

## EU Protein Action Plan: strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy through sustainable feed production

**EDA welcomes a protein plan that reinforces Europe's protein self-sufficiency, and recognises the contribution of locally produced feed, such as roughage, to a competitive, circular and resilient livestock sector**

The European Dairy Association (EDA) welcomes the publication of the European Commission's Protein Action Plan, recognising its important contribution to strengthening the European Union's strategic autonomy through increased domestic production of plant proteins.

*"The plan rightly recognises the distinctive role of ruminants in Europe's agri-food system. Almost 70% of the protein intake of European dairy cows comes from roughage, such as pasture, green forage and silage, and it represents the largest sources of feed protein in the European Union. Around 95% of this roughage is produced directly on farm, contributing to both farm resilience and the circularity of European dairy production",* stated EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.

The Protein Action Plan is a natural complement to the Livestock Strategy. Strengthening Europe's protein self-sufficiency is a key step towards increasing the resilience of the entire agri-food chain. EDA particularly welcomes the recognition of the role that roughage plays in sustainable livestock production. It is positive to see that one of the many strengths of the European dairy sector, such as locally produced feed, is increasingly recognised as an important contributor to Europe's strategic autonomy.

EDA supports the plan's objective of reducing Europe's dependency on imported feed proteins while promoting greater strategic autonomy, competitiveness and resilience. In this context, the plan also contributes to the objectives of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy by encouraging a more circular and resource-efficient use of Europe's natural resources.

The plan also complements ongoing efforts to promote the sustainable use of organic fertilisers and reinforcing nutrient circularity, reducing Europe's dependency on external fertiliser inputs.

Beyond providing locally produced feed, permanent grasslands also play an important role in carbon storage, carbon sequestration, biodiversity preservation and landscape management. Europe is already among the world's most efficient producers of animal protein. Together with the benefits of permanent grasslands, this underlines the important role of well-managed ruminant systems in a competitive and sustainable European economy.



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EDA looks forward to continuing its constructive cooperation with the European Commission during the implementation of the plan, ensuring that future actions remain science-based, economically viable and recognise the diversity of European livestock production systems.

#### **ABOUT THE EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION**

The European Dairy Association is the voice of dairy processors in the European Union. The membership of EDA consists of the associations of dairy processors in EU Member States.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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