

29th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Written correspondence procedure – inputs from Members – English version

Item 4.4 – Proposal for an International Day of Milk

Member name	Comments
<p><b>Argentina</b> Tuesday, 10 September, 10:10AM</p>	<p>Argentina welcomes the preparation of document COAG/2024/15 and Ireland’s proposal to designate 1 June as World Milk Day. From our country’s perspective, livestock systems, in general, and dairy, in particular, have a threefold positive impact. First, they contribute to achieving SDG 2 by providing high-quality animal protein essential for people’s physical and cognitive development. Second, livestock systems act as economic wellbeing multipliers, creating jobs and stimulating regional economies, for example, by expanding and strengthening subnational and international value chains. Third, livestock systems offer significant potential to deliver ecosystem services, which, among other things, can contribute to natural soil fertilization and support the maintenance of grasslands with enormous plant diversity. On the other hand, regarding the emissions data presented in paragraphs 15 and 16, we seek clarification on whether the membership has endorsed these studies and whether the indicators used for the measurements have been arrived at through multilateral consensus. Finally, Argentina reiterates its appreciation for Ireland’s initiative.</p>
<p><b>New Zealand</b> Friday, 20 September 11:51AM</p>	<p>New Zealand fully supports the proposal of Ireland with support from India for the UN recognition of an International Day of Milk.</p> <p>Milk is part of the staple diet of many New Zealanders and as a major trading country we share most of our milk and dairy products for others across the world to enjoy. The declaration of the International Milk Day would help promote milk as a healthy, nutritious and versatile food for all ages. It would also help to reinforce the important role of milk in attaining food security and supporting the achievement of a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals including Zero Hunger and Good Health and well-being, as well as an important part of alleviating poverty as dairy farming is central to the livelihoods of many communities.</p>
<p><b>Peru</b> Friday, 20 September 4:58PM</p>	<p>Peru views the proposal to celebrate an <i>International Day of Milk</i> very positively, and we fully support it. Milk is one of the most widely consumed foods globally, providing the three primary energy-giving nutrients the human body requires: protein, carbohydrates, and fats. Over 450 000 small-scale producers are involved in its production. This makes it an essential food for human nutrition, as these nutrients contribute to proper growth and development. The proteins it contains are of high biological value (3 to 5 percent), and milk also provides various vitamins and minerals that are vital for human health. In Peru, the dairy sector is one of the most</p>

	<p>significant livestock activities economically, socially, and in terms of public health. It represents 11.3 percent (1 699.9 million Peruvian soles or USD 4 594 million) of the Gross Value of Livestock Production (15 043.4 million Peruvian soles or USD 4 065.8 million), second only to poultry, which accounts for 64.6 percent (MIDAGRI, 2023).</p> <p>We also consider it useful to explore how this initiative relates to the 2001 proposal by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to commemorate World Milk Day on 1 June each year. This day aims to encourage the consumption of milk and dairy products while promoting their qualities and benefits, including their nutritional value and economic significance.</p>
<p><b>Canada</b> Monday, 23 September 11:35AM</p>	<p>Canada believes that it is important to promote the benefits of milk products in a healthy diet. Canada has had a strong dairy sector for many decades. Today, the Canadian dairy cattle population is around 1.3 million head, producing over 95 million hl. Five hundred Canadian dairy plants process the milk into cheese (498 thousand tonnes), yogurt (382 thousand tonnes), hard ice cream (160 thousand litres), butter (114 thousand tonnes), and skim milk powder (82 thousand tonnes). Our enforcement of strict quality standards for dairy farms and processing plants has contributed to its world-renowned excellence and enhancement of the Canadian dairy's reputation. Canadian dairy products are exported to several countries, and dairy products are also imported from other countries; milk is important to Canadians.</p>
<p><b>European Union and its 27 Member States</b> Monday, 23 September 4:16PM</p>	<p>Madam/Mr Chair,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</li> <li>2. Milk is a universal food, essential to the health and nutritional well-being of all people at critical life stages. This is particularly true for infants and children, whose essential growth and development it supports.</li> <li>3. It is important to emphasise that milk contributes most effectively to human health and nutrition when consumed as part of a balanced diet. As the world population grows, the critical role of milk in supporting food and nutrition security will continue to grow.</li> <li>4. Milk production, and, of course, the livestock used to produce it, are of major economic significance across rural communities in all parts of the world. For small-scale livestock farmers, and in particular the many women traditionally engaged in dairy farming, milk production is an essential means to earn a livelihood and combat poverty.</li> <li>5. Milk and milk-derived products also have a cultural and traditional significance in many rural village communities. In the EU, for example, many local culinary practices and artisan food products have developed based on milk production, and dairy-based ingredients are often integral to local cuisines.</li> </ol>

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. For all these reasons, we welcome the proposal for an International Day of Milk to enhance awareness of the essential role of milk and dairy products, and their contribution to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</li><li>7. With these remarks, we support the submission of the related Draft Resolution to the FAO Council for further consideration.</li></ol> |
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Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.