

# AGRI NEWS

N° 1 - Meeting 20-21 July 2009

## **Paolo De Castro elected chairman of agriculture committee**

At its constituent meeting on 20 July, the Committee on agriculture and rural development elected Paolo De Castro (IT, S&D) as its chairman. Former Italian agriculture minister (2006-2008 and 1998-2000), M. De Castro (born on 2 February 1958) is graduated in Agricultural science and is professor of Agricultural Economics.

Among previous occupations, he was Senator of the Italian Republic (2008-2009), economic adviser to Prime Minister Romano Prodi and agriculture minister Michele Pinto (1996-1998) and a special advisor to Commission President Prodi (from 1 June to 31 December 2000). He has also filled various positions of responsibility in the scientific and academic fields. Author of over 100 scientific publications, he has taught in several Italian Universities and also in the USA. In 1999 he played a major role in the European negotiations for the "Agenda 2000" CAP reforms.

The following vice-chairs have been elected by the Committee (in order of precedence):

- [Rareş-Lucian Niculescu](#) (EPP, RO),
- [José Bové](#) (Greens/EFA, FR),
- [Janusz Wojciechowski](#) (ECR, PL)
- [Marit Paulsen](#) (ALDE, SV).

## **AGRI NEWSLETTER**

For further information, please contact:  
Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, on +32 (0) 2 28 42497  
or by e-mail: [ip-agri\\_secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:ip-agri_secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)

[AGRI website](#)

➤ [Highlights](#)

2



[EP Committee on Agriculture](#)

[Commission DG Agriculture](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Dairy sector situation: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views**

The dairy crisis resulting from the recent drop in global milk prices will be on top of the agenda of this first regular meeting of the AGRI Committee under the 7th legislature. The European Commission has recently reintroduced intervention measures such as private storage and export refunds for some dairy products and it is expected to publish on 22 July a report examining different policy options for stabilising the market. But it has so far refused to propose far ranking measures such as adjusting the quotas reviewed in 2008 or increasing support prices. Three representatives of farmers organisations (representing respectively COPA-COGECA, European Coordination Via Campesina and European Milk Board) will also be present.

### **2010 budget: exchange of views**

One of the first tasks of the Committee in the coming weeks will be to adopt its opinion on the 2010 draft EU budget. The budgetary exercise for 2010 needs to provide answers to some of the most pressing issues facing European agriculture today. The situation on the milk and dairy market, the European response to the economic crisis through the recovery plan and its provisions relating to agriculture, or the limited budgetary margin available this year that may trigger the application of financial discipline, should additional market measures become necessary, are all issues of great concern for our committee.



### **Events**

Next committee meeting:  
1 September 11.00-12.30  
and 15.00-18.30  
2 September 09.00-12.30  
and 15.00-17.00  
Room: PHS 3C50  
Brussels

### **Calendar**

**Deadline for Budgetary amendments:** 27.07, noon  
**Consideration of budgetary amendments and draft opinion:** 01.09  
**Adoption of budgetary amendments:** 02.09  
**Deadline for draft opinion:** 09.09, noon  
**Adoption draft opinion:** 30.09