

# Dairy Flash

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The latest news from the world of dairy

## Save the date!

### EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2016

20 April 2016 – EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2016 in Brussels:

#### 'Sustainability : Food - Diet - Dairy'

followed by the ASSIFONTE / EDA Cheese Buffet.

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

[Programme](#)

[Registration](#)

**Please register before  
Friday 8 April 2016.  
Places are limited.**

## Crisis measures for the dairy sector

Right after the Easter break, **EDA Chair Michel Nalet** had the possibility to exchange with **EU Commissioner Phil Hogan** on the state of play of the so-called Article '222 crisis measures'.

*"There seems to be quite a limited enthusiasm for such a scheme in many countries, at all levels of the chain. In some Member States, national laws look like they need to be modified too, so even if such voluntary agreements for the production planning would materialise, the implementation of the urgency measures would be quite delayed",* concluded Michel Nalet.

## EU to provide milk to 350,000 children in Syria

The European Commission has allocated a budget of €30 million for the supply of consumption milk for children in Syria.

[www.euromilk.org/eda](http://www.euromilk.org/eda)

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Now that DG ECHO (EU Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection) has received the budget, a call to their partners (non-governmental organisations or international organisations including United Nations agencies) will be launched. The successful organisation will then publish a call to select European suppliers. The products must indeed originate in the Union and such procurement should occur at regular market prices. 

### New Zealand: EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and agriculture

On his annual Brussels visit, **New Zealand Farmers' President William Rolleston** (Federated Farmers of New Zealand) underlined the mutual benefits of a very ambitious free trade agreement between New Zealand and the EU: *"On both sides, we have to put such a FTA in the long term perspective for our overall economies and for our agricultural sector. Nevertheless, for the EU dairy industry, a FTA with New Zealand would allow you to access not only China, but most South-East Asian countries."*

*"It is not about the advantages for our country, we really believe that a FTA must and will create a win-win situation for both sides", NZ Ambassador David Taylor* confirmed in a

meeting with **EDA Secretary General Alexander Anton**. *"From a EU dairy perspective, this will not be easy".*

### TTIP on Trial

At the time when negotiations between the EU and US on TTIP are well underway, the European Movement International (EMI) organised and moderated a simulated TTIP trial on 17 March. The speakers (representatives from political, business and NGO backgrounds) were invited as judges to argue the pros and cons of the proposed EU-US trade deal.

While the advocates against TTIP raised the points of the decrease of EU standards and the lack of transparency that it could generate, the other party highlighted the major profits that this agreement would result in, including the increase of job creation and economic growth within the EU.

The event proved the need to further engage in civil dialogues and to open consultations at all stage of the negotiation talks.





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### “Where agriculture and environment meet” – FFA 2016

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture 2016 took place on 22 March, offering a major opportunity in Brussels to debate sustainable agriculture and environmental challenges with leading representatives of international institutions. The main topics raised during the event included the excessive water consumption, food wastage and food supply.

**EU Commissioner Phil Hogan** gave a speech, confirming the integration of sustainable development goals into the Common Agricultural Policy and EU agri-food trade policy: *“We have reoriented the CAP to improve the environmental performance of EU agriculture. [...] The Common Agricultural Policy has changed to reflect a changing world, and I firmly believe it has evolved for the better. [...] It has a positive story to tell, both at home and in the developing world”*.

### Recent news on mandatory origin labelling for milk

The ENVI Committee of the European Parliament adopted on 22 March a draft Motion for Resolution on mandatory origin labelling for drinking milk, milk used as an ingredient in dairy products and lightly processed meat

(44 votes in favour, 18 votes against). A related EP press release is available online [i](#). This Motion for a Resolution is legislatively non-binding, meaning that the Commission is not bound to act upon it.

The European Commission has indicated on numerous occasions to the MEPs that **voluntary origin labelling was the only feasible option for milk and dairy products**. The Commission report published last year concluded that **mandatory origin labelling of milk and dairy would be too burdensome and that consumers are not willing to pay the additional costs** [i](#).

Some Member States such as Lithuania or Hungary have tried in the past to propose national measures on mandatory origin labelling, even though these were challenged by the European Commission and other Member States as non-compliant with EU rules.

The last attempt to introduce national rules on mandatory origin labelling for milk comes from the French Minister of Agriculture who claims to have received a green light from the Commission to “test” mandatory Country of Origin Labelling (‘COOL’) in France for one year. EDA has expressed its strong opposition to the proposed French measure and requested the



requested the European Commission to clarify this situation. If the French claims are confirmed by the Commission, it would stand at odds with EU COM's well-established position supporting voluntary rules. EDA's statement on facts versus myths on mandatory Origin Labelling explains why the European dairy industry strongly supports voluntary rules [i](#).



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Vive l'Europe - vivent les valeurs Européennes !



## Save The Dates !

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



## April

- **Tues. 5: 'Beyond the crisis'** – conference chaired in the EP by **MEP Paolo De Castro & MEP Michel Dantin**, key note by **EU COM Phil Hogan**
- **Thu. 7 – Fri. 8: OECD Agricultural Ministers meeting** | Paris (FR)
- **Mon. 11 – Tues. 12: Agricultural Council** | Luxembourg (LU)
- **Tues. 12: 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Agricultural Markets Task Force (AMTF)** | Brussels (BE)
- **Wed. 13 – Thu. 14: Dairy Innovation Summit by Canadean** | Amsterdam (NL)
- **Fri. 15 – Mon. 25: High Level Mission of EU COM Phil Hogan** to China and Japan
- **Fri. 22 – Sun. 24:** [i](#) **World Dairy Expo & Summit 2016** | Harbin (China)
- **Sun. 24 – Tue. 26:** [i](#) **ADPI Annual Conference 2016** | Chicago (USA)
- **Mon. 25 – Thu. 28:** [i](#) **Alimentaria**, the international business centre for all food, drinks and culinary industry professionals | Barcelona (ES)
- **Tue. 26: EU level playing field** - Public hearing in the EP on the differences in CAP implementation with **MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik (EPP, NL)**