

AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee
on Agriculture and Rural
Development
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 7/2014

Meeting of 3 December 2014

09.00-12.30 & 15.00-18.30

(JAN 4Q1)



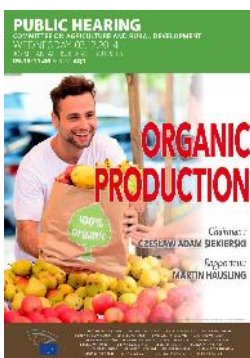
Highlights

Commissioner Hogan to debate with AGRI Members



The newly appointed Commissioner for agriculture Phil Hogan has been invited for a debate with AGRI Members during the Committee meeting of 3 December at 17.00 (Brussels). The topics expected to be raised include the latest developments on the 2015 agricultural budget, an update on measures taken by the EU to alleviate the impact of the Russian import ban on EU food products, the situation on agricultural markets (including prospects for the dairy market) and ongoing work on legislative proposals such as the organic production and the school schemes files.

Hearing: "Organic Production"



On 3 December from 09.15 to 11.45, AGRI will hold a hearing on the Regulation on organic production, with a view to feed into a report by Martin HÄUSLING (Greens, DE). Invited experts will include: Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein, Chairman of the "Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft", Jörn Sanders, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Etienne Gangneron, Chairman of "Agence BIO", Isabella Übertsberger, organic farmer and member of Bio Austria Youth Network and Elia Rodriguez Alvarez, organic farmer and representative of "Galician Peasants Union". Debates with Members will follow each round of presentations.

Work in progress

2013 EU budget discharge



Peter Jahr (EPP, DE), rapporteur for the AGRI opinion, will present his draft opinion on the 2013 EU budget discharge. This procedure aims at closing EU accounts for the 2013 budget and formally discharging the European Commission of its responsibility over these. The Committee on budgetary control (CONT) is the lead Committee in this procedure.

The fruit and vegetables sector since the 2007 reform



In March 2014 the Commission published a report on the fruit and vegetables regime, which was a stock-taking exercise in the wake of the 2007 reform. That reform was centred on enhancing the role of producer organisations (POs), in a context of market liberalisation. The AGRI Committee will hold a first exchange of views on this topic, as the first step in the drawing-up of its own-initiative report, for which Nuno Melo (EPP, PT) is the rapporteur.

Zootechnical legislation



AGRI Members will have a first exchange of views with their rapporteur, Michel Dantin (EPP, FR), on two proposals related to the zootechnical legislation. The aim is to encourage intra-EU free trade in breeding animals and their genetic material and to facilitate imports of these. The proposals also seek to ensure that breeding programmes and genetic resource preservation programmes are maintained, thereby preserving all existing breeds in Europe. This file is linked to the result of negotiations on the new regulation on official controls.



Votes

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova



AGRI Members will vote on the draft opinion by Laurentiu Rebega (S&D, RO) which recommends approving the Commission's proposal to anticipate and extend the autonomous trade preferences for fruit and vegetables imports from Moldova, agreed in the context of the Association Agreement signed in June 2014. Eight amendments have been tabled by Members. The Committee on international trade (INTA) is the lead Committee on this file.

Next Committee meeting

21-22 January 2015

Wednesday 21 January: 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30

Thursday 22 January: 09.00-12.30

Meeting room: JAN 4Q1

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