

Newsletter 8th legislature - Issue No 29/2019

Monday 8 April 2019
15.00 - 18.30

Brussels
Room: JAN 6Q2



Highlights

Exchange of views with Heli Pihlajamaa (Director Patent Law) of the European Patent Office on the issue of patentability of plants



AGRI Members will discuss the controversial issue of patentability of plant varieties with the Director on Patent Law of the European Patent Office (EPO). The Commission, in a Notice of 2016, had stated that there had never been an intention to grant patents on products of essential biological processes. EPO had supported this interpretation, at that time, and amended its policy through an Implementing Rule. However, in December 2018, the EPO's Technical Chamber of Appeal rejected the EPO's earlier decision and stated that the European Patent Convention has priority over Implementing Rules; as a consequence, it should still be possible to grant patents on products of essential biological processes.

Presentation by the Commission on the agricultural component of ongoing trade negotiations and other relevant issues of trade policy



Members will exchange views with the Director in charge of international trade issues in DG AGRI, John Clarke, who is going to provide an overview of trade issues and negotiations affecting the agricultural sector. Members are going to discuss various topics such as: the state of play of ongoing negotiations with MercoSur, Australia and New Zealand, the possibility of market access negotiations with the US, Morocco, Ukraine and, last but not least, the post Brexit trade relations with the UK.

Votes

Financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy



Members will conclude a series of votes on the CAP reform package with the third and final vote on the Horizontal Regulation. Ulrike Müller (ALDE, DE) is the rapporteur on this file. 863 amendments were tabled including amendments by the four opinion-giving committees (REGI, DEVE, CONT and BUDG). Ms Müller has successfully negotiated 63 compromise amendments, which cover almost 600 amendments. 1 alternative compromise amendment has been tabled by ECR group.

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