

Luis Cubel appointed new CEO of Arla Foods Ingredients

The President of our sister organization **EWPA**, **Luis Cubel**, has been appointed as the new CEO of **Arla Foods Ingredients**.

"EWPA President Luis Cubel is leading the overall organization and steering the Brussels-based team with true leadership, passion, and diplomacy. The entire team joins me in congratulating Luis on this next step in his career – Tillykke og mange tak, kære Luis!" applauded EWPA secretary general Alexander Anton.

What's your favourite dairy product?

My favorite home cooking ingredient is the famous Danish butter Lurpak.



Luis Cubel

EWPA President, CEO of Arla Foods Ingredients

GI-Revision: congratulations to MEP Paolo De Castro!

It was a pleasure and an honour to hear from MEP **Paolo De Castro** (S&D, IT) during his speech at our Annual Convention in Brussels, providing firsthand insights into the state of play of the revision of the EU scheme for **geographical indications** (GIs). His tireless efforts have culminated in success within the trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, the EU Council, and the EU Commission.

"The outcome is very balanced - a strong signal for overall EU agri-food production. The text underscores the importance of GIs as ambassadors for EU food excellence and emphasizes the economic dimension of the European Quality Policy. The extension of the name protection of article 27 to domain names on the internet is a significant win – and must also be introduced for **protected dairy denominations** to complete the consumer protection level here," stated EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.



MEP Paolo De Castro (S&D, IT) speaking at our Annual Convention on 9 November 2023, Brussels

Emmentaler: EDA celebrates ECJ verdict

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has recently issued a pivotal judgment that champions the clarity of EU trademark law, a move warmly welcomed by the EDA. In the high-stakes case '**Emmentaler Switzerland vs EUIPO**' (T-2/21), the ECJ denied the appeal for trademark protection of "Emmental," affirming the EDA position.

The ruling reinforces the integrity of trademark practices and ensures fair competition within the EU market, marking a great victory for the European lactosphere. This verdict is not only a stride forward in trademark law but also an assurance that our industry operates under a transparent and just legal system.



EDA participates in the Annual EFSA Stakeholder Forum

EDA had the honor of representing the European dairy sector at the **6th Annual EFSA** (European Food Safety Authority) **Stakeholder Forum**, held in Brussels on November 9 and 10 November 2023. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to hear from EFSA colleagues about the ongoing enforcement of the **Transparency Regulation**. This includes the new obligation of **notification of studies**, which significantly impacts industry applicants—such as those related to claims, novel foods, and ingredients (see EFSA's [presentation here](#)). A list of available **services for applicants** can be [downloaded here](#).

For the first time, EFSA also prepared Stakeholders Fair Stands, offering stakeholders the opportunity for topic - based interactions with EFSA staff across various units. These interactions focused on areas such as risk assessment, risk communication, and stakeholder engagement. It was announced that the Transparency Regulation is scheduled for review by the European Commission in 2026. EFSA Stakeholders were informed that **new Guidance Documents** will be available in the coming months, including:

- **Catalogue of services** (which includes a new dedicated support for SMEs) – December 2023/ early 2024
- **Republication of Regulated Products** – first half of 2024
- Republication of **Novel Foods** alongside scientific guidance – June 2024"

EDA at 'One Health' Conference: United for Global Health



EDA recently attended the '**One Health for All, All for One Health Conference**' on November 13, 2023, organised by the DG for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) in Luxembourg. This conference aimed to integrate and showcase the importance of the link between human, animal, plant, and environmental health strategies, the integration of climate, surveillance, and early warning systems, and the increasing risks related to antimicrobial resistance. An effective approach to these issues has become a necessity now more than ever, highlighted especially by recent global health crises such as COVID-19.

The discussions centred around creating a collaborative, multisectoral framework to better predict, prepare, and respond, considering the interdependencies of all health aspects. EDA remains committed to continuing its efforts in working towards the highest possible health standards in the EU and emphasizing the dairy industry's role in this integrated global paradigm and work towards a sustainable and health-centric future.

The EU-NZ FTA approved by the European Parliament

On 22 November, the European Parliament voted in favor of ratifying the **EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement** (EU-NZ FTA) next steps includes the adoption of the approval vote by the Council of the EU and the passage of implementing regulations. New Zealand needs to pass implementing legislation to ratify the agreement and will introduce a draft text to the New Zealand Parliament for approval.

The EU dairy sector will continue to remain resilient and competitive, preparing for the new, more challenging market conditions.



CNIEL's symposium on sustainable nutrition

The Centre National Interprofessionnel de l'Économie Laitière (CNIEL), the French dairy interbranch organization, invited us to its European symposium on sustainable nutrition in Paris. The event was an opportunity to share the latest knowledge about the key role played by dairy products in sustainable and healthy diets. **Thierry Geslain**, Director of Sustainable Development at CNIEL, opened the event and moderated the panel discussion in which **Mélanie Grivier** from **ATLA**, our French member association, provided insight into the environmental labeling scheme currently being discussed in France.

In this context, the EU Commission has also been working on proposing a green labeling scheme at the European level, and the legislative proposal is currently being discussed by the EU Parliament and Council. Since 2020, we have actively contributed to the work of these institutions regarding environmental labeling, promoting our [Dairy PEF methodology](#) for calculating the environmental footprint of dairy products in Europe.



Arsen Didur, Alexander Anton, Valentyn Zaporoshchuk and Maks Fasteyev at the EDA Annual Convention

EU-Ukraine dairy and agri-food meetings

At our EDA Annual Convention in Brussels, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Arsen Didur**, **Valentyn Zaporoshchuk**, together with **Maks Fasteyev** (Infagro), our friends from our Ukrainian partner federation, **SMPU**.

The objective was to underline the importance of the Ukrainian dairy sector and further develop our EU-Ukraine dairy relationship. This week, we met with **Nazar Bobitski** and **Oleksandra Avramenko** from the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB) and an EU Commission official in charge of the Ukraine-EU accession process.

Throughout these meetings, we exchanged ideas on how to integrate Ukrainian dairy into the EU Single Market for Dairy in the long term and explored potential options for Ukraine's integration into the overall Common Agricultural Policy



'Lactosphère': French Dairy Industry podcast

"**Lactosphère**" is the new podcast launched by **FNIL** (Fédération Nationale de l'Industrie Laitière), one of our French member federations that brings together companies of all sizes throughout France. The podcast, streamed weekly, covers various topics, including its strategic objectives, activities, and interviews with different actors across the dairy sector.

In the latest podcast, **François-Xavier Huard**, CEO of FNIL, discusses "**Milk Tech**," an innovation ecosystem aimed at addressing the environmental challenges within the dairy industry. This event is scheduled to take place on 13 December in Paris. FNIL intends not only to announce the 2023 competition winners at this event but also to establish a long-term forum for the industry's stakeholders to collaborate.

A heartfelt thank you/merci beaucoup to François-Xavier Huard and his team for this initiative – and for branding the podcast as 'Lactosphère'.

Listen to the [podcast here \(in French\)](#).



Dr. Andreas Schneider of EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski's cabinet and Prof. Holger Thiele at the EDA offices in Brussels

Kiel University visits EDA

This week, the EDA hosted a visit of students and researchers from the University of Applied Science Kiel in Brussels. Prof. **Holger Thiele** and Prof. **Martin Braatz**, alongside master students, engaged in insightful discussions on policy and research. The sessions with Dr. **Andreas Schneider**, member of EU Commissioner **Janusz Wojciechowski's** cabinet in DG AGRI and MEP **Niclas Herbst** (EPP, DE) were enriching, diving deep into the pivotal aspects shaping the future of dairy farming in Europe.

Portuguese cheese gets EU mark of quality

We are happy to welcome "**Requeijão da Madeira**" as a protected geographical indication (PGI).



Requeijão da Madeira is a fresh dairy product, from the heat coagulation of cow's milk, acidified naturally by native lactic bacteria developed in raw milk, without addition of any rennet, yeast or acidifier. The only addition is salt and it's not subjected to any curing process, following the traditional way of production in Madeira Island.