

First Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans' visit to a Belgian dairy farm

Together with the President of the Wallonia Farmers' Association, Ms **Marianne Streel**, and members of the 'European livestock voice,' European Commission First Executive Vice President **Frans Timmermans** visited last week a Belgian farm which delivers the milk to the Laiterie des Ardennes.

The two farmer brothers, François Hubert and Stéphane van Eyck, showcased future proof dairying in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability and highlighted the high investments for a dairy farm.

In his exchange with **Fran Timmermans**, EDA secretary general **Alexander Anton** underlined the need for a harmonized [environmental measuring methodology](#) that must be linked to the nutritional value and quality of food.



EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton in his exchange with European Commission Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans.

"Our EDA discussion with cabinet member Lukáš Víšek in October this year and the dairy farm visit of First Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans last week show that there is a readiness for exchange with the European lactosphere – we will continue this dialogue, and dairy has all arguments to convince!"

Giuseppe Ambrosi
EDA President



First Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans with farmer François Hubert van Eyck during the visit.



EU Agricultural Outlook Conference 2021

Last week the European Commission held the Agricultural Outlook Conference, the annual event discussing the challenges and opportunities linked to the European agricultural sector.

After the speech by Commissioner for Agriculture **Janusz Wojciechowski**, the panel discussions made possible to examine what global agricultural markets will look like in 2030 and to evaluate the resilience of EU agri-food systems and rural areas.

Facts and figures

The agricultural outlook 2021 foresees that EU milk production growth could slow down to 0.5% per year and reach around 162 million t by 2031. The EU's main competitors, New Zealand, and the U.S., are also expected to see a modest growth, respectively +0.2% and +1.2%. Most growth will come from developing countries, creating concerns about the sustainability of those production systems and global GHG emissions. Additional milk produced in the EU will most likely benefit cheese, which generates the highest value, but SMP and whey powders will closely follow in volume terms contribution to growth. The EU is likely to keep its leading position in global dairy trade and a growing potential for organic production is reported. A strong global demand is likely to increase the prices of EU raw milk, which might help to offset some of the rising input cost. Still, the impacts of the EU Green Deal ambitions (Farm to Fork Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, Methane Strategy, Carbon Farming Strategy) on the structural market developments at European and global level were not assessed.

EDA Board member **Frédéric Chausson**, Director of Public Affairs and External Relations at Sodiaal, provided an insight from a dairy perspective, highlighting, amongst others, the efforts of dairy farmers in contributing to the green transition while continuing to supply healthy and nutritious milk and dairy products.



Mark the date:

EU DG AGRI Outlook Conference 2022

8 and 9 December

Commission's initiative on carbon cycles and EDA work on environmental sustainability

The Commission published yesterday its strategy to promote sustainable carbon cycles and enhance the carbon sequestration of EU land by upscaling carbon farming. Dairy grassland can play a key role here by sequestering a significant amount of atmospheric carbon, reducing dairy net emissions and therefore contributing to the EU climate objectives.

The development of carbon farming practices and the reduction of methane emissions are at the core of the EDA work on the environmental pillar of sustainability, together with biodiversity protection and the promotion of deforestation-free dairy chains. Such activities are led by the EDA working group on environmental sustainability, which gathers dairy experts in the field of environment and climate. The wide range of topics covered by the platform also includes, amongst others, the reduction of food waste, the harmonisation of environmental claims and the monitoring of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the latter in cooperation with the EDA trade department.

EESC webinar: “Aligning the food industry with the EU Green Deal”

What are the game changers to support the role of the private sector in the European Green Deal transition? The online conference chaired by the presidents of the Agricultural & Sustainability Sections of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), **Peter Schmidt (NGG, DE)** and **Andreas Thurner (LKÖ, AT)** presented ‘real life’ examples of the potential of dairy, agriculture and food processing.

Dairy farmer **Isabella Übertsberger (AT)** analysed inter alia the environmental benefits of her hay milk production, while **Alexander Anton (EDA)** underlined the necessity to link a wide environmental monitoring to the nutritional value of a product. “EU dairy is the most climate efficient in the world and we will see significant further progress here. But focussing only on GHG emissions is for sure not the way to achieve our shared sustainability ambitions,” stated Anton.

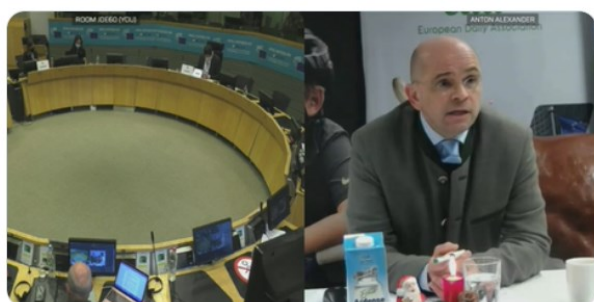
In his opening statement, **MEP Herbert Dorfmann (EPP, IT)** made it clear: “The Farm to Fork strategy has to take into account and consideration the whole food chain beyond the farming community.”



European Dairy Association @EDA_Dairy · 2h

Our secretary general Alexander Anton (@dairyanton) participated in today's @EESC_NAT webinar on #FoodSystems in the context of the new #EUIndustrialStrategy!

In his speech, he highlighted the full commitment of the whole dairy sector to the #EUGreenDeal ambitions 🇪🇺 🌱



‘Clean label’ trend in the food industry: the dairy sector fits right into it

Last 7 December, EDA Senior Nutrition, Health and Food Law Officer **Kinga Adamaszwilli** participated as a speaker in a roundtable organised by GROW (Gelatin Representatives of the World) to discuss challenges and opportunities brought by the clean label trend to the food industry and its appeal to consumers.

Kinga explained how the natural aspect of milk and dairy is one of the many values consumers appreciate in our products, making our sector fit right into the ‘clean label’ trend, which is in line with consumers’ increasing demand for less processed food products.

You can watch the event [here!](#)



UK extends border control arrangement between the island of Ireland and Great Britain

David Frost, Minister of State at the UK Cabinet Office, announced an extension of the border arrangements which currently apply to goods moving between the island of Ireland and Great Britain. The announcement means that SPS goods will, for the duration of the extension, not be affected by changes being introduced on 1 January for other inbound

goods. Movements from Northern Ireland qualifying as animal products will therefore continue to have unrestricted access to Great Britain. Existing requirements for Live Animals, Products of Animal Origin under safeguard measures, germinal products and high-risk Animal By-Products remain unchanged.

EDA members, during our Trade TF meeting on 15 December, confirmed our position that asks to facilitate trade in the future through an EU-UK SPS agreement. Such an arrangement should render full checks on goods between the partners unnecessary from a food safety perspective.

EU Commission consultation on date marking with the idea of reducing food waste

Dairy companies are doing a lot to prevent food losses and waste along the chain (read more [here](#)). Some principles need to take into account ways to improve food waste reduction, and our answer to the EU Commission consultation gives some:

The new 'era' of food labelling is to be settled with the premise "make it easier and understandable for consumers" – mainly in view of achieving different goals (reduction of food waste, better dietary habits, change of the food system, etc). These goals need to be kept in mind and verified to ensure a change of label would have the desired effect. We wish EU consumers and citizens to keep and endorse their responsibilities, and thus need to give them the relevant tools and information, respecting differences across European regions (in eating and disposing habits, in temperature and storing options, in personal choices, etc).

Being understandable to the consumer, new approaches must also be voluntary and feasible to business. They need to be doable by all operators in the food chain, without requiring additional costs, and should as well prevent a negative impact on society or the environment. In the case of date marking/durability dates, the dairy industry has scrutinised the different new options proposed and would encourage a profound education campaign to accompany the current or a possible new scheme, as being the fundamental driver for a change of understanding and habits.

Save the dates:

EDA Dairy Policy Conference

Tuesday 15 March 2022

Brussels, Belgium

EDA Annual Convention

23 – 25 November 2022

Madrid, Spain

The whole EDA team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

