

EDA Board discusses future of European dairy sector with DG AGRI Director Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** hosted the EDA Summer Board, in his Grana Padano manufacturing site, where he showcased the European lactosphere's philosophy and business model: uniting dairy excellence and ambition.



DG AGRI Director Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle with EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi at our EDA Summer Board.

The Board had honour to welcome Director **Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle** (DG AGRI) for an exchange on the future of the European dairy sector focussing on four topics: food security, environmental sustainability, resilience of the dairy chain and the social dimension of the European lactosphere.

"In terms of environmental performance, the European dairy sector has for sure made major steps in the right direction. You will need to speed and scale up the efforts – we are aware that heavy private and public investments will be required within this transition process, both at farming level and at processing level", stated **Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle**.

Great news for Dutch dairy!



EDA-Vice President Albert de Groot

EDA-Vice President **Albert de Groot**, CEO, Vreugdenhil Dairy Foods, has been appointed as new chairman of the Dutch Dairy Association (NZO). Albert de Groot succeeds **Hein Schumacher**. Albert de Groot is currently also a member of the executive board of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers.

EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi**: *"I know Albert as a passionate and committed dairy leader, I am therefore convinced that he is an excellent choice in these challenging times for both the Dutch and European dairy sectors and I look forward continuing our cooperation"*

Your favourite dairy product?

Marlene Mortler

MEP (EPP, DE)



"My favourite dairy product is buttermilk. I like the refreshing and slightly tart taste. It also provides valuable nutrients"



EDA prepares for the European Elections 2024

On 30 June, EDA was invited to the European Parliament for the 'Brainstorming session: The Journey Towards EU Elections 2024'. The event brought together communication experts from European businesses to discuss the best way to inform members about the European Elections 2024.

To this event, **Alexander Roth**, Communication Officer at EDA, spoke about 'EDA's Focus for the European Elections 2019'. The main point presented to **Jaume Duch Guillot**, Spokesman and Director General for Communication, was the need of a two-way dialogue between European Institutions and European industry. [Read our EDA Focus on European elections 2019](#), with forewords by then EP President **Antonio Tajani** and then EC President **Jean-Claude Juncker**. The European Elections 2024 will be held 6-9 June.

The Commission shares the latest dairy market insight

Monika Wohlfarth (ZMB, DE), EDA's chair of our Milk Market Observatory (MMO) Task Force, presented the development of EU dairy stock levels during the 46 meeting of the MMO Economic Board, which took place on 27 June 2023. The MMO meetings bring together experts from the whole milk supply chain: COPA-COGECA (producers and cooperatives), ECVC (Via Campesina), CEJA (young farmers), EDA (dairy industry), Eucolait (dairy trade) and Eurocommerce (retail).



Brigitte Misonne (DG AGRI) presented the latest short-term EU dairy market outlook. **Monika Wohlfarth** highlighted that milk deliveries picked up in wintertime, stimulated by record-high prices and mild weather-conditions in most Member States and that EU-export of dairy products and international demand in total contracted in 2022. Due to high inflation, consumers are buying more planned and looking for cheaper choices. The availability of dairy products improved in recent months and stocks of all products are higher than at same time last year, but in total still in a normal range. Prices of most dairy commodities decreased strongly in the first weeks of 2023, stabilizing slightly in February.



Dr. Trevor Donnellan, Prof. Roel Jongeneel and Dr. Emma Dillon with EDAs Alexander Anton

The future of EU dairy-high level academics exchange with EDA

Prof. Roel Jongeneel (Wageningen university, the (NL), **Dr. Emma Dillon** and **Dr. Trevor Donnellan** (Teagasc, IE) had an exchange with EDA on the role and impact of policy changes for the future our the European lactopshère on the 2030 horizon.

"A great opportunity to discuss with the academic excellence in our field on the potential impact, but also unintentional consequences of EU policies on our sector. And right now, we are facing a real avalanche of new EU policies where we have no solid overall impact assessment carried out by the EU Commission," stated EDA secretary general **Alexander Anton**.

Framework for Sustainable Food Systems(s) – new basic food legislation on its way?

In an advisory group meeting this week, the EU Commission presented the state of play of the new legislation on the “Framework for Sustainable Food System” that was approved last week by the so-called scrutiny board and will be unveiled in Q3 2023.

The short notice stakeholder discussion did not give any details on the Impact Assessment, nor on the defined ‘preferred option’ of the EU Commission, but focussed on potential basic definitions of ‘sustainability’ and its three dimensions (environmental, social and economic) with a new concept called ‘food environment’ and the idea of a “food sustainability logo”.

[The presentation given by the EU Commission \(23 slides\) can be downloaded here.](#)

The discussion during the meeting, defined as “workshop”, clearly showed that the EU Commission faces heavy headwinds from all sides as well on the overall project as on the details (as little as were given so far)



Ukrainian dairy – a part of the European lactosphere

EDA is pleased that we finalised this week our study on “Ukrainian dairy as a part of the EU lactosphere”. This study was commissioned by our EDA Board and executed by Infagro analytical agency with the support of **Olga Trofimtseva**, Ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The EU’s suspension of import duties, quotas and trade defence measures has made the Ukrainian dairy industry of today a *de facto* integrated part of the “EU lactosphere”, a broader insight in this market is therefore a must.

According to the Infagro forecast, Ukraine’s share in the total production of raw milk in the EU could reach 5% in 2032 and Ukraine’s share in the total processing of raw milk in EU could reach 4%. At the same time, Ukraine’s consumption share could be evaluated as 6% of the total EU volume.

Legislative framework for a Union sustainable food system

Advisory Group meeting
12 July 2023

The EESC criticises front-of-pack food labelling

On 28 June, the European Economic and Social Committee published the opinion “Single Market at 30,” which is aligned with the EDA’s position on mandatory origin labelling and front-of-pack food labelling simply hinders the single market:

"The EESC highlights the problems caused by Member States when they anticipate the adoption of common measures at European level, and how they influence and guide the common solutions found in European legislation. In some case this is because the European Commission has not proposed measures, but sometimes it is caused by Member States that are ahead of the European proposal (e.g. origin labelling of meat products, front-of-pack food labelling (FOP), Irish proposal on health warnings for alcoholic drinks, etc.), hindering the harmonisation process and the free movement of goods. For this reason, the EESC urges the European Commission to anticipate regulations when necessary to avoid the proliferation of national regulations that fragment the Single Market."

[Read the full document here.](#)

Adiós Íñigo!

After three years as our Policy Officer for the Trade and Economics Committee, **Íñigo Lizarraga Torrano** is starting a new chapter in his professional life.

We thank Íñigo for his commitment, professionalism and enthusiams and wish him the best in his new adventure. Muchas gracias for your dairy ambition and excellence !

Íñigo Lizarraga Torrano

Policy Officer

- Trade & Economics



"I would like to sincerely thank all those with whom I have worked at EDA over the last three years. I have learned from the best and I take with me great and beautiful memories of colleagues and friends. Thank you all, and see you soon!

My favourite dairy product is **Roncal** cheese; a cheese made from raw sheep's milk in the Roncal Valley on the banks of the river Esca in the Navarrese Pyrenees."

Au revoir Camille and Noéma!

We also say goodbye to our two talented trainees, **Camille Cyran** who has worked for food law and in communication for the past five months and **Noéma Treuil** who worked with us during the summer. We thank you for your dedication and wish you best on your future endeavours!



Camille Cyran

Trainee

Here we are. My 5-month internship at EDA comes to an end. I would like to thank everyone in the EDA Team and everyone I have met for their warm welcome.

Even though I enjoyed tasting different dairy products that I wasn't familiar with, my dairy product hasn't changed since I joined EDA: it will remain **Neufchâtel** from home region of Normandy.

Thank you for this rich internship and all the best!

Noéma Treuil

Trainee

"Thank you everyone at EDA for giving me this opportunity. My favourite dairy product is vanilla yoghurt for dessert."

