

Dairy Flash


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The latest news from the world of dairy

Agriculture Council meeting in Brussels

In a very difficult context for the milk markets, Tuesday's Agriculture Council meeting in Brussels made the point with a regular routine market situation presentation.

The main concern that came out of the overall meeting involved the discussion on the implementation of the March 2016 support measures. **EU Commissioner Phil Hogan** highlighted that it is premature to consider a further support package. An in-depth discussion is scheduled for the June Agriculture Council. Commissioner Hogan also gave an update on the CAP simplification measures already taken and those planned for the coming months. 

The detailed outcome of the Agriculture Council Meeting of 17 May is available online. 

European Milk Forum (EMF) and EDA

The European Milk Forum  plays a vital role in driving the strategic development, management, and exchange of integrated information initiatives on milk and dairy across Europe.

EMF's 'Milk, Nutritious by Nature' campaign is the first ever co-ordinated effort of eight European countries that have one common mission: disseminating significant information and create a true dialogue with key stakeholders in Europe in relation to the nutrient richness of milk and dairy.

EDA chair Michel Nalet exchanged on potential common projects with **Dr David Dobbin** (DairyUK chair) and **Laurent Damiens** (EMF).



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Visit of the Kibbutz Management Group from Israel



Mrs **Micha Kraus** (CEO of the Israeli Dairy Board, center) led this week the study tour delegation of the Kibbutz Management Group from Israel to a Brussels / EU visit. At our EDA offices we discussed the IL – EU trade relations and the dairy (policy) developments in our respective regions and at global level. The newly appointed Agricultural Attaché of the IL mission in Brussels, Mr **Haim Tager** (right), follows the EU CAP evolution very closely: *“Our discussions in Israel very much focus on what the quota end in Europe meant for dairy farmers”*.

EDA exchange with Irish Dairy Industries Association (IDIA)

“If I have a look at the agenda of the Irish Dairy Industries Association, I see it is as much aligned with our EDA agenda than the work program of all national dairy associations. We value the input of IDIA to our European dairy project”, stated **EDA chair Michel Nalet** during an exchange with the IDIA Council last week.

“Not only the global market development, but also food policy topics, like origin labelling or environmental dossiers like the European Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) are 100% European - and there, our EDA has a crucial role to play”, concluded **Conor Mulvihill**, managing director of IDIA.



At its last Council meeting, the IDIA Board elected **Jim Woulfe** (CEO Dairygold, left) as the new IDIA president. Outgoing President **Dan MacSweeney** (CEO Carbery, right) and EDA chair Michel Nalet congratulated Jim for this new challenging role.

Protection of dairy terms and common product standards/definitions

In the framework of DG AGRI’s project to simplify our European marketing standards, EDA highlighted the importance of both, the EU product / marketing standards and the protection of dairy denominations, like ‘butter’, ‘yogurt’ or ‘milk’. These tools are essential to facilitate intra community trade and hence for a smooth functioning of the single market.

EDA asked the EU Commission to complete further the single market for dairy in establishing a **common European definition for ‘cheese’**.



Launch of Portuguese Terra Nostra programme for pasture milk

The new Terra Nostra programme for 'the best milk ever' was launched this week at the Azores – this is a major investment into a sustainable quality production in one of the outmost regions of the EU, producing one third of the Portuguese milk. The specific programme requires many quality and sustainability indicators from farmers who have taken major investments. The Terra Nostra programme of high quality pasture milk is centred on cows grazing 356 days per year, as allows the specific local climate. The very green island and its local economy is based on dairy production, and the new investment is warmly welcomed as a crucial support of this rural area.



Mandatory origin labelling: Commission remains supportive of voluntary rules

The European Parliament's motion for resolution on mandatory origin labelling for milk, dairy products and lightly processed meat has been voted last week in favour in the plenary session in Strasbourg (full text of the Resolution: [i](#), EP press release: [i](#)). The vote was preceded by the parliamentary debate with **EU Commissioner**

Vytenis Andriukaitis who reiterated the Commission's position supporting that only voluntary rules were feasible regarding origin labelling for milk and dairy. Commissioner Andriukaitis reminded the MEPs that mandatory requirements would have a significant negative financial impact on the producers, rigidifying supply chains and disturbing the internal market as well as international trade. The Commission aims at finalising the current work on a new regulation harmonising the EU rules on voluntary origin labelling, by the end of 2016.

SAVE THE DATE

2016 EDA Convention in Nice (France)

1st – 3rd December 2016

Register now for the EDA 2016 Convention



May

- **Wed. 25:** Extraordinary hearing of the COMAGRI (European Parliament) – **EDA Chair Michel Nalet** on the speakers' panel
- **Fri. 25:** Twitter Chat "The Future of Farming: Smart Agriculture in a Competitive World", presented by the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) and organised by POLITICO [i](#)

June

- **Wed. 1st :** World Milk Day [i](#)
- **Mon. 6 – Wed. 8:** IFCN Dairy Conference (The Dairy Research Network) | Ghent (BE) [i](#)
- **Wed. 15:** Madeta's 110 years anniversary celebration | Bechyně (CZ)