



EDA Board meets EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen



EU Commissioner Christophe Hansen with EDA Vice-President Gilles Gérard, EWPA President Benno van Mersbergen and the members of the EDA Board at the Berlaymont building

A key moment for the European dairy sector: our EDA Board had the opportunity to exchange with EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food **Christophe Hansen** and his team on the priorities shaping the future of the European *lactosphere*.

Bringing together EDA Vice-President **Gilles Gérard** (CEO, Luxlait) and members of the EDA Board, the meeting offered an open and forward-looking platform to discuss the sector's competitiveness, resilience and role in Europe's agri-food future.

The exchange covered the current market situation, dairy trade, **Unfair Trading Practices (UTP)**, the **EU Livestock Strategy**, the **future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** and the wider competitiveness agenda for Europe's agri-food sector.

On the UTP Directive, the EU Commissioner was very clear: "Firstly, we see in all our discussions, especially in our 'implementation dialogues' and in our 'reality check' meetings, that the UTP Directive really matters. And secondly, we understand very well that there are remaining gaps in the current UTP Directive, that's why we are in the process of assessing potential improvements for this Directive."

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Bratislava | 14. - 16. October

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Livestock Strategy and Protein Action Plan: a strong vision for Europe's livestock sector

The European Commission has published its **Livestock Strategy**, together with the complementary **Protein Action Plan**, setting out a long-term vision for a competitive, resilient and sustainable European livestock sector. EDA welcomes both initiatives, particularly the recognition that many of the principles that have long guided the European dairy sector are now reflected in the Commission's vision, alongside the acknowledgement that Europe's diverse livestock sectors require tailored solutions rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

The complementary **Protein Action Plan** reinforces Europe's strategic autonomy by promoting locally produced plant proteins and recognising the role of roughage as a sustainable, locally grown feed source that supports resilient and circular dairy production. Together, the two initiatives recognise the important contribution of dairy to competitiveness, circularity, biodiversity, grassland management, animal welfare and climate action.

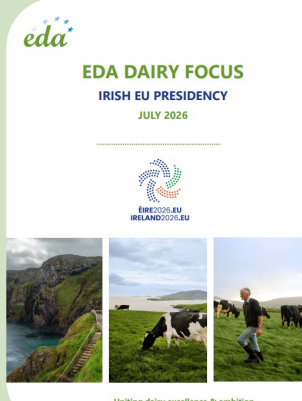
Read EDA's Press Releases on the [Livestock Strategy](#) and [Protein Action Plan](#)

EDA Dairy Focus on the Irish EU Presidency

We are proud to present our special Dairy Focus on the Irish Presidency of the EU, developed in collaboration with the Irish Agriculture Council and Dairy Industry Ireland.

Featuring contributions from **Martin Heydon**, Ireland's Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and **Conor Mulvihill**, Director of Dairy Industry Ireland, this Focus highlights key perspectives on Ireland's dairy sector.

[Read it here](#)



EDA joins the Annual Utrecht Group Meeting

EDA was invited to once again take part in the annual Utrecht Group meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Chaired and organised by the **Dutch Dairy Association (NZO)**, the Utrecht Group is a well-established and unique forum for exchanging perspectives on emerging nutrition science and policy in a trusted setting, where Chatham House rules and a limited number of high-level participants from around the world allow for open and frank discussion.

This year's programme focused on the science surrounding NOVA and ultra-processed foods (UPFs), the role and nature of dairy processing, and the potential implications of policies targeting UPFs. The exchange offered valuable insights into one of the most topical and widely debated issues currently shaping nutrition science and policy in many parts of the world.

EDA is grateful to Dr **Stephan Peters** (NZO), Utrecht Group Chair, for the invitation to participate in this valuable event, and congratulates **Wilma van den Bosch** (NZO) for yet another excellent organisation and smooth running of the meeting.



Dr Stephan Peters (NZO), Jan Geurts (Principal Scientist at Royal FrieslandCampina) with EDA's Marcella Rosato

Register now for the
EDA Annual Convention 2026
in Bratislava 

The European dairy community will gather at our **Annual Convention 2026 October 14–16**, in **Bratislava, Slovakia**, for three days of dialogue, exchange and inspiration.

Together with our partners, the **Slovak Dairy Association** (Slovenský mliekarenský zväz–SMZ) and **ASSIFONTE**, and under the auspices of the **Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic**, we are bringing together experts, business leaders, researchers, policymakers and stakeholders from across the European *lactosphere* and beyond.

We will open the Convention with our first session, "**Local Roots and Global Competitiveness**," exploring how European dairy can build on its rich regional heritage while strengthening its position in an increasingly competitive global dairy marketplace.

Already confirmed speakers include: **Richard Takáč**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic; EDA President **Albert de Groot**; SMZ President **Marián Šoltý**; **Flavio Coturni**, Head of Unit, DG TRADE; **Piercristiano Brazzale**, CEO of Brazzale S.p.A.; **Oisín Morrín**, CEO of Tippagral France; **Pietro Paganini** of Competere; Dr **Daniela Martini**, the University of Milan; **Miquela Hanselman**, of the National Milk Producers Federation; and **Martin Polovka** from the Slovak National Agriculture and Food Centre.

Our Annual Convention provides a unique opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the dairy value chain, share expertise, and discuss the key issues shaping the future of our sector.

Already confirmed speakers include:



Richard Takáč
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic



Albert de Groot
EDA President



Marián Šoltý
SMZ President



Flavio Coturni
Head of Unit, DG Trade



Piercristiano Brazzale
CEO, Brazzale S.p.A



Oisín Morrín
CEO, Tippagral France

Moderated by:



Rose O'Donovan
AGRA FACTS



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Podcast: Trade matters

EDA's Alexander Anton joined **Max Schulman** (MTK Finland) and **John Alistair Clarke** (Former Director, DG AGRI) on SME Europe's Trade Matters podcast to discuss the future of Europe's agri-food trade. The conversation explored the challenges and opportunities facing the agri-food sector over the coming decade, the importance of trade and market diversification for Europe, and the benefits of dairy trade.

[Listen here](#)



EDA strengthens international dairy dialogue

In the last weeks, EDA has continued its international exchanges with key dairy partners.

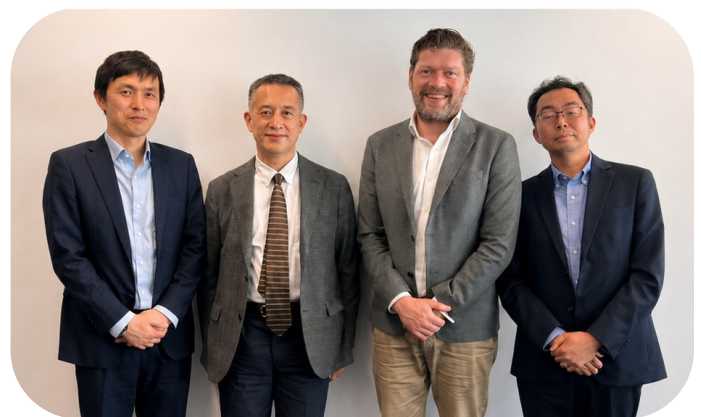
EDA Director Trade and Economics, Laurens van Delft, had the pleasure of meeting with a delegation from **ALIC, the Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation of Japan**, for an insightful discussion on the latest developments in the whey market, including growing global demand and the sector's efforts to keep pace.

EDA also exchanged with representatives of the **EU-Nigeria Agribusiness Platform** in the context of ongoing EU-Nigeria trade discussions. The meeting offered an opportunity to share perspectives on the dairy sector, trade-related developments, and the importance of open dialogue between public and private stakeholders.

Thank you to both delegations for the constructive exchanges and for strengthening dialogue across the global dairy and whey value chains.



EU-Nigeria Agribusiness Platform: Roland Oroh (Founder, Agribusiness Register Limited), Gbenga Ogundipe (Business Consultant) with EDA's Laurens van Delft



ALIC Delegation: Junichi Watanabe (Deputy Manager), Akio Tamai (Senior Adviser), Masahiro Maeda (Director, JETRO Brussels) with EDA's Laurens van Delft

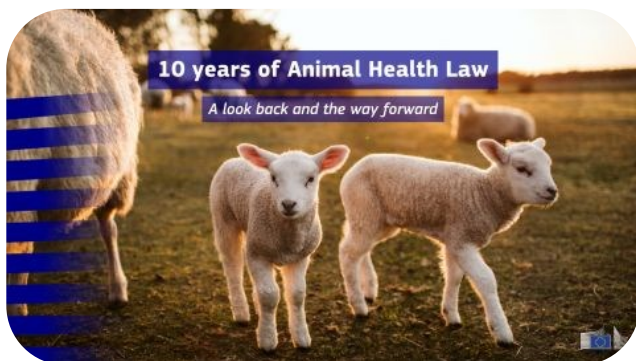


10 years of the Animal Health Law

The EU Commission organised a high-level conference celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the **Animal Health Law**. Adopted in 2016, this crucial piece of legislation established a framework for more efficient EU-wide mechanisms to protect animal health and safety.

For its 10th Anniversary, stakeholders and institutional representatives met on 8 July to reflect on the successes and lessons of the last 10 years. Among the speakers were European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare **Olivér Várhelyi**, Dr **June Fanning** (Chief Veterinary Officer, IE) representing the Irish Presidency of the Council, DG SANTE Deputy Director-General **Claire Bury**.

EDA was honoured to be a part of such an important event in a context where animal diseases threaten the health of our animals as well as our food supply. We will continue to engage with the Commission, Parliament and Council to ensure that Europe's dairy cows benefit from the best possible framework, helping them remain healthy and disease-free while supporting the production of nutritious dairy foods for consumers.



EDA welcomes the EU Parliament's endorsement of the EU – Mexico agreement

The European Parliament has endorsed this week the **EU-Mexico Modernised Global Agreement (MGA)** bringing the entry into force of the modernised trade framework one step closer. For the EU dairy sector, the agreement will unlock significant new opportunities by removing Mexican tariffs of up to **45% on cheeses** and dairy products and protecting **568 EU geographical indications** once the MGA is fully ratified.

To celebrate this milestone, EDA has released an updated edition of our **Dairy Focus: Dairy Trade and Mexico**. The publication provides an overview of the Mexican dairy market, current EU-Mexico dairy trade and the opportunities the modernised agreement will bring for European dairy exporters.

[Read it here](#)



New EDA factsheet: Health and nutritional benefits of dairy

We are pleased to share our latest factsheet, **Health and nutritional benefits of dairy**.

Our publication compiles the latest scientific evidence on the important role of dairy as part of a healthy, balanced diet. While dairy products are well known for providing high-quality protein and essential vitamins and minerals, research also shows that their health benefits extend beyond their nutritional composition, contributing to overall health and the prevention of non-communicable diseases as part of healthy dietary patterns.

We would like to thank the members of our **Scientific Advisory Board** for their valuable expertise and commitment in developing this publication.

[Read the factsheet here](#)