

Belgian EU Presidency: the Future of Agriculture in the EU

On 1 February 2024, Flemish Minister for Agriculture **Jo Brouns** opened the Belgian EU Presidency high-level symposium on the Future of Agriculture in the EU.

Next to a pre-recorded video message of EU Commissioner for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight **Maroš Šefčovič**, former EU Commissioner **Phil Hogan** shared in person on St. Brigid's day (one of the three patrons of Ireland and the patron of livestock) his assessment of the farmers' protests and analysed the compatibility between EU trade and agricultural policy.



With Professor **Frank Mitloehner** (University of California) and **Hanne Søndergaard** (EVP, Arlafoods), our sector had two outstanding experts in dairy and livestock sustainability on the speakers' list. In the final panel, **Wolfgang Bartscher**, Director-General of DG AGRI, highlighted the new CAP elements that have to be assessed when drafting the future of the CAP.

Luis Cubel -next

generation AFI leadership

In the crowded atrium of the Arla Foods Ingredients (AFI) headquarters in Viby, Arlafoods CEO **Peder Tuborgh** handed over the AFI leadership baton from **Henrik Andersen** to EWPA President **Luis Cubel**.

"Henrik has implemented our ingredient vision and translated our AFI motto line "the wonders of whey" into a global leadership in the markets and in quality and innovation excellence. With Luis Cubel our protein focussed business has a new leader who will write the next chapter of the AFI success story with the AFI people, because **"Together we discover and deliver powerful nutrition for a stronger tomorrow"**.



Peder Tuborgh, Henrik Andersen, Luis Cubel

What's your preferred dairy product?

My favourite dairy product is butter. A dollop of butter spread over a fresh slice of brown bread is one of life's simple pleasures



Phil Hogan

EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Trade (2014 – 2020)

The Green Deal and EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski

EU Commissioner for Agriculture **Janusz Wojciechowski** has been quoted in the press with "I myself am against the Green Deal" – we clearly have a more nuanced approach as European dairy: while we always criticized the top – down and non-collaborative approach followed by the EU Commission in this essential project, the overall Green Deal objective to transform Europe into the first climate neutral continent by 2050 has become an integral part of our European Dairy Strategy long before the EU Commission has published its Green Deal project", claims EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.

What's your preferred dairy product?



My first thought goes to cottage cheese or fresh cheese, suitable for all times of the day

Janusz Wojciechowski

EU Commissioner for Agriculture

EDA participates in 'Crafting Transatlantic Green Marketplace' event

The EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) organized a stakeholder event on 31 January 2024 with the aim of helping implement the Transatlantic Initiative on Sustainable Trade (TIST) Work Programme. The event was launched with a high-level

plenary session including policymakers from both sides of the Atlantic. Subsequently, various breakout sessions provided opportunities for stakeholders to engage in focused discussions on strategies to enhance circularity, promote the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies, and ensure a just transition to a clean-tech economy. As a stakeholder in the event, EDA actively participated in the debate on how to make the transatlantic marketplace a key factor for more sustainable and climate-neutral economies on both sides of the Atlantic.

DG AGRI tackles Red Sea transport issue

Deputy Director-General of DG AGRI **Pierre Bascou** and his team around **Fabien Santini**, discussed with key agri-food stakeholders the potential impact of attacks by Houthi terrorists on ships in the Red Sea on the European agri-food sector within the 'Expert Group on European Food Security'.



Approximately 20% of all EU agri-food imports and exports are affected by today's crisis. "This timely initiative underlines unrivalled commitment of DG AGRI to stay in a meaningful dialogue with the agri-food world. Next to the excessive higher shipping costs and shipping time due to the rerouting of shipments, we highlighted the impact on our EU dairy exports and the potential issue for energy supply in Europe", stated EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.

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Béranger Guyonnet, Krystian Kęciak, Fabienne Alcaraz, Lise Andreasen Høyer

EDA prepares for the next EU Trade Strategy and the CAP-2027

In this week's EDA Trade and Economics (TEC) meetings, our TEC chairs **Lise Andreasen Høyer** (DDB) and **Béranger Guyonnet** (Sodiaal) welcomed DG AGRI's **Krystian Kęciak** and **Fabienne Alcaraz**.

"We have finalized our EDA CAP-2027 position and made good progress on our EDA input for the next EU Trade Strategy – we really want to see the EU and all Member States acknowledge the importance of trade for our economic base. When it comes to our future trade focus, we decided to analyse in depth the potential of the Thailand and Indonesia markets", stated EDA Director of Economics and Trade Laurens van Delft.

A liberal take on the Future of Agriculture

AGRI-Coordinator MEP **Ulrike Müller** (Renew, DE) organized and moderated a stimulating seminar on the future of agriculture on 14 February. This event, under the flag "A People-driven Agriculture Policy for Europe - What are the Options?", allowed for a comprehensive discussion on the future of European agriculture, with the right mix of politics, policy, and

academia. The seminar included presentations from Professor **Peter Feindt** (Humboldt University), Professor **Goedele Van den Broeck** (UC Louvain), Professor **Roel Jongeneel** (WUR Wageningen), Professor **Patrick Caron** (Montpellier University), and Professor **Dobri Yarkov** (Trakia University). Participants discussed a variety of possible scenarios that could shape the future of European agriculture and the EU's rural areas. It seems clear that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but sharing best practices and coming together to discuss future scenarios seems like a good start ahead of the next CAP reform.



Professor Roel Jongeneel, MEP Ulrike Müller, MEP Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Professor Dobri Yarkov

Nutri-Score: new research shows research supporting the logo is strongly biased

EDA would like to congratulate the Vice-chair of its Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. **Stephan Peters** (NZO), on the publication of a new scientific article jointly with Professor **Hans Verhagen**: [Publication bias and Nutri-Score: A complete literature review of the substantiation of the effectiveness of the front-of-pack logo Nutri-Score](#). This important research includes an overview of the literature on the effectiveness of Nutri-Score and concludes that the available evidence is

Publication bias and Nutri-Score. A complete literature review of the substantiation of the effectiveness of the front-of-pack logo Nutri-Score.

Number of scientific papers that describe favourable or unfavourable outcomes of Nutri-Score related to whether authors are or are not affiliated with Nutri-Score developers:

Studies Nutri-Score	Authors affiliated		Authors not affiliated	
	Favourable	Not favourable	Favourable	Not favourable
Algorithm in line with food-based dietary guidelines	5	0	2	4
Sufficient dispersion within product groups	3	0	0	3
Score is related to theoretical health effect	13	0	6	0
Logo is understood and liked	3	0	1	7
Ability to choose best out of 3	19	0	7	2
Effect in online supermarket	2	3	0	1
Effect in real-life supermarket	1	0	2	3
Effects on FSAm-NPS	6	1	0	0
Other reviews (efficacy, validation etc.)	0	0	1	10



Papers by authors that are or are not affiliated with Nutri-Score developers:

Authors affiliated	
Favourable	Not favourable
52	4

Authors not affiliated	
Favourable	Not favourable
19	30

Conclusion: There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the use of Nutri-Score as an effective public health tool. Overall, the available evidence is limited and biased.

Stephan Peters, Hans Verhagen, 2024.

limited and biased, and more research is needed to substantiate or disprove the effectiveness of Nutri-Score.

The publication of the article is accompanied by an interesting interview with Dr. Stephan Peters in ["Nutrition Insight": Is Nutri-Score misleading?](#) New research advocates for rigorous independent testing where he highlights that the system should be evaluated by independent scientific food authorities for real-life evidence of its benefits for the consumers.

As EDA, we strongly believe that Nutri-Score fails to align with European Food Based Dietary Guidelines - especially for milk, liquid dairy products and cheeses. [Find out more in our recently published EDA Position Paper on Nutri-Score.](#)

EU Dairy in New Delhi

EU Commissioner for Agriculture **Janusz Wojciechowski** visited New Delhi in India from 6 to 12 December 2023, accompanied by a business delegation of senior representatives from the EU agri-food sector. EDA secretary general Alexander Anton represented the European dairy sector in Asia's biggest milk-producing country. The visit came at an excellent time, as the EU and India are currently negotiating a Free Trade Agreement.

"Dairy plays a significant role in both the EU and India, this counts for numerous aspects including cuisine,

culture, and the economy. Concluding these trade negotiations successfully will be a win-win situation for both parties", stated Alexander Anton.

Read a re-cap of the successful visit in ["Hospitality Horizon"](#), India's world-class magazine covering food, hospitality, travel and lifestyle (Page 94-95).



EDA attends event on 'Food Loss Technologies and Policies'

On 13 February 2024, EDA had the pleasure to attend the "Advancing Food Loss Technologies and Policies" event organized by Competere and Trane Technologies. This important event was hosted by MEP **Rosa D'Amato** (Greens/EFA, IT) and provided an overview of technical and policy developments regarding food waste and food loss. The event was an occasion for a meaningful dialogue between EU MEPs and industry members representing retailers, new technology developers as well as trade associations with additional insights provided by **Alexandra Nikolakopoulou** (Head of Unit, Farm to Fork Strategy, DG SANTE). As EDA we are committed to reducing food waste and sharing best practices within the dairy sector– check out our **EDA Factsheet** on [Food Loss and Waste Prevention in the Dairy Chain](#).



EDA welcomes the provisional agreement on the 'Breakfast Directives'

On 31 January 2024, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU announced a provisional agreement concerning four of the so-called '**Breakfast Directives**'. The revision of these policies will update the rules concerning the composition, labeling, and naming of certain foodstuffs. When it comes to milk, the revised directives introduce simplified labeling for milk: the distinction between 'evaporated' and 'condensed' milk will be removed, in line with the Codex Alimentarius standard. Lactose-free dehydrated milk will also be authorized.

EDA welcomes the agreement reached by legislators and will continue to advocate for a sustainable, responsible, and consumer-friendly dairy sector.

SAVE THE DATE TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 10:00 - 12:00

BRUSSELS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ROOM A5E1

ADVANCING FOOD LOSS TECHNOLOGIES AND POLICIES

EUROPE'S POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

RSVP: secretariat@competere.eu

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European Parliament

THE GREENS/EFA
in the European Parliament

Ministry for Agriculture
and Consumer Protection
of the State of North Rhine-
Westphalia



MIV MILK SUMMIT 2024

Milk pricing in the value chain: regulation versus competition and market economy?

5 March 2024, Brussels

[Registrater for the event here](#)



EDA Dairy Policy Conference

Focus on the European Elections 2024

Wednesday 10th of April 2024, Brussels

Confirmed Speakers: Wolfgang Burtscher, Director-General,

DG AGRI, Albert de Groot, CEO, Vreugdenhil Dairy Foods

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EDA Annual Convention



Rome, Italy

13th -th 15 November

Hosted by

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