

Connect to the world of dairy

EDA Annual Convention 2023 is soon here!

Our EDA Annual Convention 2023 will take place from **Tuesday 7** to **Thursday 9** November in **The Hotel in Brussels**. The impending Belgian Presidency of the European Council in the first half of 2024, coupled with the conclusion of the term of the European Commission, will create a distinctive political atmosphere. Alongside dairy leaders and experts, and Members of the European Parliament, we will harness this momentum to address and deliberate upon the challenges and opportunities that await our sector.

Register for our Annual Convention on eda2023.eu

In collaboration with the Belgian dairy industry association **BCZ-CBL**, as well as **ASSIFONTE**, we will convene, at the heart of Europe, for an engaging discussion and collaborative effort towards shaping the future of our European lactosphere.

That is why the theme for this year is **“The Future is Dairy”**.

Discover our esteemed line of speakers:



Norbert Lins

MEP (EPP, DE)

Paolo De Castro

MEP (S&D, IT)



Martin Hlaváček

MEP (Renew, CZ)

Martin Häusling

MEP (Greens/EFA, DE)



Bert-Jan Ruissen

MEP (ECR, NL)



Peder Tuborgh

CEO, Arla Foods



Thierry Clément

COO, Lactalis Group



Elli Siltala

Executive Vice-President, Valio



Louis Ska

CEO, Solarec



Jan Derck van Karnebeek

CEO, FrieslandCampina



Charles Brand

Executive Vice-President, Tetra Pak



Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Windisch

Technical University of Munich



Prof. Dr. Leo den Hartog

Wageningen University



Sanne Dekker

Manager Public Affairs,
FrieslandCampina



Register for our Annual Convention on eda2023.eu



Europe - the Global Dairy Superpower

At the 2023 IDF World Dairy Summit in Chicago, **Pier Maria Saccani** (Director, Consorzio Mozzarella di Bufala Campana DOP) chaired the panel for the international trade session with H.E. **Tim Groser** (former NZ Trade Minister), **Matt Kovac** (CEO, Food Industry Asia), **Jaime Castaneda** (Executive Vice President, NMPF), and **Alexander Anton** (Secretary General, EDA). H.E. Tim Groser highlighted the crucial importance of the WTO: "All trade deals are based on the overall foundation of WTO rules, rules that have been established under U.S. leadership to ensure fair global trade. It is a bit frustrating to see today's role of the U.S. when it comes to the WTO", stated the New Zealand statesman.

In his speech, Alexander Anton, asked IDF, our global dairy federation, to refocus even more on trade facilitation and underlined the status of the European lactosphere as a global dairy and dairy trade superpower.



EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton at the IDF Dairy Summit 2023

EDA in exchange with the EU Spanish Presidency

Last week, **Kinga Adamszwili** (EDA) had the privilege to engage in an exchange with **Fernando Miranda**, Secretary General, Spanish Ministry of Agriculture.



Pictured L-R: **Mauricio García de Quevedo** (Director General, FIAB), **Fernando Miranda** (Secretary General, Food and Agriculture), **Dirk Jacobs** (Director General, FoodDrinkEurope) with the FDE CDG Chairs: **Attila Vörös** (Managing Director, Federation FÉSZ) and **Ulrich Adam** (Director General, Spirits Europe)

The meeting was organized in Madrid, Spain, in the framework of the **FoodDrinkEurope** Committee of Directors General. It was kindly hosted by **FIAB** (the Spanish Food and Drink Federation), where **FeNIL** (Federación Nacional de Industrias Lácteas) represents the Spanish milk processing sector.

In his detailed and eloquent presentation, Fernando Miranda highlighted that a resilient, autonomous, and self-sufficient EU - including food production - is among the top priorities for the current Spanish Presidency. He emphasized that in the current tense geopolitical context, the facilitation of the debate on the Ukrainian situation, food exports, and food production, and even food scarcity is unprecedentedly high on the political agenda of the EU. Climate change and environmental challenges, including water shortages (especially in the Mediterranean basin countries) and extreme weather conditions, highly affect farmers, food production, and consequently food prices, which are increasingly concerning for EU consumers. Fernando Miranda also stressed the intensity of the negotiations between the EP and the Council on the finalization of the geographical indications (GIs) Regulation. He also referred to the numerous environmental proposals in the legislative pipeline, e.g., on soil, carbon removal, packaging, emissions, and animal welfare (where a proposal on transport conditions might be expected). Fernando Miranda highlighted that policymakers need to keep a careful balance between the environmental ambitions and our limits and that we also need sufficient time to adapt to the new legislations.



Alexander Anton with the incoming President & CEO of NMPF, Gregg Doud

EDA delegation meets NMPF & USEC leadership

The **World Dairy Summit 2023** in Chicago was a perfect opportunity for a meeting of an EDA delegation, led by our (former) U.S. Task Force leader, **Kirsten Holm Svendsen** (DDB), in conjunction with the leadership of the U.S. dairy farmer organization NMPF represented by **Jim Mulhern** and **Gregg Doud**, as well as the U.S. Dairy Export Council led by President **Krysta Harden** and their respective teams.

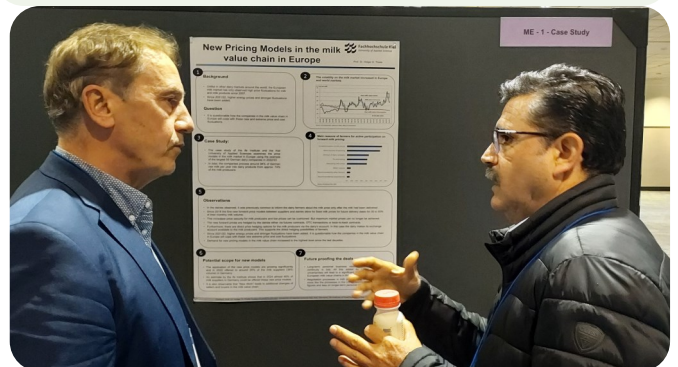
"Certainly, we will schedule a follow-up meeting at the 2024 IDF World Dairy Summit in Paris (15 – 18 Oct 2024). I also proposed that we focus on our shared approach to nutrition dossiers", stated **Pascal Le Brun** (Vice-President Agrial and President of the French Dairy Cooperative Association).

"In our constructive discussions, we reached a strong agreement on the principle of protecting dairy terms and on dairy sustainability. Additionally, we touched on the international bodies that touched our global dairy environment, wherein IDF plays a crucial role", concluded **Tjitske Bolt** (NZO, IDF Board member).

New pricing models in the milk value chains in Europe

Prof. Dr. **Holger D. Thiele** (University of Kiel) presented at the IDF World Dairy Summit his work on new pricing models in milk value chains in Europe.

"The European milk markets are exposed to volatility only since around 15 years. We have analysed the application of new milk pricing models, like forward price models between dairies and milk suppliers, that will cover around 40% of all German dairy farmers in 2024. Furthermore we observe more price models with floating elements and long-term agreements between dairies and retailers. Moreover, negotiation processes for trading milk and dairy products in Europe will become more like those employed in the U.S. due to increasing reliance on statistics and data - rather than longer-term personal relationship and contacts that have been employed to date. Our study attracted a lot of international attention and the discussions around these new models with dairy experts from across the world were greatly enriching", stated Holger D. Thiele.



Prof. Dr. Holger D. Thiele with Ramon Gonzalez Garcia (Sanbuena Dairy, Mexico)

CDG International aspects of agriculture

Laurens van Delft, EDA's Director of Trade and Economics, attended the European Commission's Civil Dialogue Group meeting for International Aspects of Agriculture on 17 October. The morning session focused on general agri-food trade developments and food security, while the afternoon was dedicated to Free Trade Agreements and trade barriers. The EDA, took the opportunity to bring our objections to Canada's milk pricing system to the attention of the European Commission. Canada's pricing system constitutes a prohibited subsidy under WTO rules, which has an impact on the global market for milk protein.



Giuseppe Ambrosi, President of the EDA and MEP Paolo De Castro



Geographical indications make friends in the Americas

Following Panama's lead, Chile is now also drawing inspiration from the European Quality Policy and is considering the adoption of EU-style GIs. This move is expected to have a significant impact on the competitive environment in the Chilean market. This development aligns with the modernization of the trade pillar of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, which entails the protection of 216 GIs from the EU in

Strengthening the system of geographical indications

EDA congratulates rapporteur **Paolo De Castro** (S&D, IT) with the EU interinstitutional agreement that strengthens the system of agricultural geographical indications (GIs). The agreement reached between the Parliament with the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council will guarantee greater harmonisation and clarity among all sectors and clarifies the role of the EUIPO. The protection of GIs used as ingredients will require processors to indicate on the label the percentage of the GI product in the processed product.

European dairy is the guardian of a unique culinary heritage and a cultural treasure: next to the legal protection of dairy terms, like 'milk', 'cheese' or 'whey' more than 300 designations of cheeses and other dairy products are protected as geographical indications through the EU quality policy and the GI protection scheme. European cheese and dairy products are rightly perceived as quality excellence products by consumers around the world.

We welcome a new geographical indication!



We are happy to welcome the French cheese '**Tomme fraîche de l'Aubrac**' as a protected designation of origin (PGO) and a protected GI. 'Tomme Fraiche' or 'Tomme Fraiche' is a strongly pressed, lightly fermented, and unsalted curd made from cow's milk. It has a supple and firm texture, very melting in the mouth and slight acidity brought by a short maturation period.

Packaging and green claims: EDA provides input to the European Parliament

The work of the EU Parliament on the legislative files regarding the new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and the proposed Directive on Green Claims is ongoing. Throughout the year, EDA has actively contributed to the Parliament's efforts, and we have recently shared our letter with the Parliament and Member States, outlining our concerns and key recommendations for the new legislation.

Regarding Green Claims, we have also presented our proposed amendments to the key MEPs responsible for the file. We advocate for the promotion of the PEF (Product Environmental Footprint) methodology as the industry standard for this sector's development.

We will continue to closely monitor the progress of these two legislative proposals, ensuring that our dairy-related concerns and insights are taken into account by policymakers.

strategic partner in our dialogue with China. The meeting was also attended by the Chairwoman of our EDA Trade Expert Group, **Lise Andreasen Høyer** (DDB, DK), and it offered the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics, including the Chinese approval of infant formula recipes and the revision of various GB standards.



Tara Meeke, Ian McGuinness, Ian McMaw, Alexander Anton, Mark Carson

Irish students visit EDA

EDA had the pleasure of welcoming a group of Northern Irish students studying at CAFRE - College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise, and the Irish College of Leuven to our offices on 10 October.

We had a delightful time discussing EDA's work in influencing agricultural policy in the European Union. The Secretary General, **Alexander Anton**, provided students with an overview on the structure and workings of EDA, while Senior Policy Officer, **Alberto Babolin**, spoke about policy developments in environment and sustainability. The discussion with the students showed proves that the future looks bright for European agriculture and dairy.



East meets West

The EDA had the pleasure of welcoming **Ran Qin** to our offices on Wednesday, 25 October. Ran Qin is the Government Affairs Desk Manager at the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and a

Lise Andreasen Høyer (DDB, DK) and Ran Qin (European Union Chamber of Commerce in China)