

# European Dairy: Pathways to a more sustainable food system

**2 PM** Arrival, coffee, networking

**2.10 PM** Introduction

by MEP Tom Vandenkendelaere, EMF President  
Laurent Damiens and moderator Rose O'Donovan

**2.20 PM** Keynote speech

by Brigitte Misonne, Head of Unit at DG AGRI

**2.30 PM** Insights from EMF research on consumers'  
perspectives on sustainable dairy

**2.40 PM** Presentation on carbon neutral dairy farming  
by John Gilliland (NI), Professor in Agriculture and  
Sustainability at Queen's University Belfast

**3.10 PM** Presentation on methane mitigation strategies  
by Leen Vandaele (BE), Senior Researcher at Flanders  
Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food (ILVO)

**3.25 PM** Q&A  
with Professor John Gilliland (NI) and  
Senior Researcher Leen Vandaele (BE)

**3.40 PM** Testimony  
by dairy farmer Ghislain de Viron (FR) and short video  
from Belgian farmers Kris & Ginny Heirbaut about their  
initiatives on carbon farming and carbon credits

**4.10 PM** Concluding remarks

**4.20-5 PM** Goodbyes and networking

## TownHall Europe

27<sup>th</sup> september 2022  
2 PM – 5 PM.

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# Bios of speakers



**Tom Vandenkendelaere** is a Belgian Member of the European Parliament, within the European People's Party Group. He is the Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and serves on the Agriculture Committee, the Internal Market Committee, the subcommittee on Security and Defence, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Civil Liberties Committee. Currently, Tom Vandenkendelaere is serving his second mandate in the Parliament. Before becoming a Member of the European Parliament, Tom Vandenkendelaere worked at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was the chairman of the youth wing of his national party CD&V (Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams). In the Parliament, he shows a keen interest in agrifood-related files, including all Farm-to-Fork legislative proposals.



**Laurent Damiens** is the Chief Operations Officer / Strategy and International at CNIEL, the French Dairy Interbranch Organization, as well as the Chair of EMF, the European Milk Forum. EMF is a non-profit organisation which plays a vital role in driving the strategic development, management, and exchange of integrated information initiatives on milk and dairy across Europe. The EMF mission is to disseminate pertinent information and create a true dialogue with dairy key stakeholders. Today, EMF gather dairy organizations of 8 European countries : Austria, Belgium, France, Denmark, Ireland, Northern Ireland (UK), The Netherlands, Norway.



**Brigitte Misonne** is Head of Unit for Animal Products in DG AGRI, European Commission. She has the overall responsibility for monitoring market developments, analysing economic trends, building-up market knowledge and designing EU market support measures in the animal product sectors, including the dairy sector. This recently involved support for the sector at the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic in spring 2020 and when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. She is also active in raising awareness to the Green Deal and accompanying animal product sectors on their sustainability path.



**Leen Vandaele** graduated as a veterinarian in 2003 and completed a Ph.D. in veterinary sciences at Ghent University in 2008. From 2011 till now, Leen has been focusing on nutrition and management optimization in high producing dairy cattle at ILVO. The cattle group, which is led by Leen since 2017, is investigating nutritional strategies to reduce methane as well as ammonia emission from dairy and beef. The aim of these projects is to facilitate a more economic as well as more sustainable cattle production.



**John Gilliland** is Director of Global Agriculture and Sustainability at Devenish, an innovative livestock nutrition company which creates complete solutions, improving animal, human and environmental health, simultaneously. He is Professor of Practice in Agriculture and Sustainability at Queen's University Belfast. John Gilliland is also the chair of the innovative, EIP, farmer led, carbon farming project, ARC Zero, and is currently a member of the EU Commission's Mission Board Assembly on Soil Health & Food in Brussels. He has been an award winning farmer in Ireland, President of the Ulster Farmers Union, Energy Regulator in N. Ireland, and Chair of the UK's Rural Climate Change Forum.



**Ghislain de Viron** is a dairy farmer in Rouperroux-le-Coquet, Sarthe, France, and has been so since 2001. He has 110 dairy cows that produce 1,000,000 liters of milk per year. He is committed to the Low carbon Dairy Farm initiative, since 2013, which was launched to by the dairy sector to support French dairy farmers wishing to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Ghislain de Viron is also chair of the farmers board at the National Federation of French Dairy Farmer.

## Moderator



**Rose O'Donovan** has been Editor of AGRA FACTS since March 2010, having previously served as Deputy Editor on the agricultural publication for nearly three years. Prior to working as a journalist, she dealt with international relations on the EU satellite navigation programme at the Galileo Joint Undertaking. Following the completion of a Master of Science at University College Cork (Ireland), Rose moved to Brussels in 2004 to work as an intern in the Cabinet of former European Parliament President, Pat Cox. Hailing from a farming background in West Cork, Rose has a keen interest in the evolution of European agricultural & trade policy and regularly appears as a moderator in the Brussels conference circuit.