

Newsletter 8th legislature - Issue No 10/2018

Meeting of:

Wednesday 29 August
9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30

Thursday 30 August
9.00 – 12.30

Room: ASP 3G3

Brussels



Highlights

Presentation of a study on "The revival of wolves and other large predators and its impact on farmers and their livelihood in rural regions of Europe" by Mr John D. Linnell (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research - NINA)



Mr John Linnell from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research is going to present a study on large predators in the EU. In the context of the recent recolonisation of many European areas by large carnivores (especially wolves) which has attracted widespread attention from the media, local opinions and farmers, this study presents a state of play in EU Member States. It also assesses the impact of this recolonisation on farmers and discusses policy options to foster coexistence of large carnivores and farmers' livestock and support farmers confronted with the expansion of large carnivores.

Presentation by the Commission on the Future CAP (Simplification and Subsidiarity)



In the framework of the CAP reform, a representative of the Commission will present the simplification and subsidiarity aspects of the Commission's proposals on the "Future of the CAP". The presentation will be based on the presentation delivered by Commissioner Hogan during the last AGRIFISH Council meeting before the summer break.

Exchange of views with a Commission representative (DG AGRI) on the drought situation in Europe



The ongoing and prolonged drought situation in several EU countries is affecting the production of arable crops and animal feed, which could have an impact on farmer income, increase input costs and potentially give rise to animal welfare issues, if there is a shortage of fodder later in the year. To provide the AGRI Committee with a state of play of the current drought situation and the actions taken by the Commission, Mr Mihail Dumitru (Deputy Director General) will deliver a presentation on behalf of DG AGRI.

Votes

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections



Members will hold two votes concerning the 2019 EU budget. Firstly, they are going to vote on the draft opinion prepared by Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (EPP, ES), rapporteur for this year's budgetary procedure, on the draft budget proposed by the European Commission. 55 amendments have been tabled to this draft opinion.

Secondly, Members are going to vote on budgetary amendments aiming to modify the figures of the draft budget. These amendments include pilot projects and preparatory actions. This year, 56 such budgetary amendments have been tabled, out of which are 16 pilot projects and preparatory actions.

Work in progress

Interim report on MFF 2021-2027 – Parliament's position in view of an agreement



Members will discuss the draft opinion prepared by Mr Peter Jahr (EPP, DE) on the interim report of the BUDG Committee concerning Parliament's position on the MFF 2021 -2027 package proposed by the Commission. This interim report allows Parliament to express its detailed position on the proposal, whereas the MFF Regulation itself is going to be adopted according to a consent procedure. The interim report also covers the proposal for an Own Resources Council Decision.

Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment



Mr Bronis Ropè (Greens/ALE, LT) will present the draft opinion on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. The lead committee for this report is ENVI. The main objective of this proposal is to reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, in particular on the aquatic environment and on human health.

Alignment of reporting obligations in the field of environment policy



The objectives of this alignment proposal are to improve the evidence base for EU policy, increase transparency for the public and simplify reporting with a view to reducing administrative burden. Since the animal testing Directive is also included in this alignment proposal Com AGRI has decided to prepare an opinion for which Mr Nicola Caputo (S&D, IT) is the Rapporteur and will present his draft opinion.

Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain



Ms Karin Kadenbach (S&D, AT) will present her draft opinion on "Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain", otherwise known as the "General Food Law". The proposal's main aim is to strengthen the transparency of the risk assessment process. This should give EFSA greater legitimacy in the eyes of consumers and the general public, increasing their confidence in its work.

Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides



Directive 2009/128/EC aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques. Ms Sofia Ribeiro (EPP, PT) will present her draft opinion to this report that ENVI is preparing in order to assess the degree of implementation of this directive in the Member States.

Establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination



European agriculture is under pressure from two sides: reduced funding and increasing competition. However, the Commission's proposals for a Regulation and a Decision establishing the 9th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, called "Horizon Europe", address both challenges in a very positive way for agriculture. An amount of €10 billion is foreseen for cluster 5 "Food and natural resources" which includes research in the area of agriculture with a budget of €3.8 billion to be managed by the Commission's DG AGRI. Ms Elsi Katainen (ALDE, FI) is going to present her draft opinions to the reports of the ITRE Committee.

Apportionment of tariff rate quotas included in the WTO schedule of the Union following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union



Apportionment of Tariff Rate Quotas is related to the ongoing Brexit process. As a result of the recent UK decision, there is a need for the EU to obtain an apportionment of Tariff Rate Quotas in the WTO to avoid the EU-27 having to absorb the entirety of the quantities of sensitive (mostly agricultural) products covered by these TRQs. Mr Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL, IE) is going to present his draft opinion to this INTA report.

Establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)



John Stuart Agnew (EFDD, UK) will present his draft opinion to the ENVI report on the proposal for a regulation establishing the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) for the period 2021-2027. The proposal lays down the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period starting on 2021, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

Establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme



Recent developments in the space sector may play a significant role in the development of the agricultural sector. European projects such as EGNOSS and Copernicus will be providing vital agricultural data that will help farmers to farm the land more efficiently and effectively. This has also been acknowledged by the Commission with the inclusion of the use of satellite data into the new CAP proposals. Ms Hilde Vautmans (ALDE, BE), will present her draft opinion to this ITRE report.

Amending the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)



In December 2017 the Commission proposed an amendment to the current Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) The proposal of the Commission intends to divert the amount allocated for the performance reserve to structural reforms. The current CPR sets out in the Partnership Agreements that these allocations shall be used for specific priorities. The lead Committee, REGI, held an extended exchange of views on this proposal, following which the co-rapporteurs decided to reject the proposal. Mr Daniel Buda (EPP, RO), in his draft opinion, expresses support for the rejection of the Commission's proposal.

Next committee meetings

24 September 2018, 15.000 – 18.30 (Brussels)

1 October 2018, 19.00 – 21.30 (Strasbourg)

Useful links

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