



Seminar for journalists

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

Tuesday, 12 March 2013 - Wednesday, 13 March 2013

European Parliament, Strasbourg

Programme

Tuesday, 12 March 2013

15.00 - 17.00 **Plenary debate: Reform of the CAP**
Hemicycle, LOW building, Strasbourg
(can be observed from the press gallery, LOW, floor 3)

Wednesday, 13 March 2013

09.30 - 11.30 CAP reform: The vote that paves the way
Journalist seminar
Room PFL 01.102, Pfimlin building, European Parliament, Strasbourg)
Moderated by: Michel Plumley, EP official, Press Service

09.30 - 10.00 **Introduction by EP officials /30'**
Gerhard KALB, Head of Unit, AGRI Secretariat, EP
Jan JAKUBOV, Press Officer, DGCOMM, EP

10.00 - 11.00 **Discussion panel with the Chair of AGRI Committee and the rapporteurs /60'**
Paolo DE CASTRO (S&D, IT), Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (S&D, PT), S&D coordinator and the rapporteur for Direct Payments, Rural Development, Transitional measures for 2013
Giovanni LA VIA (EPP, IT), rapporteur for Financing, management and monitoring

Q&A session /30'

11.00 - 11.30 **Towards a political agreement - position of the Presidency /30'**
Dermot RYAN, Agriculture Counsellor, (tbc)
Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union

12:00 - 13.00 **Vote: CAP reform legislative package**
Hemicycle, LOW building, Strasbourg
(can be observed from the press gallery, LOW, floor 3)

15:00 - 16:00 **Press conference: CAP reform legislative package**
(tbc)
LOW N -1/201

National perspective: possible impact of the CAP reform from the perspective of consumers, environment, farmers and industry

Exchange of views with national MEPs, officials and journalists/stakeholders invited by EPIOs

(to be organised by EPIOs press officers, individual programmes)

BACKGROUND

The European Parliament press service is holding a seminar for journalists on the post-2014 EU farm policy (CAP) reform package, which is to enter into force in 2015.

The reform package consists of four separate reports:

- direct payments (rapporteur: Louis Manuel Capoulas Santos - S&D, Portugal),
- rural development (rapporteur: Louis Manuel Capoulas Santos - S&D, Portugal),
- common market organisation (rapporteur: Michel Dantin - EPP, FR),
- financing, management and monitoring (rapporteur: Giovanni La Via - EPP, Italy).

The Agriculture Committee, in adopting its draft position for negotiations with EU Member States on 23-24 January 2013, called for a modern and more flexible future CAP. This will be the first EU farm policy reform shaped by Parliament as a full co-legislator with Member States.

The Common Agricultural Policy, one of the EU's oldest, must also be properly funded to continue ensuring a secure supply of high-quality food to EU citizens and to enable farmers to protect the environment better, argued MEPs when voting on the four legislative proposals.

The vote in the Parliament, which will take place on 13 March 2013, will constitute the EP negotiating mandate and as such will pave the way for negotiations with Member States on the final shape of future EU farm policy. Many amendments, as approved by the EP Agriculture Committee in late January, had been negotiated among political groups but on some issues national divisions persist, without a clear left - right divide.

Before negotiations can start, the Agriculture Council (agriculture ministers from all Member States) will also have to approve its negotiating mandate, known as a 'general approach'. The Council vote is now scheduled for 18-19 March.

The CAP debate is closely linked to talks on the EU's long-term budget 2014-2020 and MEPs have made it clear that the final decision on the new EU farm policy will be taken only once they know how much money will be allocated to the future Common Agricultural Policy.

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