

Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 12/2017

Meeting of:
Wednesday 30 August 2017
9.00 - 12.30 – 15.00 - 18.30
and
Thursday 31 August 2017
9.00 - 12.30
Room: JAN 6Q2



Highlights

Fipronil egg contamination scandal and consequences for the food chain: update



A representative from the Commission's DG SANTE will update the AGRI Committee on Thursday morning on the state-of-play of the scandal related to the illegal use of the active substance Fipronil in laying hen farms in several Member States and its consequences in the whole EU food supply chain. Most Member States have been affected by the withdrawal of eggs or processed products containing eggs. Committee Members are eager to obtain more information on the situation and expected implications for the farming sector.

Precision Agriculture and the future of farming in Europe: Presentation of STOA study



On Wednesday afternoon, Professor Josse De Baerdemaeker of the University of Leuven will present to the Committee the results of a study on 'precision agriculture', which means the use of technology to improve the ratio between agriculture output and the inputs employed (land, energy, water, fertilisers etc.). It involves, for instance, the use of sensors and data to identify with greater accuracy how much fertiliser or water a given crop requires. The study was carried out under the auspices of the EP's Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), which provides in-depth studies on how technological changes affect society and policymaking.

Social Dialogue in the agriculture sector: presentation of COPA-GEOPA report



Chris Botterman, President of the Employers Group of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the EU (GEOPA-COPA) will present on Wednesday afternoon GEOPA-COPA's report on "Social Dialogue as the most effective means of combating social dumping and undeclared work in the agriculture sector". This report underlines the need for more social dialogue and simplification of administrative requirements to effectively tackle undeclared work.

Work in progress

Negotiating mandate for EU - Australia free trade agreement: AGRI opinion



Eric Andrieu (S&D, FR) will present his draft opinion on the negotiating mandate for the future free trade agreement (FTA) between the EU and Australia. While acknowledging the interest for the EU of an agreement with Australia which would reduce tariff barriers for some processed agricultural products as well as protect geographical indications effectively, it reminds the Commission that it would be unacceptable to sacrifice the interests of European agriculture and its sensitive sectors in order to secure an agreement. The lead committee for this file is INTA, the Committee on International trade.

Negotiating mandate for EU - New Zealand free trade agreement: AGRI opinion



James Nicholson (ECR, UK) will present to fellow Members his draft opinion on the negotiating mandate for the future free trade agreement (FTA) between the EU and New Zealand. It argues that the future agreement can be of mutual benefit to both sides and offers opportunities for European farmers, as long as it respects the sensitivities of specific EU agricultural sectors, such as dairy and sheep and goat meat. The lead committee for this file is INTA, the Committee on International trade.

Member States' control of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers: opinion



Bronis Ropé (Greens/EFA, LT) will present his draft opinion on Commission's proposal on so called "Comitology reform". The overall objective of this proposal is to prevent Member States from issuing a "no opinion" in the appeal committee and to ensure wider political accountability and ownership of politically sensitive implementing acts.

Prospects and challenges for the EU apiculture sector



Norbert Erdős (EPP, HU) will present his draft own-initiative report on "prospects and challenges for the EU apiculture sector". Building on the presentations made in the recent hearing on the same subject, Mr Erdős has drafted comprehensive proposals embracing the various aspects of the challenges faced by the EU apiculture sector, with a special focus on the risk represented by extra-EU honey imports.

Votes

2018 EU budget: adoption of AGRI opinion and budget amendments



AGRI Members will hold two votes for the 2018 EU budget. First they will vote on the draft opinion by Tibor Szanyi (S&D, HU), rapporteur for the 2018 budgetary procedure, on the draft budget proposed by the European Commission. 55 amendments have been tabled to this draft opinion. Members will also vote on budgetary amendments aiming to modify the figures of the draft budget, including pilot projects and preparatory actions. This year, 68 such budgetary amendments have been tabled, out of which 14 are pilot projects and preparatory actions.

Alignment of older legal acts to Lisbon Treaty: draft opinion



Members will vote on the draft AGRI opinion by Daniel Buda (EPP, RO) on the so called "RPS alignment" proposal which aims to align a number of older EU legal acts established under the former Regulatory procedure with scrutiny (RPS) to the new regime of delegated and implementing acts established by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). 206 amendments have been tabled.

Next committee meeting

25 September 2017, 15.00 - 18.30

9 October 2017, 15.00 - 18.30

10 October 2017, 9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Brussels

Useful links

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