

AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee
on Agriculture and Rural
Development
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 6/2014

Meeting of 05-06 November 2014

05/11: 09.00-12.30 & 15.00-18.30

06/11: 09.00-12.30 (JAN 6Q2)



Highlights

EU budget 2015 and use of the agricultural crisis reserve



The Commission will be invited to debate with AGRI Members its recently adopted 'amending letter' to the draft 2015 budget. This amendment provides for extra revenues of €465 million to the agricultural budget coming mostly from clearance of accounts and milk superlevies. However, these additional amounts will not be used to support producers affected by the Russian import ban, but for financing other EU priority measures such as the fight against the Ebola epidemic. As a result, emergency market measures put into place in recent weeks in the context of the Russian ban will have to be financed using the 2015 agricultural crisis reserve, leaving it almost empty for the coming year (debate on 6 November after the votes).

Hearing: "A new EU Forest Strategy"



On 5 November from 16.00 to 18.30, AGRI will hold a hearing on "a new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector", with a view to feed into an own-initiative report by Elisabeth Köstinger (EPP, AT). Invited experts will include: Harald Mauser of the European Forest Institute, Juha Hakkarainen of the Finnish Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, Jan Szyszko of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, and Tony Simons, Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre. Debates with Members will follow the rounds of presentations.



Universal expo Milan 2015



Members will be updated on the preparations for the 2015 Universal Expo in Milan (Italy) through presentations by and debates with 2 guests: on 5 November at 15.00 with Franz Fischler, former Agriculture Commissioner and Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Expo and on 6 November in the late morning with Riccardo Valentini, professor at the University of Tuscia (Italy).

Work in progress

School programmes: debate with the rapporteur



Rapporteur Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE) will exchange views with AGRI Members in order to prepare his draft report on the Commission's proposal on the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables and milk in schools. This proposal aims, amongst other objectives, to reconnect children with agriculture, to increase synergies between the schemes and the visibility of EU action by harmonising provisions of existing schemes, and to increase spending efficiency.

Report on the future of the European milk sector



Rapporteur Jim Nicholson (ECR, UK), will have a first exchange of views with Members in view of the own-initiative report on the future of the European milk sector and the operation of the milk package adopted in 2012. This report will be the EP's reaction to the recent Commission communication on the subject, which discusses different approaches that could be used to manage the markets after the end of the quotas, with a view to making further proposals, where appropriate.

Autonomous trade preferences for Moldova



AGRI Rapporteur Laurentiu Rebega (S&D, RO) will present his draft opinion on 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. The rapporteur agrees with the Commission that this amendment will support the Republic of Moldova in a difficult economic context without creating additional pressures on the EU's fruit and vegetable market. The Committee on international trade (INTA) is the lead Committee on this file.



2013 EU budget discharge



Peter Jahr (EPP, DE), rapporteur for the AGRI opinion, will exchange views with Members 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.

Votes on 6 November

Novel foods: vote on AGRI opinion



A total of 307 amendments, including 30 by the AGRI rapporteur for opinion Daciana Sârbu (S&D, RO), have been tabled by AGRI Members to the Commission's proposal on novel foods. The Committee on environment, public health and food safety (ENVI), the lead Committee on this file, is expected to adopt its report on this proposal on 24 November.

Next Committee meeting

03-04 December 2014

Wednesday 3 December: 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30 (room JAN 4Q1, Brussels)

Thursday 4 December: 09.00-12.30 (room JAN 4Q1, Brussels)

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