

## Newsletter 9th legislature - Issue No 22/2020

Committee meeting

Wednesday 2 September 2020

9.00 – 10.00

16.45 – 19.00

In visioconference

Brussels, room József Antall 4Q1



## Highlights

**Equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed produced in Ukraine : Exchange of views with a Commission representative (DG SANTE) on the Council Decision 2003/17/EC**



In April, the Commission published a decision granting equivalence system of field inspections of cereal seed and cereal seed provided and certified in Ukraine (COM (2020) 137 final). Before the vote on the draft report (Rapporteur: Ms Veronika Vrecionová), AGRI Committee invited the Commission to provide further explanation and, if need be, proceed to an impact assessment. Exchange of views aims to give more clarification and reassurance to the sector severely impacted by the pandemic situation.

### **Draft Amending Budget No5 and the Commission proposal on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020: Exchange of views with a Commission representative (DG AGRI)**



The Commission will present to Members the Amended budget No 5 on the continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey using available margins (non-adopted appropriations) from Heading 2 (Natural Resources).

### **Retail alliances in the agricultural and food supply chain : Presentation by the European Commission (DG AGRI) of the JRC study**



Members will discuss a report from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on retail alliances in the agricultural and food supply chain. The European Parliament had asked the Commission to investigate this topic when it had adopted the Directive on unfair trading practices in March 2019. The report summarises the results of a workshop organised by the Commission in November 2019. Retail alliances improve the bargaining position of their members vis-à-vis e.g. large manufacturers. However, they might have negative effects on farmers who are operating at the beginning of the supply chain.

## Work in progress

### **Transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021**



The rapporteur for the Transitional Regulation Ms Katainen (RE, FI) will present the current state of play of the process of the adoption of the act. In June the colegislators reached an agreement on all elements of the Regulation, with the exception of the MFF related issues. After the Heads of states successfully reached an agreement on the MFF and the recovery package, the work on Transitional Regulation should continue in order for the act to enter into force immediately after EP and the Council agree on the MFF.



## Votes

### The European Forest Strategy - The Way Forward



The own-initiative report "European Forest Strategy - the way forward" will be voted on by Members. The main focus of the report is the EU need for an ambitious, independent and self-standing post-2020 Forest Strategy, which is due to be published by the Commission at the beginning of 2021. Rapporteur Petri Sarvamaa (EPP, FI) has negotiated 27 Compromise Amendments, covering also the opinions of ENVI and ITRE Committees.

### European Climate Law - Framework for achieving climate neutrality



Members will vote on the AGRI opinion on the European Climate Law Regulation. ENVI is the committee responsible. AGRI MEPs have tabled 455 amendments, in addition to the 30 amendments of the draft opinion. The rapporteur, Asger Christensen from Renew, has been able to produce 28 compromises, namely focusing on the setting of an intermediary emission reduction target for 2040, as well as the setting of a Union trajectory for climate neutrality by 2050 through a legislative proposal and not through delegated acts, as the Commission has proposed. Further issues are the consistency of Union measures with the climate neutrality objective, as well as the feasibility of carbon-crediting schemes.

### A new EU-Africa Strategy - a partnership for sustainable and inclusive development



Members will vote on the AGRI opinion on the INI report A New EU-Africa Strategy. DEVE is the committee responsible. AGRI MEPs have tabled 106 amendments. The rapporteur, Emanuel Bompard, from GUE/ NGL has been able to produce 10 compromises, namely focusing on the Trade, Cooperation to the Development and the employment in the rural areas. Additional and important issues including in the compromise amendments focused on the Health of Workers and Pesticides, Women in agriculture, Deforestation, Biodiversity and Wildlife, Land grabbing, Sustainable Food Production.

## Next committee meetings

Monday 7 September 2020, 16.45 – 18.45 (Brussels)

Monday 21 September 2020, 16.45 – 18.45 (Brussels)

Tuesday 22 September 2020, 9.00 – 11.00 and 11.30 – 12.30 (Brussels)

## Useful links

<a href="#">AGRI website</a>	<a href="#">Calendar of AGRI meetings</a>
<a href="#">Webstreaming</a>	<a href="#">EP Press releases on agriculture</a>
<a href="#">Meeting documents</a>	<a href="#">Minutes of previous meetings</a>

For further information and subscriptions, please contact the Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) at [agri-secretariat@ep.europa.eu](mailto:agri-secretariat@ep.europa.eu)

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