

## EDA Annual Convention 2021: Sustainable Food Systems and European Dairy

Save the date! Our **EDA Annual Convention 2021 on 'Sustainable Food Systems and European Dairy'** will take place next Friday 1 October, from 11:00 until 13:00.

Just a few days after the UN Food Systems summit, this high-level conference will bring the conversation on sustainable food systems into the heart of Europe and highlight the vital role of European dairy.

**Professor Roel Jongeneel** of Wageningen University will set the scene by addressing the European ambitions for livestock and dairy. Then, under the current Slovenian EU Presidency, we will have the honour to count on the keynote of **Mr Aleš Irgolič** (Slovenian State Secretary for Agriculture), together with **Mr Lukáš Víšek** (Member of cabinet of European Commission First Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans) and **Ms Hester Maij** (RFC Corporate Director Public & Regulatory Affairs). A podium discussion with panelists and a Q&A session will follow.

## 18th International Dairy Cooperatives Forum in Białystok, Poland

The Polish dairy city of Białystok became the capital of the European lactosphere, when **Agnieszka Maliszewska** from the Polish Chamber of Milk / **Polska Izba Mleka** welcomed at the conference location the Polish and Lithuanian State Secretary of Agriculture, **Mr Ryszard Bartosik** and **Mr Paulius Lukševičius** as well as former Director General (DG AGRI) **Jerzy Plewa** to exchange with EU Commissioner **Janusz Wojciechowski** on the "Challenges of the new CAP and the Green Deal".

EU Commissioner **Janusz Wojciechowski** highlighted the important opportunities of the Farm to Fork strategy, especially for the dairy sector, and the crucial role that the national strategic plans within the new CAP will play here.

Our EDA secretary general Alexander Anton analysed in his speech the potential impact of the Green Deal ambitions on the EU trade environment.



## Annual Convention

Sustainable Food Systems  
and European Dairy

uniting dairy excellence & ambition

Friday  
1 October  
2021



## UN Sustainable Food Systems Summit: The vital role of European Dairy

### The vital role of European Dairy

Today the **UN Food Systems Summit** is taking place in New York City, bringing together farmers, fishers, world leaders, government representatives, youth and many more stakeholders from around the globe to discuss the transformation towards sustainable food systems.

A great occasion to highlight the vital role of dairy in terms of nutritional value and as a key sector and an ally in the transition to sustainable food systems, committed to reducing its environmental footprint while continuing to provide nutritious, safe and affordable products.



**Environmental, economic and social sustainability constitute a reference in the daily work of the European dairy industry**



## Vote on Farm to Fork: Worrying perspectives

The European Parliament's ENVI and AGRI committees voted and adopted on the 10 September the EU Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy report for sustainable food systems. The final text contains some controversial proposals and advances, especially concerning the functioning of our Single Market the future role of innovation and carbon farming or trade.

In the report, MEPs call for several additional targets apart from those in the European Commission's proposal that would be unsustainable not only for EU dairy and Agriculture, but for the whole EU. There is a growing number of studies recently published by different institutions all over Europe highlighting the evidence of the risks of implementing current F2F strategies targets. Just as an example, European dairy could suffer a decline of production of milk of a -6.3% and an increase of prices of a +36% for raw milk in the Union, while global milk prices are set to increase by less than 5%. Next to the increase in costs for consumers -and citizens in the Union of about 42 billion Euro, our competitiveness on international markets would get a hard hit.

EDA together with 25 other EU agri-food organizations highlighted in a Joint Statement our opposition to the outcome of the vote in the European Parliament. EDA is firmly committed to adapting to environmental challenges and meeting targets against climate change. However, the F2F strategy must adopt a realistic approach bearing in mind all stakeholders in the value chain.

We ask the European Parliament to postpone the plenary vote on the F2F until a serious Impact Assessment is published – **"You have to know, before you vote!"**

## EU - Qatar trade relations

Qatar has announced major restrictions on imports affecting a wide range of dairy products. The restrictions include extending the required shelf life of products upon arrival in Qatar, ban importation from many countries and change the labelling rules for the country-of-origin statement. In this framework, Qatar published in the meantime some clarifications.

Thanks to the input of our EDA members, we were in a position to alert the competent EU services in Brussels and in Qatar and we are in contact with them in order to solve this issue as soon as possible.

## The European Commission evaluates Free Trade Agreements with Georgia

In place since 2016, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) between the EU and Georgia has helped to ease market access to a certain extent. Together with our Georgian partner member DairyGeorgia, we discussed the dairy trade situation and highlighted the shortcomings in the implementation of the DCFTA with Georgia – a historical dairy country whose dairy sector collapsed in the early 90ths of the last century. While Georgian food and dairy legislation has been widely aligned with the 'acquis communautaire', the political environment did not yet focus on the dairy development, that lacks behind the DCFTA ambitions.



## A presto, Maria!

For more than 5 years, **Maria Libertini** has been a key staff member of EDA. In our EDA team, Maria focused her work on our Food, Environment and Health desk and has brought a great added value to the EU lactosphere.

Now, she is taking off to new adventures as head of the European Public Affairs at Assolatte, our Italian EDA member - representing the excellence of Italian dairy!

We all congratulate Maria for her new career step and thank her for her dedicated work and her outstanding work attitude and team spirit! Viva l'Europa e viva il latte!

Grazie mille, cara Maria !

## Your favourite Dairy Product?

*"My favourite dairy product is the Burrata, a cheese from my region which is fresh and perfect in hot summer days. Special mention to a less famous dairy product also from Apulia, the ricotta marzotica!"*

**Maria Libertini**

