

# AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee on  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 3/2014

Meeting of 03-04 September 2014

03/09: 09.00-12.30 & 15.00-18.30 (JAN6Q2)

04/09: 09.00-12.30 (JAN4Q2)



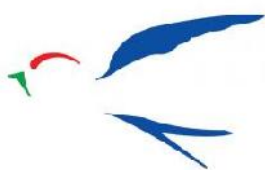
## Highlights

### Russian import ban on EU food products



European producers have been hit hard by the import ban on EU food products imposed by the Russian Federation since the 7th of August. The Commission will be invited to present the urgent market measures taken to alleviate the losses experienced by EU producers - mainly support measures for market withdrawals in the fruit and vegetable sector and intervention measures in the milk sector - and to update AGRI Members on the latest market trends, and further possible measures.

### Italian Presidency programme



Maurizio Martina, President-in-office of the Agriculture Council and Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry policies, will present the priorities of the Italian Presidency in the field of agriculture and rural development to AGRI Members. He will also update Members on preparations for the Universal Expo Milan 2015.

### Risk and opportunities of an EU-US trade agreement for the EU agri-food sector



Negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were launched in June 2013 with potential important implications in the field of agriculture. Gabriel Felbermayr from the IFO Institute-Leibniz for Economic Research at The University of Munich will present a Study prepared for AGRI Members on "Risks and Opportunities for the EU Agri-Food Sector in a Possible EU-US Trade Agreement".

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## Work in progress

### Organic farming regulation: presentation of the Commission's proposal



The Commission will present and hold a first debate with Members on its proposal for a new regulation on organic production replacing Council Regulation 834/2007. The proposal aims to remove obstacles to the sustainable development of organic production in the EU, to guarantee fair competition for farmers and operators for a better functioning of the internal market, and to improve consumer confidence in organic products.

### Animal cloning and food from cloned animals



The Commission will present its proposals for a directive on cloning of farmed animals, and for a directive on the placing of the market of food from animal clones. The proposals aim at suspending the use of the cloning technique, the marketing of cloned animal and food derived from animal clones in the Union.

### Zootechnical rules for trade and imports of breeding animals into the EU



The Commission will present its proposal related to zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the trade in and imports into the EU of breeding animals and their germinal products. This proposal regroups different aspects of the zootechnical legislation into a single legal framework. In addition, it aims to promote the free trade in breeding animals and their genetic material, whilst taking into account the sustainability of breeding programs and the preservation of genetic resources.

### Draft delegated act on vine planting authorisations



Members will have the opportunity to quiz the Commission on the latest version of the draft delegated act aimed at implementing the new scheme of authorisations for vine plantings provided for under the new Common Market Organisation (CMO Regulation 1308/2013). This scheme had been introduced in the context of the CAP reform at the request of the European Parliament and wine-producing Member States.

## Court of Auditors' report on supports in the wine sector



Members of the Committee will hear the Commission's reaction to the recent Court of Auditors' report on the impact of EU investment and promotion support for the competitiveness of the wine sector. This report is rather critical of the use of EU funds for investing in wine production facilities and infrastructure.

## Votes on 3 September

### EU budget for 2015



AGRI Members will vote both on budgetary amendments to the draft 2015 EU budget and on the AGRI opinion in view of the Parliament's resolution accompanying the vote on the budget. A total of 24 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion prepared by Peter Jahr (EPP, DE) and 66 amendments to the agriculture heading of the draft budget have been tabled. The rapporteur tabled 24 amendments restoring the draft budget, whereas 42 amendments came from other Members.

### Corrigendum to the Regulation on promotion measures for EU agricultural products



Due to time constraints at the end of the last parliamentary term, the agreement on the regulation on information provision and promotion measures for agricultural products was approved by plenary before lawyer-linguistic verification. After legal revision, a corrigendum has to be approved by plenary after examination by the AGRI Committee. The plenary vote is foreseen for the September session.

### Animal health: confirmation of first reading position



Members will vote on the confirmation of the first reading position adopted by Parliament at the end of the last parliamentary term on the animal health proposal (Paulsen report). The Committee will also take a formal decision on the opening of negotiations and on the composition of the negotiating team in view of an early second-reading agreement with the Council.



## Pests of plants: confirmation of first reading position



Similarly to the vote on animal health, Members will vote on the confirmation of the first reading position adopted by Parliament at the end of the last parliamentary term on the plant health proposal. The Committee will also take a formal decision on the opening of negotiations and on the composition of the negotiating team in view of an early second-reading agreement with the Council.

## Next committee meeting

22-23 September 2014 (room tbc)

Monday 22 September, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 23 September 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30

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