



One-year anniversary of 'Farm to Fork':

Are we really celebrating?

A year ago, the European Commission released the Farm to Fork Strategy, a key part of the EU Green Deal.

With the Green Deal action developing in the past year and a half, we now see the challenge pointed out already since the start: there is no full picture taken of the agri-food sector and the importance of nutrition security in a consistent manner. Actions go beyond farm-to-fork and influences and cross-cutting issues are not well dealt with, including economic, social or environmental trade-offs.

Best example is the code of conduct, spearheading a possible overview of commitments of the chain. It is meant to work towards sustainable food systems and will be presented in September to the UN Summit on the topic as EU input, but only focuses on single items without checking if these are the most relevant *hotspots* or even lead towards making our food systems more sustainable. We are wondering if this is indeed the right way to build a well-founded construction for our future. You can read the opinion piece of our Food, Environment & Health Committee chair in our [2020/21 Annual Report](#).

A wide range of actors of the agri-food chain are issuing a critical statement on the Farm to Fork strategy, highlighting major shortcomings in its approach, and offering a minimum of three conditions to shape it towards a more positive achievement story. We as EDA have co-signed it and are now looking forward towards the EU institutions to achieve a constructive building process for a sustainable change. You can read the joint declaration [here](#).

EU – Australasia Free Trade Agreement:

Important to stay vigilant

The 10th round of trade negotiations between the EU and New Zealand and between the EU and Australia took place in March and the European Commission is gearing up for round 11. The issue of GI's remains a big stumbling block for our Australian friends while New Zealand is testing the EU's loyalty to its dairy sector.

The European Commission is currently checking modifications to its market access offer for New Zealand with the Member States in an attempt to have a new proposal ready in June. EDA repeated its concerns about the initial offer and urged the European Commission to exercise restraint, especially when it comes to market access and specifically access to Europe's sensitive whey markets.

A look across the Channel shows us what can happen if the EU is not vigilant. The demands by Australia and New Zealand for unrestricted market access to the UK should be seen as a sign on the wall and protest by the British agricultural community are understandable. EDA is grateful that the European Commission took note of our concerns in their negotiation with the UK and that they took over our suggestion for solid Rules of Origin in the EU-UK TCA.

Read here our [trade focus](#) on New Zealand!



It's the final CAPdown:

Ten days to go

At last Monday's Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) meeting, delegations discussed the Regulation on Strategic Plans from the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), including the green architecture -eco-schemes- and the targeting of direct payments. Delegations welcomed the efforts made by the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council to reach a compromise with the European Parliament.

However, there are still differences in opinion over several issues in the three Regulations composing the CAP that will have to be addressed in the Super Trilogue which will take place on 25-26 May, in parallel with an EU Agriculture special Council to be held on 26-27 May.

We trust that the three EU institutions will reach a comprehensive agreement on the CAP by the end of this month, and will keep the level of protection of dairy terms as proposed by the European Parliament.

Make sure you don't miss any update and follow us on social media:



@EDA_Dairy



European Dairy Association

EU Single Use Plastics guidance draft:

No clear indication of the way forward

We recently analysed and commented the latest draft version of the EU Commission's guidelines clarifying some aspects of the Single Use Plastics Directive. You can see our position [here](#).

Unfortunately, the draft is underwhelming and does not provide operators and national authorities with a clear indication of the way forward. It also may extend the scope of the directive way beyond the original text, disregarding for example the "littering tendency" criteria. While we support the overall SUP Directive's objective, we regretted from the very beginning the strikingly fast legislative process that led to the approval of this directive, as well as a final text that leaves too much space for interpretation, with a real risk of endangering our internal market. Our concerns proved right: since the publication of the directive – encouraged by the great delay in producing these guidelines – several Member States already laid out diverging national legislation.

EU & China:

A lot of work to be done

The Chinese announcement of informal talks with some members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership is another development that cannot be underestimated. We stated from the beginning that market access efforts by the EU should focus on trade negotiations with countries that have a real market (access) potential, like China and other markets in South-East Asia, and that is exactly what our competitors are now doing. Solid access to the Chinese market is of vital importance for the EU dairy sector and it would be a shame if other countries get ahead of us. We hope that, in the meanwhile, outstanding issues as registration inspections, new GB standards, third party manufacturing and registration and administration of overseas manufacturers can be resolved quickly.

Our fact sheet on food waste prevention is out!

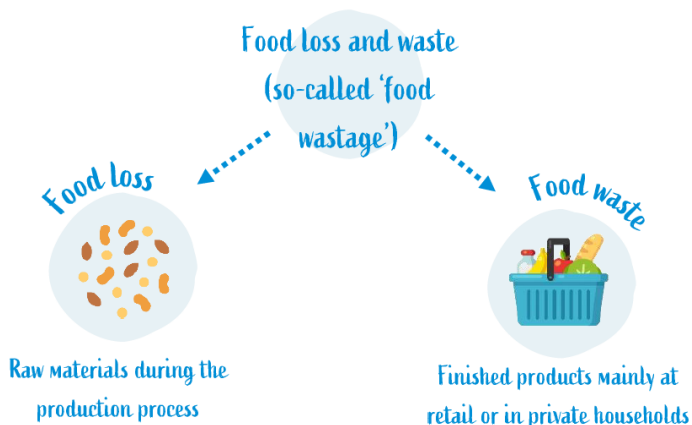
The dairy sector's efforts and achievements in reducing food loss & waste

We are very proud to show the enormous and continuous work of the dairy sector for food loss and waste reduction in our newly published [EDA fact sheet, available on our website](#).

The European dairy industry processes milk and dairy ingredients in around 12,000 plants across the EU, and partners with around 700,000 farmers to assure an efficient and sustainable delivery of dairy products every day, ultimately being a key contributor to sustainable food systems.

Accelerating progress towards halving food waste by 2030 (SDG 12.3) is an essential part of this effort. The European dairy industry is fully aware of the importance of a continued effort to further reduce losses of valuable resources and waste of final dairy products, especially given the huge share of overall greenhouse gas emissions linked to it and the negative impact of packaging on the natural environment. As such, the efficient use of resources is an integral part of the sustainability strategy of many dairy companies and overall dairy strategic approach.

We are confident that the efforts of all parts of the chain and its beneficiaries (from feed production to consumer) will add up to the joint success!



Animal health and welfare:

EU and EDA action

Improving animal health and welfare is amongst the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy, the European Commission's agri-food policy presented one year ago as part of the EU Green Deal.

A EURACTIV webinar that took place this week provided the opportunity to discuss the topic with experts from national institutions, international and sectorial organisations, and the academic world. The importance of adequate animal nutrition in promoting animal health and welfare was underlined. The introductory remark by **EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides** also highlighted the key role that feed additives can play in enhancing animal health and welfare.

EDA is working with the Commission on mapping existing projects and schemes aimed at protecting and improving the health and welfare of dairy cows. Numerous initiatives have been implemented at dairy farm level in the EU. Such animal care practices include healthy living conditions, nutritious and adapted diets and good medical care. Healthy cattle is fundamental for assuring the sustainability of our sector: it is essential for producing safe and high-quality milk and ensure farm productivity and profitability.

Moreover, EDA is a full member of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, where we bring forward our support of every effort in keeping dairy animals healthy. Our input to the platform is coordinated by the EDA Animal Health and Animal Welfare Task Force, that gathers our dairy experts in the field.

As part of the Farm to Fork strategy, the Commission will revise the animal welfare legislation in 2023 and propose a revision of the feed additives regulation by end of this year.

Evaluation of the impact of the CAP measures towards the objective of 'viable food production':

The dairy Perspective

Only at the end of the negotiation process for the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2023, last week the European Commission published an evaluation on the impact of the CAP measures during the period 2014-2020 on the objective "viable food production". In particular, the aim of [this evaluation](#) has been to explore the impact of the CAP measures on the mentioned objective with a focus on farm income, price stability and competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

The conclusions are generally positive on the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of the measures but indicate room for improving the effectiveness of coupled payments, decoupled direct payments and price stability tools. In this context, regarding dairy, the evaluation is accompanied by an annex analysing the effectiveness of the CAP measures addressing the 2014-2016 dairy market crisis. Among others, the document explains the safety net measures applied for Skim Milk Powder (SMP) during the crisis. In fact, it highlights that current public intervention mechanisms have proved to be an effective tool to mitigate the SMP market decline, which did not disturb the markets, although the existence of large quantities in intervention appeared to have delayed market recovery.



Vittorio Fiore, new Italian representative in our EDA Board

We are happy to announce that **Vittorio Fiore of Lactalis Italia** has been appointed as the Italian representative of our EDA Board by our Italian EDA member **ASSOLATTE**.

"With his wealth of expertise in the dairy and the broader food sector, Vittorio represents the strength of the Italian lactosphere in our EDA Board: Italian dairy excellence and our success at international level. Benvenuto, Vittorio!", congratulated **EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi**.

Welcome, Vittorio!



"I'm honored to join the Board of the European Dairy Association as Italian representative. I'm going to make any possible effort to contribute to a common path in order to assist sustainable development of the dairy sector enhancing its importance for our territory and food tradition"

Vittorio Fiore (Lactalis Italia)
Italian representative of the EDA Board



**Save the date:
The 1st of June is the
World Milk Day!**



Milk is good for you.

What a better way to celebrate the **World Milk Day** than by starting your day with a fresh glass of milk, while reading about its multiple nutritional benefits in [our dairy nutrition fact sheets?](#)

That day our Spanish member **FENIL** will be organizing an online conference (in Spanish) to mark the occasion. The event will count on the participation of authorities and representatives from the dairy industry, who will debate on the future challenges and opportunities of the dairy sector in the frame of healthy nutrition and sustainability. Register [here!](#)

Don't forget to also join the **#WorldMilkDay** and **#EnjoyDairy** campaigns on Twitter!



**IFCN Dairy Conference
2021 on 9 June:**

Carbon neutral dairy farming in 2050: Will this be possible?

On 9th of June the **IFCN Dairy Conference 2021** will take place!

Researchers, companies and institutions from the dairy industry will gather to have a fruitful exchange of knowledge and inspiration. Under the topic *"Carbon neutral dairy farming in 2050 – will this be possible?"* participants will discuss how to bring dairy farming and carbon neutrality forward.

You can read the programme and register [here!](#)

A promotional banner for the 22nd IFCN Dairy Conference. The main text reads "22nd IFCN Dairy Conference Carbon neutral dairy farming in 2050 - will this be possible?". It specifies the date as "June 9th 2021" and the time as "14.00-17.00 CET | ONLINE". A "Register now" button is provided with the website "www.ifcndairy.org". The banner also lists sponsors: Hosting Sponsors (Atech, DSM), Gold Sponsor (DeLaval), and Silver Sponsor (VES-Artex, hydrogreen).

22nd IFCN Dairy Conference Carbon neutral dairy farming in 2050 - will this be possible?	June 9th 2021 14.00-17.00 CET ONLINE ▶ Register now www.ifcndairy.org	Hosting Sponsors Atech DSM Gold Sponsor DeLaval Silver Sponsor VES-Artex hydrogreen
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Your favourite Dairy Product?

"I adore the incredible variety of cheese with many different flavours. For me cheese represents the huge diversity of milk products. My favourite cheese is a strong raw milk cheese with a nice glass of wine from my home region".

**MEP Christine Schneider
(EPP, DE)**

