

AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee on
Agriculture and Rural Development
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 6/2016

Meeting of
Monday 25 April, 15:00-18:30
Tuesday 26 April, 09.00-12.30
and 15.00-18.30
PHS 3C50



Highlights

Public hearing on European level playing field: implementation of European legislation in the agricultural sector



AGRI is organising on 25 April from 15.00 to 17.00 a hearing on the implementation of European legislation in the agricultural sector. Four experts have been invited to address Members and reply to their questions: Mr Niels Lindberg Madsen from the Danish Agriculture & Food Council, Dr Antal Szabadkai, Former Secretary General of the Union of Agrarian Employers, Mr Albert Jan Maat, Former-President of the Copa-Cogeca and President of LTO Netherlands, and Mr Robert Hoste from the University and Research Centre of Wageningen.

Debate with Cees Veerman, Chairman of the Agricultural Markets Task Force



Members will exchange views with Cees Veerman, Chair of the "Agricultural Markets Task Force", an expert group created by the Commission with a view to making recommendations for improving the position of farmers in the food chain and in global markets in general. The mandate for the Task Force, which is composed of 12 experts, is to discuss issues such as market transparency, access for farmers to financial instruments and futures markets to hedge price risks, options for arranging contractual relations within the chain and legal possibilities for organising farmers' collective actions. The Task Force is expected to present a final report with its findings in the autumn of 2016, which may include concrete recommendations for policy and legislative initiatives.



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Agricultural crisis : debate with Commission on crisis measures



Mr Joost Korte, Deputy-Director General of the Commission's DG AGRI, is going to present delegated and implementing acts that the Commission has adopted or plans to adopt in order to fight the current crisis on several agricultural markets. The first measures concern the milk sector and have already entered into force. They authorise producer organisations and cooperatives to jointly agree on their production for a period of six months.

Work in progress

2017 EU Budget - Debate with EP rapporteur and AGRI mandate for the Trilogue



AGRI Members will exchange views with Jens Geier, EP rapporteur for the general budget of the EU for 2017. Peter Jahr (EPP, DE) will also present his draft opinion for the Parliament's mandate for trilogue negotiations with the Council and with the Commission on this 2017 budget.

Future strategy on trade and investment: consideration of draft opinion



Esther Herranz García (EPP, ES), will present her draft opinion on the Commission new trade and investment strategy for the European Union - 'Trade for All: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy', which was published in October 2015. The aim of this new strategy is to make trade agreements more effective and to create more job opportunities in Europe. It is also a direct response to the current debate on trade negotiations - including on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It is also an implementation of the Juncker Commission's pledge to listen and respond to EU citizens' concerns. The Committee on international trade (INTA) is the Committee responsible for drafting the Parliament's reaction to this strategy in form of an own-initiative report.

Job creation in rural areas: presentation of a study and consideration of draft report



Bernd Schuh from the Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning (ÖIR) and Mauro Vigani from the University of Gloucestershire will present a study on 'The Role of the CAP in Creating Rural Jobs' requested by the AGRI Committee with a view to feed into the own-initiative report to be drawn up by Eric Andrieu (S&D, FR). The study carries out a number of case studies in different Member States and provides an analysis of the contribution of the CAP to the creation of rural jobs across the EU. Mr Andrieu will also present his draft report on this occasion.



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Votes on 26 April

Protective measures against pests of plants: vote on trilogue agreement



AGRI Members will vote on the consolidated text of the agreement resulting from inter-institutional negotiations on the new regulation on protective measures against pests of plants (Report by Anthea McIntyre, ECR, UK). This agreement was reached under the Luxembourg Presidency on 16 December after 7 trilogues. The vote in AGRI will be a simple "yes or no" vote whereas a deadline for amendments will be opened for the plenary vote in line with EP procedures.

Technological solutions for sustainable agriculture in the EU: own-initiative report



A total of 304 amendments has been tabled to the draft own-initiative report by Anthea McIntyre (ECR, UK) on technological solutions for sustainable agriculture in the EU. After a series of shadows' meetings, the rapporteur has proposed no less than 44 compromises covering almost the entire text to facilitate the vote.

An EU strategy for the Alpine region: adoption of opinion



A total of 84 amendments has been tabled to the draft opinion prepared by Ulrike Müller (ALDE, DE) on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, which aims to ensure that agriculture and the specific problems of farmers in that region are duly taken into account. In addition to that, 12 compromise amendments have been negotiated and will also be put to the vote. REGI, the Regional Affairs Committee is the lead Committee on that own-initiative report.

Renewable energy progress report: adoption of opinion



96 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion by Franc Bogovič (EPP, SI) on the renewable energy progress report. Compromise amendments have also been negotiated among the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs with a view to facilitate the vote.



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Next committee meeting

24 May (15.00-18.30) - Brussels

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