

Dairy Flash

Connect to the world of dairy



14:00 *Welcome coffee / registration*

14:30 Welcome & Opening: **Michel Nalet**, EDA President

14:45 **Sustainable Food – Sustainable Diet**

Chair: **Jørgen Hald Christensen**, Danish Dairy Board (DK)

- **Dr. Josta de Hoog**, Scientific Council for Government Policy, The Hague (NL)
- **Karl-Friedrich Falkenberg**, European Policy Strategy Centre, Brussels (BE)
- **Dr. John Ingram**, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford (UK)

16:00 *Yoghurt break*

16:30 **Sustainable Dairy**

Chair: **Richard Laxton**, ARLA UK

- **MEP Julie Girling** (ECR, UK)
- **Roberto Brazzale**, Brazzale (IT)
- **Dr. Judith Bryans**, DairyUK, London (UK)

17:40 IDF WDS 2016 'Dare to Dairy', 16-19.10.2016 in Rotterdam:

Jan Maarten Vrij, NZO (NL)

17:45 Conclusion of the EDA Policy Conference 2016: **Michel Nalet**, EDA President

18:00 EDA / ASSIFONTE - Annual Cheese Buffet

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The latest news from the world of dairy

Today's Agricultural Council in Luxembourg

An update on the market support measures and on the possibilities of the EU Fund for Strategic Investments for agriculture is on the agenda of the meeting of EU agricultural ministers today.

The Lithuanian minister will also highlight the critical situation especially of the Lithuanian dairy sector, where the lowest milk price in the EU is reported.

The German delegation will draw the attention on the recent Europol report on global food fraud (Operation Opson V: )

The French delegation, supported by 12 other Member States, tabled a position for the EU – **Mercosur negotiations**.

The paper underlines the agricultural sensitivities and links the trade negotiations to the market situation: *"An offer to Mercosur containing quotas (for agricultural exports to the EU) would likely be seen as a provocation by the EU agricultural sector"*.



Source : www.eubrasil.eu

EU COM Malmström meets with Mercosur President

Last week, **Uruguay Foreign minister Nin Novoa** met as the Mercosur President with **EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström**.

The EU Mercosur trade negotiations were re-launched back in May 2010. *"Today, we have a more favourable climate for trade negotiations"*, claimed EU Commissioner Malmström.

'Beyond the crisis' – conference in the European Parliament


"We are losing ground at international level, the Common Agricultural Policy does not correspond to today's expectations", warned **MEP Michel Dantin** (EPP, FR) at the conference organised by Brussels based think-tank 'farmeurope' last Monday. **MEP Paolo De Castro** (S&D, IT) underlined the need for a mid-term review of the CAP and a European policy approach.

In his speech, **EU Commissioner Phil Hogan** underlined the importance of the CAP, but elaborated also on the market situation: *"We applied the full content of the tool box available under the CAP, including the 'urgency measures' of article 222 – how this will work is not in the hands of the Commission"*.



The latest news from the world of dairy

NFU (UK farmers association) publishes "BREXIT analysis"

With less than 75 days to go to the UK referendum, the UK farmers association NFU published a summary of an impact assessment of an UK exit for British agriculture: *"What you will see from this report is that some of the scenarios appear to suggest that there could be serious risks to farm income leaving the EU, while others suggest there could be a more favourable outcome"*. 

While the UK Food and Drink Association took already a clear position (*"the UK should remain a EU member!"*), the NFU will see on 18 April 2016 if the organisation will take a decision on this topic.



Single market for dairy? French 'test' for compulsory origin labelling

After the March agricultural Council meeting, **French Agriculture minister Stéphane Le Foll** had stated that the competent **EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis** had given him the green light for testing a mandatory origin labelling scheme for milk and milk as an ingredient in dairy products in France. Afterwards, the spokeswoman of Commissioner Andriukaitis had to correct Minister Le Foll: *"The Commission is in discussion with the French authorities"*.

A Commission source indicated: *"In a way, we are talking about a step back to re-nationalisation of the food law. That's why this issue is been dealt with at the level of EU Commissioner President Jean-Claude Juncker"*.

EDA shared the clear opposition of the EU dairy sector regarding the French draft decree with all levels involved in the EU Commission and beyond. On 12 April, the French text will be discussed in a Council committee meeting with the Member States.

French interbranch organisation (CNIEL): stabilising the milk markets

With a milk volume increase of only 0,2% in 2015 in France, the French interbranch



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organisation CNIEL calls for an incentive by the EU Commission to continue this production adjustment in France.

In a paper published in French and English, the French interbranch dairy organisation (CNIEL) asks to grant only access to public aid measures (including public intervention) for those operators *"who commit to a temporary stabilisation of the milk production during the period in which article 222 is applied"*.

The French CNIEL also asks to consider the *"reinstatement of aid for the incorporation of milk powder into animal feed"* and a food aid program for refugee camps in Europe.

Possible agreement on a voluntary reduction of milk production

The European Commission's proposal to allow Producers Organisation (POs), Associations of Producers Organisations (APOs), Interbranch Organisations (IBOs) and cooperatives to agree on a voluntary reduction of milk production has been supported by the Management Committee on Thursday 31 March. The publication of the implementing regulation is expected for mid-April.

EDA's opinion is that decision on milk production is an individual responsibility that should be taken within individual cooperatives or in the context of negotiations between milk producers and their milk processors.

Single-nutrient approach not helpful, says EFSA

Valeriu Curtui, Head of Nutrition Unit at EFSA, highlighted at the recent event 'You are what you eat', hosted by **MEP Daciana Sarbu** (S&D, RO) that selecting food on the basis of *"single nutrients is not really helpful"*. Dr Curtui said that consumers needed advice on how to select a suitable mixture of foods to meet their nutritional requirements. He insisted that guidelines should focus on *"foods and overall diet quality rather than on single nutrients"*. Dr Curtui also reiterated EFSA's argument on added sugar intake, saying that data available at the moment does not allow the setting of an upper limit for added sugars, questioning whether it should be 5%, 10% or 25% of total energy.

While EFSA worked on Dietary Reference Values (DRV), it was for member states to put these into practice, he stressed, saying that food-based dietary guidelines are established at national level.



The latest news from the world of dairy

MEP Daciana Sarbu, Vice-Chair of the ENVI Committee, said consumers needed to gain a better understanding of the links between food and health and that the obesity crisis did not get enough recognition from EU institutions. Meeting summary can be found online: [i](#)

New Dutch Dietary Guidelines fully recognise dairy health benefits

The recently published updated guidelines in the Dutch food pyramid ("Schijf van Vijf") are based on recommendations issued by the Dutch Health Council last year. The goal of the updated science-based recommendations was to focus on foodstuffs that provide the healthiest benefits, with recommended amounts of each food group. In addition to the five 'daily' food groups, the guidelines list 'weekly choices' products. Dairy holds a special place in the new recommendations, beside fish, pulses, meat, nuts and eggs.

Semi-skimmed and skimmed dairy products have been categorised among the basic foodstuffs. The recommended intake is two to three servings of milk/yoghurt and 1 slice of cheese per day. Full-fat dairy also found its place in the weekly recommendations.

The scientific committee of the Dutch Health Council concluded that consumption of milk and dairy is associated with a lower risk of colorectal cancer and the consumption of yogurt with a lower risk of diabetes. The conclusion about colorectal cancer is supported by the finding that the intake of calcium from supplements was associated with a lower risk of this disease. The calcium intake from supplements was approximately about half the amount from dairy. The scientific committee also concluded that a distinction between the effects of low-fat and high-fat dairy produce was not possible, because of insufficient evidence. More information is available on the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition - The 2015 Dutch food-based dietary guidelines [i](#).

Save The Date !

• **Wed. 30 November – Fri. 02 December:**
EDA Annual Convention "European Dairy Ambition" | Nice (FR)

