Dairy Flash
Connect to the world of dairy
#16 / 2026
20 November

Nourish 2026, Global Dairy Platform, IDF World Dairy Summit – *the world of dairy in New Zealand*



EDA President Koert Verkerk (right) chairing the Nourish 2026 session "Dairy's Role in Shaping Tomorrow's Food Systems" with Jeremy Hill (Fonterra), Jens Buur Madsen (Bain & Company) and GDP's Donald Moore

The ten-day global dairy meeting marathon in Auckland kicked off with a mihi whakatau, the official Māori welcome, and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13, Luke 11:2–4) in both Māori and English.

"*Dairy is in a good place: high-quality nutrition is the strongest card we can play within our planet responsibility*", underlined **Jan Derck van Karnebeek** in his opening speech.



Global Dairy Power: Donald Moore (GDP) moderating the CEO panel with Dennis Rodenbaugh, CEO DFA, Jan Derck van Karnebeek, CEO RFC and GDP chair, and Richard Allen, CEO Fonterra

EDA at COP31: Enabling climate action in livestock



The speakers of the "Enabling Climate Action in Livestock through Innovation, Collaboration and Incentives" COP31 side event

On 17 November, EDA co-organised an official side event at the United **Nations Climate Change Conference**, **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**", brought together academia, farmers, research and industry to discuss practical solutions for implementing climate mitigation in livestock systems, while preserving food security and ensuring a just transition.

The discussion featured **Alberto Babolin** (EDA), Prof **Michael Lee** (Harper Adams University), **Rachael Madeley-Davies** (AHDB), **Karla Hicks** (CCA / CRSB), Dr **Tahira Shariff Mohamed** (ILRI) and **Christopher Adamo** (Danone), covering science-based mitigation, farm-level action, incentives, resilience and value-chain collaboration.

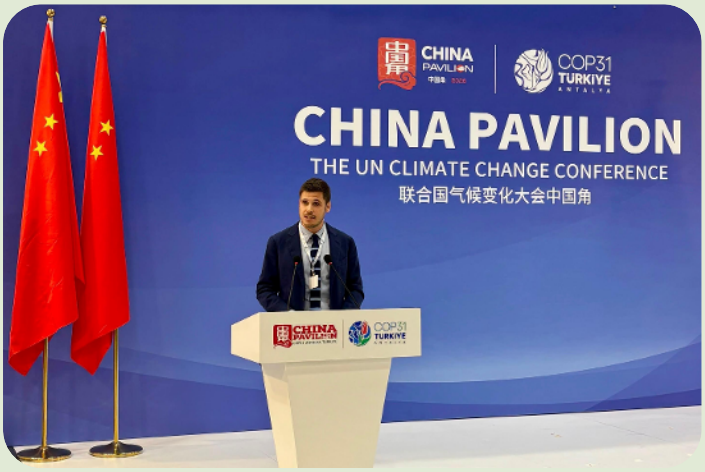
The recording is available via the UNFCCC webcast:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17DZqANxFw0

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EDA at COP31: presenting at the China Pavilion

At COP31, EDA's **Alberto Babolin** presented at the China Pavilion on practical pathways for reducing non-CO_2 emissions in dairy and the conditions needed to support wider implementation. The round table discussion also addressed credible measurement and policy support for climate action at farm level.



EDA's Alberto Babolin at COP31 presented at the China Pavilion on practical pathways for reducing non-CO_2 emissions

Prof Holger D. Thiele and his Kiel University Master's Students at EDA



Prof Dr Holger D. Thiele, MEP Niclas Herbst and Kiel Students at EDA

We are very grateful to Prof **Martin Braatz**, Prof Dr **Holger D. Thiele** and Dr **Henrike Burchardi** for once again choosing EDA as the host for their three-day study visit to the European institutions in Brussels.

The intensive programme included exchanges at EDA's premises with MEP **Niclas Herbst** (EPP, DE), officials from DG AGRI, DG CLIMA, DG RESEARCH as well as other Brussels stakeholders. EDA's **Laurens van Delft** and **Llara Lorente** used the opportunity to discuss with the academic group the upcoming revision of the Unfair Trading Practices Regulation.

One of the highlights was the invitation by the Austrian Embassy (PermRep) and the Austrian agricultural chamber in Brussels to attend the official blessing ceremony ("Weintaufe") of the new Austrian wine by **Father Daniel** (SJ) under the patronage of MEP **Alexander Bernhuber** (EPP, AT).



Father Daniel (SJ) blessing the new Austrian wine

What's your favourite dairy product?



"Fruit yogurt from regional farmers."

MEP Alexander Bernhuber (EPP, AT)

EDA Trade Focus: Thailand and the UAE

The two new EDA Trade Focus factsheets examine the **dairy sectors of Thailand** and **the United Arab Emirates** (UAE), highlighting export opportunities and the importance of ambitious EU free trade agreements with both countries.

The UAE and Thailand are promising markets for European dairy, with EU exports worth **€451 million** and **€208 million annually**, respectively. Together, they represent significant opportunities for European dairy companies to expand their global reach.

EDA welcomes the progress in negotiations on both agreements, which aim to remove tariffs, simplify market access procedures and protect European geographical indications.

EU dairy exports support more than **45.000 jobs** across Europe, contributing to economic growth and local communities.

Read EDA's two Trade Focus factsheets to learn more about the dairy sectors in Thailand and the UAE.



Why Whey, Why Now? EWPA at Fi Europe 2026



EWPA's Laurens van Delft, Mette Toft, EWPA President Benno van Mersbergen, Mark Voorbergen

The European Whey Processors Association (EWPA) brought the latest insights into the global whey market to **Fi Europe 2026** in Frankfurt on Thursday, 19 November, with a dedicated session entitled "**Why Whey, Why Now?**", drawing a packed audience at the Community Hub.

Led by **Benno van Mersbergen**, President of EWPA, the session brought together industry expertise to examine the structural changes reshaping global protein consumption and their implications for the dairy and whey industries.

The discussion featured **Mark Voorbergen**, Dairy Markets and Strategy Consultant at Dairy Intel, and **Mette Toft**, Senior Regulatory Specialist at Arla Foods Ingredients and Chair of the EWPA Protein Working Group. Together, they explored the key drivers behind growing global protein demand, how evolving consumer needs are influencing the whey market, and what these developments mean for dairy processors.

European Young Farmers Congress: the Next Generation Dairy

On 18 November, EDA attended the **12th European Congress of Young Farmers** at the European Parliament. Held under the motto "**#ReFarmEU: Ensuring a Future for Our Farmers**", it brought together more than 1,500 participants in Brussels and online.

The debates focused on generational renewal and how to turn ideas into action, with young farmers putting their questions to policymakers. Marking the **International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026,** a dedicated session highlighted the role of women in agriculture.



EDA's Jan-Hendrik Arndt with Mariana Pereira, young farmer from the Azores

New business models keep farms attractive for the next dairy generation. A great example is **Mariana Pereira**, a young farmer from the Azores, whose farm business brings people closer to dairy cows. Ideas like hers help secure the future of farming, and of European dairy.

EDA Q&A factsheet on Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs)

The new EDA Q&A factsheet on **UPFs and dairy foods** explores some of the most common questions surrounding this increasingly prominent debate. Food processing plays an essential role in making dairy products safe, nutritious, stable and accessible, while also helping to reduce food waste.

Processing alone is not a reliable indicator of a food's nutritional quality or health impact. Consumer guidance and nutrition policies should instead be grounded in nutritional composition, health impacts and overall dietary patterns.

Read it here.

World Children's Day 2026

20 November is **World Children's Day**. Milk and dairy products can make an important contribution to children's health and development and provide essential nutrients that contribute to healthy growth, from calcium and phosphorus for strong bones and teeth to high-quality proteins that support muscle growth and maintenance. Dairy also provides iodine, which contributes to the normal growth of children, as well as vitamins B12 and B2, which contribute to normal energy-yielding metabolism.

