

Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 15/2016

Meeting of:

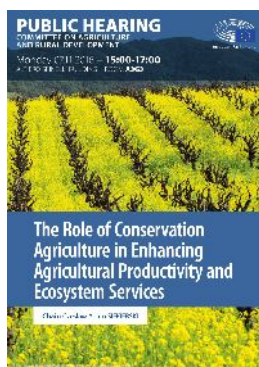
7 November 2016,
15.00 – 17.00 - room ASP 3G3
17.00-18.30 AGRI-FEMM meeting - ASP 1G3

8 November 2016,
9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 -
Room ASP 3G3



Highlights

Hearing on the role of conservation agriculture



The AGRI Committee is organising a hearing on the role of conservation agriculture in enhancing agricultural productivity and ecosystem services on 7 November from 15.00 to 17.00h (ASP 3G3). Conservation agriculture has taken shape as a response to soil degradation which is caused by tillage, in particular. Its methods aim at supporting productive agricultural systems capable of delivering maximum yields and ecosystem services while being resource efficient and resilient. Experts will focus, among other issues, on the principles of conservation agriculture and its impacts on soil function and crop productivity; organic agriculture and agroecology with a view to agrarian productivity and ecosystem services; and the importance of seeds.

Joint AGRI-FEMM meeting on Women and their roles in rural areas



The AGRI and FEMM Committee will hold a joint meeting on 7 November at 17.00 (room ASP 1G3) to discuss the draft own-initiative report by Marijana Petir (EPP, FEMM) and Lidia Senra Rodriguez (GUE,AGRI) on the role of women in rural areas, which falls under the shared competence of both committees. The draft points out to the problems women are faced with, be it either in a farming context or in a broader perspective, such as for example the inadequacy of public services, transport links, access to Internet and educational services and draws up some recommendations in this regard.

EU agricultural challenges post 2020 and the next CAP reform: workshop



AGRI is holding a workshop on 8 November at 15.00 on the agricultural challenges post-2020 in the EU and the preparation of the next CAP reform. The debate on the future of the CAP after 2020 has already started with position papers presented by some Member States (The Netherlands, France), or with the Cork 2.0 conference on the future of rural development policy in September 2016. Prominent European experts will examine and debate possible policy options for direct payments, market measures and risk management tools, and rural development, with a view to fuel into Members' reflexions for the future position of the European Parliament on the next CAP reform.

Work in progress

Organic farming: update on trilogue negotiations



The 11th trilogue on the new regulation for organic farming took place on 18 October under the Slovak Presidency. Substantive progress has been made on production rules sector by sector and the structure of the regulation and the balance needed between the rules that need to stay in the basic act and the ones that could be left to delegated and implementing acts. However, a number of political issues are still on the table. The rapporteur, Martin Häusling (Greens-DE), will provide Members with a more detailed update (last item on the agenda on 8 November).

Responsible ownership and care of equines: consideration of draft report



There are an estimated 7 million equidae in the EU. They play many roles throughout their lifetimes, from companion animals to working animals, from athletes to food-producing animals but face a number of serious welfare challenges across the EU. Addressing these challenges is the objective of the draft own-initiative report to be presented by Julie Girling (ECR, UK) (presentation on 8 November in the morning).

Palm oil and deforestation of rainforests



Palm oil is an edible plant oil which has become a common ingredient in many consumer products. Today, around 50% of the goods we use every day contain palm oil, from processed foods to candles, grooming products and "biofuels". Palm oil is one of the main drivers of illegal deforestation for commercial agriculture in Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Florent Marcellesi (Greens/EFA, ES) will present an opinion on "Palm oil and deforestation of rainforests" for the attention of the lead committee, ENVI (presentation 8 November at 17.30).

School schemes: presentation of draft delegated act



Deputy-Director General of DG AGRI in the Commission, Joost Korte will present a draft delegated act related to the implementation of the new school schemes agreed by Parliament and Council in March 2016 after successful trilogue negotiations under the Luxembourg Presidency. The new school schemes are to enter into force with the start of the 2017-2018 school year (presentation on 8 November after the vote).

Pest of plants: presentation of draft implementing directive



A representative of DG SANTE in the Commission will present to AGRI Members a draft Implementing Directive to amend Annexes I to V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC which is to be replaced by the new Regulation on Pests of Plants adopted and signed during the last Strasbourg session. After Clara Aguilera (S&D, ES) had questioned the compatibility of that draft implementing act with the new Regulation, AGRI coordinators have decided to invite DG SANTE to explain the act to Members. It will be the first time that AGRI considers an objection to an implementing act (presentation on 8 November).

Votes on 8 November at 9.00

Price volatility in agricultural markets: adoption of draft report



More than 400 amendments have been tabled to the draft own-initiative report by Angélique Delahaye (EPP, FR) on price volatility in agricultural markets. Nearly all of those have been encompassed in 15 compromise amendments negotiated among the political groups.

Next committee meeting

28 November 2016 (15.00-18.30)

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

Useful links

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[EP Press releases on agriculture](#)

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