

## WJCB Report 2024 for Europe

A few weeks before the opening of our next WJCB Congress in Denmark, I still remember the wonderful trip I made last December to Guatemala. We laid the first stones of what should look like a roadmap for the future WJCB team. The “Strategy Focus” which was adopted there should make it possible in particular to strengthen links with regional forums.

The EJF wishes to be active in this approach and in particular by opening the doors of our next meetings, during the week in Denmark, to all delegates.

You will be able to see the first reports from the working groups, established last September in The Netherlands, which have been meeting by video for several months.

Without wanting to reveal their work, I wanted to highlight new areas of work:

We now see the harsh reality of climate change every day. Farmers, we will all have to face it.

For this, I see 2 different areas of work emerging:

1/ Why Jersey is adapted to deal with it

2/ How to adapt our dairy farms to this change

The Jersey cow must work on her communication around her milk. This is indeed a high-end milk, a product with high added value! We must highlight its solids by comparing it to everything that exists (Kg solids/ha, /cow, /cow/Kg of cow, /farm, etc.). Perhaps tomorrow we will even have to consider committing our processors to payments to these solids, showing the differences between “rich” milk and others and highlighting transport savings. I come to everything that concerns the environment: better carbon footprint of the operation, but also of the entire sector, protection of soil and water resources. Finally, commit our farms to undoubtedly producing an even greater proportion of food on site.

Jersey Breed is doing well in Europe, we will leave it to each country to come and present their activities at the next meeting.

However, new important topics will come up for discussion.

A European Bovine Evaluation (EBE) project is currently emerging. For now, if this project concerns only Holstein Breed, this project aims to extend to other cattle breeds. Led by a consortium of European AI companies, this project risks causing major discussions by calling into question the economic models of financing indexation, with for certain countries a pooling of costs between breeds which could be reconsidered. The Jersey must follow this project carefully since several countries participating in the EJF are concerned (in particular through the NAV Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation).

I will end by inviting you to follow the third edition of the European Jersey Show soon on social networks throughout the month of July. Do not hesitate to like these pages and share them in order to communicate as much as possible around Jersey.

Finally, I wanted to conclude this report, which is my last, by thanking Mr. Steve Le Feuvre, President of the WJCB, as well as all officers for these 2 mandates spent alongside them. They sometimes had to be kind to me with the language barriers. Despite the difficult period of the pandemic, the entire team remained involved. We had to adapt quickly by developing video meetings even further. Despite everything, I was able to travel through more than fifteen countries on the European continent and beyond during these mandates. I will remember all the meetings and all the exchanges around the Jersey. I will end by thanking the entire EJF team and of course Jersiaise France who supported me. Finally, thank you to everyone who helped me on my farm during my absences, without forgetting my loved ones. I have confidence in the team which will continue to lead the WJCB and I wish them good luck in modernizing and revitalizing our Jersey breed.

The vice president of the WJCB for Europe,

Benoît GUIOULLIER