



Trade, investment, agriculture, development:

How coherent EU policies can support the development of the local dairy sector in West Africa

Programme Round Table 9 April 2019 (9:00 – 13:30)

Residence Palace – International Press Center (*Room Maelbeek*)
Rue de la Loi 155, B-1040 Brussels



In West Africa, local milk production represents a major development enabler and a considerable potential for producers and other sectoral players in a region with many challenges: food insecurity, job creation, and climate change. The “Milk Offensive” project in West Africa undertaken by ECOWAS confirms this potential and bears witness to the backing of the regional and national authorities. Hence the likely renegotiation of the Common External Tariff (CET) from 2020 is an opportunity to change the macroeconomic conditions of its development.

From Ouagadougou via Abuja to Dakar, the coming months are a key moment to realise the potential of the local dairy sector. However, its future is decided not only to the south of the Mediterranean. The deregulation of milk production within the European Union and the definition of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the negotiations on the agreements succeeding the Cotonou Agreement and the EPAs, as well as European dairy investments in West Africa represent the numerous facets of the interdependence between the decisions and practices of public and private European players and the growth of the sector in West Africa.

This round table involving West African and EU milk producers, local and European dairy industry representatives, sector and NGO experts, as well as influential European and West African institutional stakeholders will discuss the way in which the European Union, its institutions and companies can influence the development of a sustainable and fair local dairy sector.

Detailed agenda

09:00

Registration

09:30 - 10:10

Introductory session

09:30 - 09:35

Opening remarks: Maria Heubuch, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA)

09:35 - 09:45

State of play of the sector in West Africa – the dairy farmers' viewpoint

Speaker: Ibrahima Aliou, Secretary General of the Association for the Promotion of Farming in Sahel and the Savannah (APESS)

In West Africa, local milk is produced by about 48 million transhumant and pastoralist farmers and represents some 50% of local consumption (*Broutin, C., Levard, L., Goudiaby, M.-C., 2018*). The role of women there is key (production, marketing) and that which they earn from the sale of the dairy products belongs to them. The sector plays an important economic role in the areas among the most vulnerable to conflict and to climate change, and contributes to the nutritional situation of families.

09:45 - 09:55

Potential of local milk production and regional political backing

Speaker: Alain Sy Traoré, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Commission of ECOWAS

The links between pastoralist and agropastoral systems, of which milk is an integral part, are sustainable resources of resilience for rural populations, and the connections between urban markets and production areas represent an important development

potential. However, the sector's potential is not developed to the fullest. In the last few years, the producer organisations of the region (ROPPA, APSS, CORET and RBM) in conjunction with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have been working on the development of a Milk Offensive to structure the initiatives and ensure political backing to develop this sector deemed of priority in the region.

09:55 - 10:10

Discussion with the floor

10:10 - 11:20

First panel: Influence of trade and European investments

Chair of the panel: Benoît De Waegeneer, Oxfam

10:10 - 10:25

The effect of European milk on the local dairy sector

Speaker: Laurent Levard, Professionals for Fair Development (GRET) and Amadou Hindatou, co-ordinator of the "My milk is local" campaign and member of APSS

Milk powder is a vital complement to local milk to enable the demand of the West African region to be met. What constraint does it exert on the development of the local dairy sector in the short and long term? What are the issues for local milk in an integrated regional market? Apart from the West African fiscal and trade policies, to what extent do European policies influence its price competitiveness?

Case studies:

10:25 - 10:35

- **Development strategy of European industries in West Africa – To collect or not to collect?**
- **The trade in "vegetable-fat-enriched skimmed milk powder"**

Speaker: Christian Corniaux, Centre of International Co-operation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD)

10:35 - 10:45

Kenya – an import policy promoting the development of the local sector

Speaker: Margareta Lelea, researcher at the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL)

10:45 - 10:55

Further interventions

- *Maria Noichl, Member of the European Parliament (S&D)*
- *Leonard Mizzi, European Commission (DG DEVCO)*
- *Johannes Pfaller, dairy farmer and Member of the European Milk Board (EMB) Executive Committee*

10:55 - 11:20

Questions & answers – debate

11:20 - 11:40
Coffee break

11:40 - 13:00

Second panel: Proposals for ensuring the coherence of European policies in support of developing the local sector

Chair of the panel: Thierry Kesteloot, Oxfam

11:40 - 11:50

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): Do no harm?

Speaker: Pascal Erard, French Committee for International Solidarity

The Common Agricultural Policy is a structuring political instrument for the European model of agricultural production and processing; in addition, it represented 37.6% of the EU budget in 2018. While the debate on the CAP reform is ongoing, what is the analysis and what are the proposals of European civil society for the CAP to be coherent with the development of agricultural sectors in West Africa?

Questions & answers (5 minutes)

11:55 - 12:05

Market Responsibility Programme – A proposal from European milk producers

Speaker: Sieta van Keimpema, Vice-president European Milk Board (EMB)

Due to the recurring crises on the dairy market resulting in a milk price below production costs, European milk producers call for the implementation of an effective crisis instrument. For the benefit of European and West African farmers?

Questions & answers (5 minutes)

12:10 - 12:20

Integrate perspectives of the global South by involving producer organisations in the policies and the role of monitoring milk markets

Speaker: Philippe Collin, Confédération paysanne

Creating policies that are coherent with the development of the local dairy sector in non-EU countries calls for the impact of existing measures to be evaluated. Can the observatories play this part and what could their governance model be?

Questions & answers (5 minutes)

12:25 - 12:35

Trade policy – analysis and proposal

Speaker: Marc Maes, NGO coalition 11.11.11 – Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)

Signing of the Economic Partnership Agreements, post-Cotonou negotiation, “Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs”, which was announced in Jean-

Claude Juncker's speech on the State of the Union in September 2018 ... the trade question is an integral part of the relationship between the EU and Africa. What are the measures to be taken to make this partnership a development lever?

Questions & answers (5 minutes)

12:40 - 12:50

Further interventions

- *Hilde Vautmans, Member of the European Parliament (ALDE)*
- *Cristina Miranda Gozalvez, European Commission (DG AGRI)*
- *Ibrahim Diallo, President of the organisation of micro dairies and producer of local milk of Burkina Faso (UMPLB)*

12:50 - 13:20

Questions & answers – debate

13:20 - 13:30

Conclusion and summary

- *Maria Heubuch, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA)*
- *Representative of the West African Farmer Organisations*
- *Erwin Schöpges, President of the European Milk Board (EMB)*

13:30

Lunch

