestone for EU agri-food exports and international dairy trade.

This first phase of implementation immediately improves market access for European producers, with tariff reductions and new tariff rate quotas creating tangible export opportunities from day one. For the EU dairy sector, this represents an important step in strengthening its presence in the Mercosur region, a market with a strong dairy tradition and growing demand for high-quality products.

Alexander Anton, EDA secretary general: *"The provisional application of the agreement is a concrete and positive signal for European dairy. It enhances our ability to compete globally while reinforcing partnerships with key markets in South America."*

Mercosur represents a market of more than **270 million consumers**, and the agreement includes a **30.000-tonne** cheese tariff rate quota for EU exports. The agreement also strengthens the protection of **European Geographical Indications**, further supporting the value and integrity of EU dairy products abroad.

At a time of increasing global trade uncertainty, the EU–Mercosur agreement demonstrates the importance of open, rules-based trade. For the European dairy sector, it contributes to diversification, resilience, and long-term competitiveness on global markets.





Ukraine is part of the EU's agricultural architecture

The discussions on the future of our European agricultural policy are in a strategic phase and the Ukrainian agricultural sector has the objective to be part of our agricultural architecture. At a high-level event of the "Ukrainian Agribusiness Club" (UCAB), **Taras Kachka**, Deputy Prime Minister for EU integration, delivered an inspiring speech diving into the synergies of European and Ukrainian agriculture.

"Ukraine not only adds volume, but balance and resilience to the common market and can make European agriculture more robust and more strategically grounded – we need to unlock the full potential of the EU – Ukraine agrifood integration", pleaded **Oleksandra Avramenko**, the head of the EU Integration Committee and advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister.



Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Taras Kachka with EDA's Alexander Anton

What's your favourite dairy product?

*"I love **cottage cheese**. Especially when it's combined with sour cream, fresh berries and a bit of jam - one of my favourite breakfasts!"*

Oleksandra Avramenko
Head of EU Integration Committee and advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister



EU discussions advance on livestock sector competitiveness, resilience and sustainability

Discussions on the competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability of Europe's livestock sector continue to move forward. Last week, EDA attended the fifth meeting of the **Livestock Workstream**, the series of consultations organised by the European Commission's DG AGRI to explore policy pathways for a future -proof livestock sector.

The meeting featured, among others, the intervention of Prof. Dr. **Wilhelm Windisch** from the Technical University of Munich (TUM), who underlined the essential role of livestock in sustainable and circular food systems, through their ability to transform non-edible biomass into high-quality food.



EDA plays an active role in shaping the discussions within the Livestock Workstream, contributing with its expertise and sharing experience on sustainable production practices. The European Commission is expected to publish its Communication establishing a long-term strategy for the EU livestock sector in July 2026.





EU-UK SPS agreement: EDA at the UK Mission to the EU



EDA's Fanny Courivaud at the UK Mission to the EU

EDA had the pleasure of being invited to the UK Mission to the EU to a roundtable discussion between EU stakeholders and **Emma Bourne**, Director General for EU Reset and Trade at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 27 April.

This event was an occasion for EDA to reiterate its support for the upcoming **EU-UK SPS agreement** which will facilitate trade between both sides of the Channel. This new framework should be built on the principle of dynamic alignment to prevent any mismatch between regulatory systems which would be counterproductive. We trust that the negotiations will be concluded by the summer.

Stakeholders had until 15 April to submit written comments. The next stage of the process is currently taking place in Washington.

The investigations are widely seen as part of a broader U.S. effort to prepare possible long-term trade measures ahead of the expiry of temporary Section 122 tariffs in July 2026. We support our U.S. partners, the Cheese Importers Association of America (CIAA) in this process.

TUTTOFOOD INTERNATIONAL FOOD EXHIBITION MILANO

11 | 14 MAY. 2026

Welcoming our new trainee: Anastasia Tsitsani

"Hello everyone! My name is **Anastasia Tsitsani** and I recently joined EDA as a trainee as part of my studies in Cross-Cultural Communication Management at KU Leuven. I'm excited to be part of the team and to learn more about the dairy sector in a European context. My favourite dairy product is **feta cheese**; it goes with almost everything and always reminds me of home."



US Section 301 Investigations: hearings begin in Washington

The **US Section 301 Investigations** launched by the Office of the United States Trade Representative in March 2026 continue to advance. The investigations target 16 trading partners, including the European Union, and cover alleged structural overcapacity across a range of manufacturing sectors, among them dairy.