

Dairy Flash

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The latest news from the world of dairy

European Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska appoints High Level Forum members

The new High Level Forum for the Better Functioning of the Food Supply Chain will assist the EU Commission to develop the European industrial policy in the agro-food sector. Next to high level representatives from all 28 EU Member States, a series of representatives have been appointed to this forum, which is set up until 2019.

For the dairy industry, EDA chair Michel Nalet has accepted to be a member of this group.

This appointment highlights our overall EDA strategy to better reflect in our work the new set up of the EU Commission and to shape the frameworks our industry is operating in. The first preparatory meeting ('sherpa meeting') is scheduled for 18 February 2016.

Agricultural Market Task Force is now operational

As announced at the special Council meeting of the agricultural ministers back on 07 September 2015, **EU Commissioner Phil Hogan** established the Agricultural Market Task Force. This group of 12 eminent market experts, chaired by the former Dutch minister for agriculture, **Mr Cees P. Veerman**, is called to elaborate ideas for improving the market transparency, the position of farmers in the food chain and the legal possibilities for organising farmers' collective actions, by the end of 2016.



Dr David Dobbin (DairyUK Chair) – Agricultural Market Task Force member, with EDA Chair Michel Nalet – High Level Forum member

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With **Dr David Dobbin** (DairyUK Chair), **Prof Andrzej Babuchowski** and **Gianpiero Calzolari**, the dairy sector is perfectly well represented in this body. More information about the Agricultural Market Task Force can be found [here](#).

New School Food Scheme: the next steps before 2017

The trilogue agreements on School Food Schemes adopted in COMAGRI on 11 January 2016 should be voted in the EP Plenary in March or April before approval at first reading from the Council. Further to this ratification, the Commission will work on implementing and delegated acts.

Plain milk remains the core product of the School Milk Scheme even though other products like cheese and yogurts are now eligible subject to the approval of national health authorities. 100 M€ will be divided amongst EU Member states that will individually decide the amount of subsidy for some products. While waiting for the new scheme to enter into force in 2017, Member

States should communicate their new strategy under the current scheme by July 2016.

New rules on infant and follow-on formulae expected to be formally adopted soon

On 14 January the ENVI Committee has rejected the objections to the two Commission delegated acts on infant and follow-on formula as well as on foods for special medical purposes (FSMPs). By that the new rules on infant and follow-on formula and FSMPs should be adopted and published soon in the Official Journal of the EU.

The ENVI Committee has however objected the delegated act on processed cereal-based food and baby food. The background of this objection was the sugar content in baby foods proposed (i.e. 30 % of the energy to be provided by sugar). Following the opinion of the ENVI Committee, the European Parliament has rejected this draft delegated act in the plenary vote on 20 January. The Commission will now need to re-draft the text, taking the MEPs concerns on sugar into account. The Commission might seek further scientific advice from EFSA on the nutritional composition of processed cereal-based food and baby food.



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Dairy Highlights ahead

Save The Dates!

- **Wednesday, 20 April 2016:**
EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2016 | Brussels
"Sustainability: Food - Diet - Dairy"

Confirmed speakers include: MEP Julie Girling (UK), Senior Advisor Karl Falkenberg (EPSC), Dr Josta De Hoog (Scientific Council for Government Policy, WRR, NL) and Roberto Brazzale (Brazzale S.p.A., IT)

- **30 November – 02 December 2016:**
EDA Annual Convention under
the overall theme "*European Dairy Ambition*" | Nice (FR)



January

- **Tue. 26 January:** '**Agriculture and climate change – interaction and challenges**', Euractiv conference with MEP José Bové at the PermRep of France | Brussels
- **Tue. 26 January:** '**The precautionary principle in TTIP: Trade barrier or essential for consumer protection?**' by the Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue, with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström | Brussels 
- **Tue. 26 January:** '**Market Access - Creating shared value through partnership**' conference by Copa Cogeca | Brussels
- **26-28 January:** DG AGRI's conference on the strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation, during which EU Commissioner Phil Hogan and Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Martijn van Dam will outline their research strategies 
- **Wed. 27 January:** European People's Party – Public Milk hearing | European Parliament 

February

- **03 February: Agricultural Fair Verona** – key note speaker MEP Paolo De Castro (tbc) (IT) 
- **08-12 February:** High Level mission of EU Commissioner Phil Hogan to **Mexico & Colombia**
- **10 February: 'EU Policy Day'** - Conference on organic agriculture with MEP Martin Häusling at Biofach fair (10-13 Feb.) | Nuremberg (DE) 
- **15 February:** 1st meeting of the **Agricultural Council** under Dutch EU Presidency, chaired by Martijn Van Dam – discussion on market situation, long term strategy for agricultural research, state of play of ongoing trade negotiations and animal welfare | Brussels
- **18 February:** 1st preparatory meeting of the **High Level Forum** for the better functioning of the food supply chain | Brussels
- **18 February:** Public Hearing on **Emissions Trading System**, EP (COMENVI) | Brussels 
- **22 February:** Public hearing on Tools to cope with **Price Volatility**, EP (COMAGRI) | Brussels
- **22-23 February:** EU Presidency Conference on '**Food Improvement**' hosted by Dutch Minister of Health, Mrs Edith Schippers | Amsterdam (NL)
- **Tue. 23 February: 'Agriculture & the EU Trade Agenda'** – Hume Brophy Annual Lecture with EU Commissioner Phil Hogan | Brussels (Stanhope Hotel) 
- **24 February:** MIV Milksummit | Brussels
- **27 February - 06 March: 'SIA: International Agricultural Show'** – the annual celebration of French agriculture, including a French cheese competition | Paris (FR) 