



EDA President Koert Verkerk: A strong CAP and support for research, innovation and investment



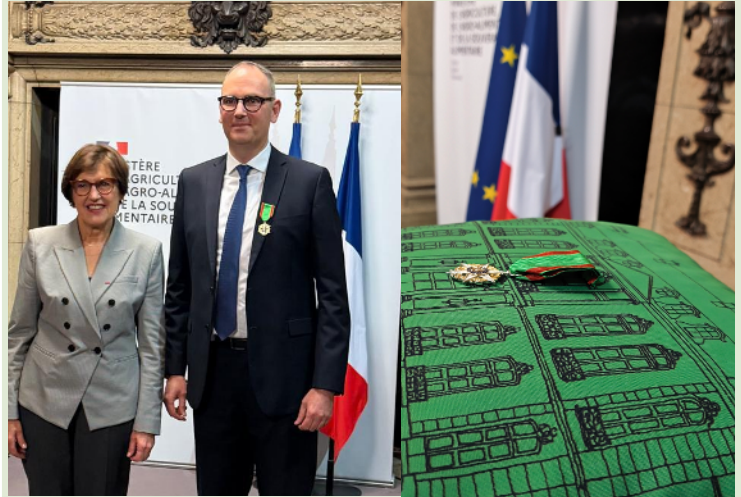
"If Europe sees a resilient dairy sector as part of its security, it must also safeguard the sector's economic strength. That comes down to three things: the confidence to invest, innovation that delivers, and open and fair markets."

EDA President Koert Verkerk

Farmers can invest in their farms and communities only when their milk creates value - at home and abroad. Dairy companies can create that value only when they continue to innovate and compete.

*That's why a strong Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) **must go hand in hand with targeted investment in research, industrial innovation and modern production capacity.** Member States cannot ask Europe to do more for its security and competitiveness without giving it the means to deliver. Europe's ambitions must be backed by a budget that matches them",* underlines EDA President **Koert Verkerk** in light of the ongoing CAP and MFF discussions.

Ordre du Mérite Agricole awarded to François-Xavier Huard



Minister Anne Genevard awarding the Ordre du Mérite Agricole to François-Xavier Huard

In the prestigious Salle Sully of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food, and Food Sovereignty of France, **Anne Genevard**, awarded yesterday the **Ordre du Mérite Agricole** to FNIL President and CEO **François-Xavier Huard**.

"I always loved being in a cheese making site in the early morning when the perfume of cheese milk is in the air. Milk processing is producing the future", said the French Minister in her éloge on François-Xavier and his impressive career in the French public service across the world and in France that brought him five years ago into the leadership position in the French *lactosphère*.

"François-Xavier knows how to transform ideas into action – and that's what we need in the dairy chain today", concluded Minister Anne Genevard when expressing the gratitude of the French Republic to François-Xavier Huard for his professional commitment as well as his personal social engagement.



Cheese Importers Association of America (CIAA) meeting with EDA

The Paris **SIAL** was the perfect meeting place for an in-depth exchange with CIAA President **Laurra Lyden McGregor** and the colleagues and friends from **CIAA** on the U.S. cheese markets and the EU dairy sector.

The record registration number of registrations, 15 European dairy experts and executives, and the full board of CIAA, with its 12 members, underlined the importance to keep in touch with our U.S. colleagues in these times.

The attendance of **Dottore Gianni Maoddi**, President of the **Pecorino Romano Consorzio**, and his executive director, Dottore **Riccardo Pastore**, allowed an insightful exchange not only on Pecorino Romano ("*Spettacolo della Natura*" as any true connoisseur will agree) and other sheep milk cheese, but also on goat milk cheese.



Annette Summers, executive director CIAA, Kevin Pedersen, CIAA Vice President, Laurra Lyden McGregor, CIAA President with EDAs Alexander Anton at SIAL, Paris

EDA meets Ukraine Dairy at SIAL Paris



Iryna Vysotska, Swiss-UA dairy coordinator, Oleksander Avramuk, chair of the UA EU Dairy Integration Committee, Andriy Tabalov, CEO of Voloshkove Pole Dairy, EDAs Alexander Anton and Maks Fasteyev, infagro UA

Following the impressive presentation of **Andriy Tabalov** at our Bratislava Annual Convention with [a short video on today's situation of Ukrainian dairy](#), we had the honour to meet with the leaders of Ukrainian dairy sector in Paris at **SIAL**.

EDA stands with Ukraine!



Olena Stretovych, CEO of Organic Milk, Ukraine's leading organic milk products company

EDA meets the Yara International Board in Brussels



Yara International Board Member Jais Valeur and EDA's Alexander Anton

Alexander Anton was invited to give an overview of the EU dairy sector to Yara CEO **Svein Tore Holsether** and his Board Members.



Yara, one of the world's leading producers of mineral fertilisers, is a key partner for Europe's dairy farmers. Its portfolio ranges from grassland and forage solutions to feed products that help lower feed costs, and the company is also working on lower-emission fertiliser production.

Among the Board members is **Jais Valeur**, a familiar face in the European *lactosphere* with a strong dairy background.

The discussion focused on the sustainable transition of the dairy value chain in light of upcoming EU legislation. Many of the key levers lie beyond the factory gate, at farm level and in the production of feed and fertilisers.

Tusen takk!

What's your favourite dairy product?



"My favorite cheese is **Brillat-Savarin**: creamy, full of character, and named after the man who made the pleasure of good food a subject worthy of serious thought."

Tiffanie Stephani
Vice-President, Public Affairs EU at
Yara International

European Chamber of Commerce in China at EDA



Ran Qin, Senior Government Affairs Desk Manager European Union Chamber of Commerce in China & Lise Andreassen Høyer (DDB), Chair EDA Trade Working Group,

This week, EDA Director of Trade & Economics Laurens van Delft and **Lise Andreassen Høyer** (DDB), Chair of the EDA Trade Working Group, hosted **Ran Qin**, Senior Government Affairs Desk Manager at the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, for an exchange on current developments in EU-China dairy trade.

The discussion covered the Chinese dairy market, recent trade developments and the conditions facing European dairy exporters. The exchange also explored changing import demand, market sentiment and the broader operating environment for European companies in China.

The meeting provided a useful opportunity to exchange views on the wider EU-China trade relationship and developments on the ground in China.

EDA contributes to the EU Commission's 2026 Agricultural Outlook

On 14 October, Alexander Anton was invited to the European Commission's **Autumn Validation Group** meeting on milk and dairy commodity markets. Organised by **DG AGRI's Analysis and Outlook Unit**, the meeting formed part of the Commission's 2026 Agricultural Outlook process.

The meeting followed up on the Spring Outlook workshop held in Brussels in May. In this new format, the Commission analysts presented the preliminary baseline for the dairy sector.

The baseline examines how EU milk production will develop as farms restructure and environmental requirements tighten. The discussion then turned to the implications for cheese, butter and other major dairy products, as well as changes in European consumers' purchasing and eating habits. Global trade was also a major topic. Growing demand in third countries and new trade agreements offer real opportunities for EU dairy, but geopolitical tensions add uncertainty. The meeting closed with a look at price developments and the volatility the sector could face in the coming years.

The final baseline will be part of the **EU Agricultural Outlook 2026**, which will be presented during the **EU Agri-Food Days** on **8-9 December** in Brussels.



Jan-Hendrik Arndt (right) EDA Trainee, supported EDA's Alexander Anton at the meeting

ETS revision: EDA calls for effective carbon leakage protection



Following the European Commission's proposal to revise the **EU Emissions Trading System** (EU ETS) post-2030, the legislative work is now progressing in the European Parliament.

EDA participated in a recent stakeholder dialogue with MEP **Peter Liese** (EPP, DE), ENVI rapporteur responsible for the file, where we reiterated our position: we welcome the continuation of free allocation beyond 2030, while expressing concerns about the proposed new conditionality. EDA considers that linking free allocation to additional investment requirements could weaken its role as an effective carbon leakage protection mechanism, especially for sectors such as dairy that are increasingly exposed to international competition.

EDA CAP Working Group fine-tunes position on CMO revision

Safeguarding the market orientation of the dairy sector, maintaining dairy products at the heart of the EU School Scheme, and preserving effective market support instruments.

This were the priorities discussed on 28 October, when EDA brought together its **CAP Working Group** for an ad hoc online meeting to discuss the European Parliament's proposed **amendments to the post-2027 Common Market Organisation** (CMO) Regulation. Members also examined proposals on cheese marketing standards, private storage aid and crisis preparedness, with particular attention to their practical implications for dairy processors and cooperatives.

The discussions helped refine EDA's priorities and prepare coordinated advocacy ahead of the upcoming AGRI Committee vote.

EDA at COP31: Enabling climate action in livestock



On 17 November, EDA will co-organise an official **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC), side event at **COP31** in Antalya, Türkiye, together with **Dairy Farmers of Canada**, the **International Meat Secretariat** and the **International Dairy Federation**.

The event **"Enabling climate action in livestock through innovation, collaboration and incentives"** will bring together perspectives from academia, farmers, industry, policy and research to explore practical solutions supporting climate mitigation and adaptation in livestock systems, while preserving food security and ensuring a just transition.

EDA at the Nestlé Agri-Food Ladies Network Lunch

EDA had the pleasure of sending a delegation to the annual **Nestlé Agri-Food Ladies Network Lunch**, an event that gathers female professionals from the sector. The event, hosted by the **Mission of Switzerland to the EU**, took place on 29 October with opening remarks given by **Noémi Csete** (Head of Sustainability for Coffee at Nestlé Europe) and **Laura Schweizer** (Head of the Department for Political Affairs, Security, Law and Home Affairs at the Mission of Switzerland to the EU).

Following **Isabelle Pitter** of **Women in Dairy** contribution at our Annual Convention in Bratislava, this event was a great opportunity for women in agri-food to gather and discuss the current challenges faced by the sector.

Save the Date:

EWPA at Food ingredients Europe 2026:

Thursday | 19 November 2026 | Frankfurt
"Why Whey, Why Now", featuring EWPA President **Benno van Mersbergen**



Benno van Mersbergen
 EWPA President
 CIO, Royal FrieslandCampina



Mark Voorbergen
 Dairy Markets and Strategy Consultant
 Dairy Intel



Mette Toft
 Senior Regulatory Specialist
 Arla Foods Ingredients



Left to right: Agathe Tomaselli (Nestlé), Jennifer Berger (Nestlé), Monica Gamba (Nestlé), EDA's Kinga Adamaszewili and Fanny Courivaud, Laura Schweizer (Swiss Mission to the EU), Noémi Csete (Nestlé Coffee), Rose O'Donovan (Agrafacts), Tisa Kosem (Nestlé Purina)