

Newsletter 9th legislature - Issue No 24/2020

Committee meeting

Monday 21 September 2020

16.45 – 18.45

Tuesday 22 September 2020

9.00 – 11.00

In visioconference

Brussels, room József Antall 4Q1



Highlights

Exchange of views on the Recovery Package and revised MFF



The COVID-19 pandemic severely affects citizens, societies and economies worldwide, including agriculture. A comprehensive plan for European recovery will need massive public and private investment in repairing the immediate damage wrought by the Coronavirus. The Commission has therefore proposed to harness the full power of the EU budget to mobilise investment and frontload financial support. EUR 8.07 billions (current prices) are proposed under the NextGeneration EU (NGE) to help the agricultural sector and rural areas. These amounts will be made available as soon as possible and upon decision by the Parliament and the Council.

Exchange of views with Ruben Tascon, Acting Director for Health and Food Audits and Analysis, DG SANTE



Members will exchange views on current issues of interest for AGRI committee with the DG SANTE Acting Director for Health and food audits and analysis (formerly the Food and Veterinary Office), Mr Ruben Tascon. His Directorate carries out audits, inspections and related non-audit activities aimed at ensuring that EU legislation on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and in the area of medical devices is properly implemented and enforced. This means EU citizens enjoy a high level of safety, and that goods are traded under safe conditions.

Votes

Equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed produced in Ukraine



Members will vote the report on the "Equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed produced in Ukraine". The rapporteur, Ms Vrecionová, proposed to take over the Commission proposal. 23 amendments were tabled, some of them requesting the Commission to conduct an impact assessment before granting the equivalence.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections



Members will hold two votes concerning the 2021 EU budget. They are going to vote on budgetary amendments aiming to modify the figures of the draft budget. These amendments include pilot projects and preparatory actions. Members will also have to vote on the draft opinion prepared by Petri Sarvamaa (EPP, FI), rapporteur for this year's budgetary procedure. In total, 47 amendments have been tabled to the figures and 79 amendments to the draft opinion.

An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation



Members will vote on the AGRI opinion on a "legislative initiative" report (lead committee is ENVI) regarding a EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation. AGRI MEPs have tabled 135 amendments on the draft opinion of Martin HAUSLING (Greens). The rapporteur has produced 11 compromises, namely focusing on the drivers of deforestation and the need for EU action, including binding EU law to ensure that supply chains of products imported do not involve deforestation.

A new strategy for European SMEs



Members will vote on the AGRI opinion on the INI report A New Strategy for the European SMEs. ITRE is the committee responsible. AGRI MEPs have tabled 86 amendments. The rapporteur, Pina Picierno, from S&D has been able to produce 8 compromises, namely focusing on the Covid 19 and its Consequences for SMEs, Diversity and Women Entrepreneurs, Trade, Farm to Fork Strategy, Digital Infrastructures for the SMEs, Food Supply Chain Imbalance and the situation of the SMEs in Rural Areas.

A European strategy for data



On 21 September, AGRI will vote on MEP Zoido Álvarez Opinion on a European strategy for data. Through this vote, the Committee should underline the potential of digital technologies for agriculture and rural areas. Member should notably stress the need for appropriate financing and support measures to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas, and tackle issues surrounding cybersecurity and data sovereignty.

Next committee meetings

Monday 12 October 2020, 16.45 – 18.45 (Brussels)

Useful links

AGRI website	Calendar of AGRI meetings
Webstreaming	EP Press releases on agriculture
Meeting documents	Minutes of previous meetings

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

Disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the AGRI Committee the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.

Images copyright: © Shutterstock, © 2020 Adobe, ©European Parliament 2020