“A changing climate for dairy”
IDF World Dairy Summit in Copenhagen

IDF President Piercristiano Brazzale opened the global dairy event of 2021 last week in Copenhagen and welcomed world dairy leaders like Peder Tuborgh (Arla Foods Ingredients) and Philippe Palazzi (Groupe Lactalis) in situ.

Jørgen Hald Christensen and his team from the Danish Dairy Board organized a perfect hybrid set-up meeting and created the atmosphere for the world’s lactosphère to showcase the vibrant energy of milk and dairy all over the world.

The nutritional value and our sustainable dairy production, as much as food safety developments and marketing practices were discussed in Copenhagen.

Mark the date: the IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 is scheduled for 12 – 15 September 2022 in New Delhi, the capital of the world’s biggest dairy country on the globe.

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement:
Advisory group set up

The EU Commission has moved forward in setting up the EU ‘Domestic Advisory Group’ (DAG) under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) by announcing its preparatory meeting. The EU DAG is a body independent from the EU Commission and other EU or partner institutions and will be able to address all issues covered in the TCA. A corresponding body in the UK is to be set up. From the very beginning of the Brexit process, EDA has been a constructive and outspoken partner, proactively providing input to all relevant consultations and organising discussion platforms with the relevant authorities on both sides of the Channel. Our “Future EU-UK Dairy Framework” and our special position paper on Rules of Origin were highly appreciated by policymakers on both sides and our high level EU-UK TCA workshop underlined our expertise.

It is vital for the EU and UK dairy sector that we continue to work on a free trade basis in milk & dairy products. That’s why our EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi has put forward our EDA secretary general, Alexander Anton, as member of the EU DAG.

Giuseppe Ambrosi: “The European dairy industry is the strongest branch within the food and drink sector and has a very specific exposure to the EU-UK relationship, with 50% of UK milk processed by dairies headquartered in the EU. The milk & dairy supply chains have been fully integrated between the UK and the EU, for fresh and long shelf life products as well as for consumer and B2B products. Hence our strong interest in being able to contribute also within the framework of the DAG to a smooth implementation of the EU-UK TCA.”
First Dairy Conference in Ljubljana:
Great success and fruitful debates

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia organised its first dairy-specific conference, gathering a full room of farmers, industry representatives, ministry delegates and press to discuss the current situation and the outlooks for its sector in the country.

Hélène Simonin (EDA) brought an insight from Brussels and discussed options and opportunities for a movement aligning with the EU Green Deal ideas and the reality on the ground. Reflections and discussions will for sure continue in the coming months, to bring together all pieces for a good result.

EP Report on the Farm to Fork Strategy:
A story of voting without knowing

This week the European Parliament (EP) adopted the joint COMENVI and COMAGRI report on the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy, despite the calls of a wide agri-food coalition to reconsider to postpone the vote until a meaningful Impact Assessment is presented by the EU Commission (see EDA Dairy Flash #14 2021). The final report includes a proposal for a mandatory EU front-of-pack nutritional label, approved binding reduction targets for pesticide use and states that Member states should implement pesticides targets through their Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans.

EDA has been working for months together with other 25 agricultural stakeholders to make EU agriculture voice count and to make clear that some targets on the strategy need to be exhaustively evaluated before deciding on them. European stakeholders begin to be impatient awaiting to the formal Impact Assessment as time goes by with information on the field becoming more and more ambiguous. Additionally, the number of studies published remarking the risks of implementing current F2F targets is growing, and evidence talks by itself.

Last week experts in the field like MEP Anne Sander (EPP, France), Prof. Christian Henning from Kiel University and Dr. Roel Jongeneel from Wageningen UR, both co-authors of two of the studies discussed, showed in a public webinar their conclusions, which were crystal clear: there is a vital need of scientific evidence to proceed with the discussions of the F2F. The strategy’s feasibility depends on taking into consideration the socio-economic impact that it may have for Europe, and it needs to be addressed now.
IFCN: World dairy & climate impact

The IFCN has drafted a “dairy climate world map”.

At the Global Food and Agribusiness Network meeting this week in Switzerland, IFCN Managing Director Łukasz Wyrzykowski highlighted that the discussion here concentrates on the milk production in so-called ‘developed milk countries’, like the European Union. “This part of the global milk supply has – by far – the lowest environmental footprint.”

“In our IFCN outlook scenario, global milk demand and hence global milk production will increase by more than 20% by 2030. This trend is not only supported by the world’s population growth, but also by an increase of the average milk consumption per capita at global level – without overstepping the milk consumption levels proposed by the EAT-Lancet report within the planetary boundaries.”

Global Food and Agribusiness Network:
Livestock is part of the sustainable food system

At the Global Food and Agribusiness Network meeting this week, Professor Peer Ederer (GOAL Sciences) launched the first version of the planet food system explorer.

“We created a data based and open tool to get a concise overview of the very complex food system – country by country and at global level. It also shows the importance of the livestock sector within each and every food system – after all, when producing a plant based meal you’ll end up with four to seven times of the quantity of non-edible biomass, that is valorized by the livestock sector”, stated Professor Peer Ederer. “When it comes to the serious issue of global warming, we should focus far less on the GHG emission volumes, but much more on the warming potential of the different greenhouse gases. Such a result-driven approach will get us on the right track in the mitigation efforts.”
EU Commission Work Programme 2022 published

The 2022 planning along main priorities for the European Commission is based on the ‘State of the Union speech’ of September – and in change to the latter thankfully allows the agri-food sector to be at least mentioned at some places. Still our sector – crucial when it comes to simple survival and deeper welfare of the EU population – remains hushed to a ‘lower grade’ by the current EU Commission.

Even the high sustainability goals are reduced to carbon/climate and biodiversity (including packaging), ignoring the diverse aspects of nature, financing parts for investment, and with no mention to affordability of food or citizens food safety and security.

We welcome of course the work planned on carbon farming and the European funds linked to biodiversity projects, where the dairy sector can bring in its good sides of landscape management, protection of rural areas and conversion of many inedible grasses to milk and dairy, while fostering continuous improvement.

We are expecting some relevant proposals for our sector next year, and hope that upcoming communication of the European Commission will give consideration to our sector, namely one on green claims and a harmonised European methodology for environmental footprint, the PEF, as well as nutritional assessment of foods and information provided.

EU Commission consultation on the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation

The European Commission has opened its public consultation on the revision of the European legislation on animal welfare.

With regards to the evaluation of the current framework, the Commission is also conducting a targeted stakeholders consultation, to which EDA is prepared to participate.

Already in August this year we shared with the EU Commission our initial feedback on the topic. Please check here our EDA contribution.

EDA has been confirmed as a full member of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, where our EDA Task Force on Animal Health & Welfare, co-chaired by Dr Olivier Espeisse, our EDA Counsel for EU Veterinary Affairs (CEVA), brings forward our dairy support for dairy cows.
Farm to Fork 2021 Conference

Last week the EU Commission held the second edition of the Farm to Fork Conference, the annual event gathering European stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Farm to Fork strategy.

After the opening speeches by European Commission First Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides and Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski, the hybrid event provided a forum for discussion where stakeholders could debate on the challenges and opportunities linked to the Commission’s strategy.

Axelle Bodoy, Global Milk & Farming Sustainability Manager at Danone, provided an insight from a dairy perspective, highlighting, amongst others, the need to adequately incentivise farmers in this transition.

Your favourite Dairy Product?

“Cheese excellence is not only part of our culture and civilisation, but also the historical basis and the future success of the Lactalis Group - and it’s my personal passion. If I had to choose one cheese out of all my favourite ones, it would most probably be the Brocciu from Corsica”

Philippe Palazzi
CEO Lactalis Group

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European Dairy Association

Lactalis Group CEO Philippe Palazzi (left) with German Dairy Farmers’ President Karsten Schmal (right)