

Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 14/2016

Meeting of:

12 October 2016, 9.00 – 12.30
and 16.15 – 18.30 - PHS (1A2)

12 October 2016, 15.00 – 16.00
JAN (2Q2)

13 October 2016, 9.00 – 12.30
PHS (1A2)



Highlights

EU MFF review and agricultural proposals: debate with Commissioner Hogan



Commissioner Hogan will present and debate with AGRI Members on Wednesday 12 October at 17.00h the agricultural elements of the so-called “Omnibus proposal” related to the mid-term review of the EU’s multi-annual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020. This legislative proposal from the Commission contains, among other policy area changes, amendments to the four basic regulations of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 on rural development, Regulation (EU) 1306/2013 on financing and other horizontal issues of the CAP, Regulation (EU) 1307/2013 on direct payments to farmers and Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 on the single Common Market Organisation (CMO).

Crisis in the cereals and other tillage sectors: exchange of views with the Commission



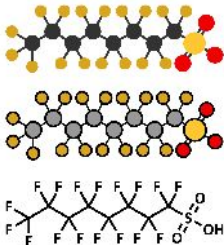
AGRI has been closely monitoring for some time the severe crises in several EU agricultural sectors (dairy, pig and beef, fruit and vegetables, etc.). More recently, a number of Members have raised concerns with respect to the current situation in the EU cereals sector. The European Commission has cut its EU outlook for wheat, barley, maize production, following unfavourable weather conditions, for instance in France and in Germany. In this context, a Commission representative will update Members on the crisis in the cereals and other tillage sectors.

World Food Day 2016: joint AGRI-ENVI-DEVE meeting with the FAO



AGRI is organising together with the Committee on the Environment and Food Safety (ENVI) and the Committee on Development (DEVE) a joint meeting with representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the occasion of the World Food Day 2016 (Wednesday 12 October room JAN 2Q2) 15.00h. Members will hear a video message from José Graziano da Silva, Director General of the FAO and a presentation from Astrid Agostini, senior natural resources officer in the Climate Change and Environment Division at the FAO. A debate with Members will follow.

Endocrine disruptors: presentation by the Commission



A representative from the Commission's DG for Public Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) will deliver a presentation to AGRI Members on Thursday 13 October, after the votes, on the controversial issue of Endocrine Disruptors. These are chemicals found in pesticides and hundreds of products. According to mounting scientific evidence, endocrine disruptors can affect human health, as they can interfere with the human hormonal system, and cause harm to the environment and to animal health. The Commission, through amending certain annexes of the currently applying legislation, has proposed a redefinition of a substance as an endocrine disruptor, which is considered controversial by several stakeholders.

African Swine Fever: presentation by the Commission



Another representative of DG SANTE will give an update, also on Thursday morning, on the situation as regards African swine fever (ASF), a devastating infectious disease of pigs, usually deadly. No vaccine exists to combat this virus. It does not affect humans nor does it affect animal species other than pigs and wild boars. The ASF has always been considered as an exotic disease (except in Sardinia where it is endemic), but the EU has to face a new situation with several outbreaks in Poland and in the Baltic countries. Wild boars crossing the East borders mainly cause the spread of the disease.

Work in progress

Farmland concentration in the EU: initiative report and debate with WFAL experts



Fair access to land and agriculture for small to medium scale family agriculture is the basis for lively rural areas in Europe and a condition for the creation of employment. AGRI has decided to prepare an initiative report on this issue and Maria Noichl (S&D, DE) has been appointed rapporteur. A first exchange of views will take place during on Wednesday 12 October at 09.00h followed with a discussion with representatives of the World Forum on Access to Land and Natural Resources (WFAL).

Annual Report on EU Competition Policy: consideration of draft opinion



Michel Dantin (EPP, FR) will present on Wednesday 12 October, after the debate with the WFAL, his draft opinion on the Annual Report on EU Competition Policy to be submitted to ECON, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. The draftsman stresses the need for competition policy to take better account of the specific nature of agriculture.

Votes

Pests of plants: adoption of draft recommendation for second reading



AGRI Members will vote on 13 October on the Council position at 1st reading on the Pests of Plants Regulation, which corresponds to the text agreed after seven trilogues in December 2015. The rapporteur is Anthea McIntyre (ECR, UK). The adoption of the draft recommendation will pave the way for the new Regulation to be adopted in Plenary at its October II session as an "early second reading" by Parliament.

Investing in jobs and growth: adoption of draft opinion



112 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion by Ms Viorica Dăncilă (S&D, RO) on the own-initiative implementation report prepared by the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) on "Investing in jobs and growth - maximising the contribution of European Structural and Investment Funds: an evaluation of the report under Article 16(3) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) ". 8 compromise amendments have been negotiated among the groups with a view to ease the vote. The vote in REGI is expected to take place on 9-10 November.

Next committee meeting

7 November 2016 (15.00-18.30)

8 November 2016 (09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30)

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