

More headwinds for "Nutri-Score"

Seven EU countries (Italy, Greece, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Latvia and Cyprus) presented their thoughts on front of pack nutrition labelling at Monday's AGRI council in Brussels.

"Already established market-led solutions should not run ahead of the EU Commission, governments and regulatory authorities", as this paper puts it. This statement is aligned with the question that (former) **MEP Renate Sommer** (EPP, DE) publicly asked already back in 2017: "Don't you see the danger of letting big multinationals set parts of the food law? They might use this loophole for their own purposes."

In a videoconference hosted by SME Europe, **EDA secretary general Alexander Anton** had the opportunity to exchange on the shortcomings of the existing front of pack nutrition labelling schemes with **MEP Christine Schneider** (EPP, DE), presenting again our [EDA guiding principles](#) and [EDA position](#).

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BREXIT: the final countdown

Less than 100 days before the potential "Hard Brexit-Day", there is still no sign of white smoke, neither in London nor in Brussels. The think tank 'UK in a changing world' has [published a 65-page report on "What would no deal mean?"](#)

This report underlines the vital concerns of the interlinked EU-UK lactosphere with its fully integrated supply chains. We have spelled out the risks for our sector and our proposals for a dairy agreement in our joint DairyUK - EDA proposals in our '[Future UK-EU Dairy Framework](#)', already back in 2018.

The outcome of our EDA Brexit workshop, scheduled for 9 October 2020, will be a last minute call upon the decision makers to clear the path for a successful future of the dairy industry in Europe.



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Single Market for Milk & Dairy

Over the past years, the EU Commission has missed many opportunities to live up to its responsibility as 'guardian of the treaties'.

To get the EU Commission back on duty, **MEP Andreas Schwab** (EPP, DE) has been publishing [a list of recently adopted national measures](#) violating the Single Market principle in the food sector. *"For a speedy post-COVID19 recovery, spending money is not sufficient. We must protect the basis of our economic success: the Single Market. Today, we are on a wrong path!"*

MEP Andreas Schwab's list includes the Bulgarian law obliging the retail sector to source 90% of all dairy produce at national level, [the Polish 'name & blame' website for dairy importers](#), [the French agricultural minister's call for food-patriotism and milk origin labelling decree](#) and many other initiatives.

In the meantime, **EU Commissioner Thierry Breton** and the new leadership in the EU Commission have taken action:

"We need a strong political commitment to the Single Market and the effective implementation of its rules. This requires political ownership". The newly established Single Market Enforcement Task Force of the EU Commission now has the mission to build on this political commitment.

The ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the French decree on mandatory national origin labelling is scheduled for 1st October 2020 and according to the legal opinion of its Advocate General Gerard Hogan back in July ([see our Press Release](#)), we can expect a further milestone for the protection of the Single Market.

Good news regarding the EU-US trade disputes!

Back in August, [EDA co-signed a letter with other impacted sectors](#) with the aim to urge the EU and the US to end aircraft trade disputes, harming dairy companies with punitive tariffs. We were very glad to see that these efforts led to some progress. The European Commission and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative concluded on 21st August a "mini-agreement" including tariff reductions on a small number of goods. This is a positive – even though small – step on the way to further tariff reduction and better resolution of disputes. EDA is looking forward to upcoming discussions with the office of **EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis**.

We will keep on protecting our sector from punitive tariffs that weaken our supply chains, by strongly encouraging both the US and the EU to keep on discussing these matters.

EDA participates in the Annual EFSA Roundtable with Industry Associations

Last week, EDA participated in the EFSA annual exchange with registered business and food industry associations. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss administrative matters, scientific and communication issues or the Farm to Fork strategy, following a presentation by the European Commission on the topic. EFSA briefed the participants on the implementation of the EFSA catalogue of services, SME initiatives and the revised stakeholder engagement approach.

The meeting highlighted the need to go on improving dialogue and encourage mutual understanding of the various points of view between EFSA and business associations. [All relevant documents can be found online.](#)



European Dairy Association @EDA_Dairy · 2h

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New President for European farming community

The European farming organization COPA (Comité des Organisations Professionnelles Agricoles) welcomed a new president. With **Christiane Lambert** (chair of the French farmers association FNSEA) a woman takes for the first time the ultimate leadership of COPA, succeeding Joachim Ruckwied from Germany. Christiane is a pig farmer in western France with a huge experience, including her leadership role in the FARRE network, the Forum for sustainable and environmental friendly agriculture. In her first speech as COPA chair, Christiane underlined the vital importance of a wider cooperation throughout the agri-food chain. *"We have a strong common basis: our shared conviction that Europe has no future without agriculture and Europe is the future of agriculture"*, congratulated **EDA chair Michel Nalet**

CAP updates

EDA carefully analysed the outcome of the last AGRI Council held in Brussels on Monday, focusing on the "green architecture" and "delivery model" aspects of the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

EDA fully supports the Ministers' intention to reach a "general approach" on the future CAP in October, with a view to launching negotiations with the European Parliament and reach a full agreement. **Julia Klöckner**, the German Minister of Agriculture, noted after Monday's debate that there were "many points of agreement" on the main aspects of the CAP. On top of that, several EU countries (France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and the Scandinavian countries) supported the German Presidency's ideas for mandatory environmental programmes for Member States and for allocating a minimum share of the direct payment budget to environmental programmes. As EDA, we believe that this will help assuring the implementation of the new CAP rules regarding EU Commission's Greening Ambitions.

EU and Canada celebrate third anniversary of comprehensive trade agreement

Monday was also the third anniversary of the provisional entry into force of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). EDA considers that the balance of these three years is very positive: the bilateral trade between the EU27 and Canada has increased by 27% for goods and 47% for services as compared to the situation before CETA entered into force.

Executive Vice President and acting **EU Trade Commi** Executive Vice President and acting **EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis** said: "Over the last three years, CETA has proved its value on many

occasions – not alone in increasing trade and economic opportunities for companies and workers in the EU and Canada, but also by providing a framework for stronger cooperation on sustainability and climate action."

While we fully support the EU Commission's efforts to create an economic and trade environment that works for people, we still have serious doubts on the effectiveness of the Canadian management system for the cheese import licences.

"The future will be what we make it. And Europe will be what we want it to be."

Last week, during her first State of the Union speech, the President of the EU Commission **Ursula von der Leyen** proposed to raise the European Union's target for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for 2030 from at least 40% to "at least 55%". The proposal was based on a Commission impact assessment which "looked in-depth at every sector", to determine "how fast we could go" and how to do it "in a responsible way", while recalling that the Just Transition Fund will support regions where the environmental transition will be more difficult and costly. She also referred to the Carbon Adjustment Mechanism, highlighting the importance of creating a tool that provides an incentive for foreign manufacturers and European importers to reduce their carbon emissions, while ensuring a level playing field and WTO compatibility.

As EDA, we support the EU Commission's greening ambitions and as for the last years, we will keep working on improving our sector focusing on environmentally sustainable practices. Regarding foreign trade affairs, the President relayed the importance of a rule-based multilateral system.

"Whey. For living. For life"

Proteins are the building blocks of our body which makes it essential to have the right protein intake on a daily basis. Around 460 BC, Hippocrates, the Father of modern medicine, started to prescribe whey to his patients for its health benefits, naming it "serum". Today, whey protein is recognized as a protein of superior nutritional quality. It contains all the essential amino acids needed by the body on a daily basis, and it contributes to growth and maintenance of muscles and bones.

EWPA's platform wheyforliving.com launched under the umbrella of EWPA at the very beginning of this year, is part of the association's core mission, promoting the understanding on whey and related topics via a science based and useful communication towards potential customers and consumers. While the positive health benefits of whey protein may be common knowledge to doctors, nutrition scientists and athletes trying to improve their health and performance, they are not as well-known among the general public.

Whey. For living. For life: time to dive into the world of whey protein and find out about its many forms, uses and benefits!

