

## Newsletter 8th legislature - Issue No 20/2019

07 January 2019  
15.00 - 18.30

Brussels  
Room: JAN 4Q1



## Highlights

**Presentation by a Commission representative (DG AGRI) of a report on "The application of the Union competition rules to the agricultural sector"**



The Commission will present its report on the application of the competition rules to the agricultural sector. The main focus of the report are the exceptions to the general competition rules applicable to agriculture, more specifically the contractual power of negotiations for producer organisations and the practices of recognised interbranch organisations.

## Exchange of views on the recent judgement of the European Court of Justice on New Breeding Techniques



In a joint meeting of the AGRI and ENVI committees, members will exchange views on the recent judgement of the European Court of Justice on NBTs. The Court ruled that organisms obtained by mutagenesis are GMOs and are, in principle, subject to the obligations laid down by the GMO legislation. There are claims that these organisms should therefore be subject to authorization procedures, allowing only big companies to continue investing in these techniques, and that the Court's judgement does not provide the necessary regulatory clarity needed by EU researchers, innovators and academics.

## Work in progress

### Rules on direct payments and support for rural development in respect of the years 2019 and 2020



Members will discuss the recent Commission proposal concerning realization of direct payments and rural development programmes for the years 2019 and 2020, in particular as far as flexibility between these two pillars is concerned. Given the urgency to adopt the proposal before the elections in order to allow Member States to do the necessary notifications in 2019, Members will discuss the use of an accelerated procedure, which would leave out several procedural steps.

### Unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the food supply chain



The rapporteur Paolo De Castro (S&D, IT) will report to the committee on the agreement on the Directive on Unfair Trading Practices, reached on 19 December, after 6 trilogues. Parliament's negotiating team has achieved important modifications to the legislative text, especially as regards the extension of the scope, to agri-food businesses bigger than SMEs (up to a certain threshold), as well as the extension of the list of prohibited unfair trading practices. The Council's SCA followed by the AGRI committee should soon approve the agreed text so that it can be submitted for Plenary adoption, probably in March.

## Next committee meeting

14 January 2019, 19.00 – 21.00 (Strasbourg)  
23 January 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30  
24 January 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)  
29 January 2019, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

## Useful links

[AGRI website](#)

[Webstreaming](#)

[Meeting documents](#)

[Calendar of AGRI meetings](#)

[EP Press releases on agriculture](#)

[Minutes of previous meetings](#)

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