

AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee
on Agriculture and Rural
Development
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 1/2015

Meeting of 21-22 January 2015
21/01: 09.00-12.30 & 15.00-18.30
22/01: 09.00-12.30
(JAN 4Q1)



Highlights

Agriculture priorities of the Latvian Presidency



Latvian Agriculture Minister Jānis Dūklavs will present the priorities of the EU Presidency for the first half of 2015 during the AGRI meeting of 21 January at 15.00 (room JAN 4Q1 Brussels). This could also be an opportunity for the Presidency and AGRI Members to react to the Commission's draft work programme for 2015 which recommends to the co-legislators to conclude negotiations on the organic farming legislation within 6 months and to put on hold the school schemes proposal pending a new evaluation.

Reforming EU rules for the fruit and vegetables sector - Workshop



On 22 January from 09.00 to 10.30, AGRI will hold a workshop on Reforming EU rules concerning the fruit and vegetables sector, with a view to feeding into an own-initiative report by Nuno Melo (EPP, PT). Invited experts include: Jos Bijman, from Wageningen University and Luciano Trentini and Jacques Dasque from AREFLH, the Fruit, Vegetable and Horticultural European Regions Assembly. A debate with Members and the rapporteur will follow the presentations.

Work in progress

School schemes: presentation of draft report



Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE) will present his draft report on Commission proposal related to the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables and milk to schools. He will also seek clarification from the Commission on its recommendation to put this proposal on hold as part of the 2015 work programme.

A new EU forest strategy: presentation of draft report



Elisabeth Köstinger (EPP, AT) will present her own initiative report on “A new EU Forest Strategy” to the Committee. It supports the idea of a coherent and holistic approach on forest management and forest-related policies and focuses on the concept of sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests. Ms Köstinger takes the view that the implementation of the new EU Strategy should involve as little red tape as possible to strengthen the forestry sector and not to burden it with new requirements.

Manufacture and marketing of medicated feed: presentation of Commission proposal



This AGRI meeting will mark the formal start of legislative work on the medicated feed file, for which the rapporteur is Clara Aguilera García (S&D, ES), with a presentation of its proposal by the Commission. Medicated feed means feed mixed with substances used in veterinary medicines. It is generally used to treat animal diseases in large groups of animals, in particular pigs and poultry and is therefore important for farmers. The Commission wishes to revise Directive 90/167/EEC which lays down rules for medicated feed and is now over two decades old.

Tackling unfair trading practices in the food supply chain



Members will have an exchange of views on the AGRI contribution to an own-initiative report by IMCO, the Committee on the internal market and consumer protection, on the Commission communication of July 2014 on tackling unfair trading practices in the food supply chain. This report will provide the Parliament's response to the communication and assess the non-legislative approach proposed by the Commission.



Transatlantic trade and investment partnership: AGRI opinion



Members will have an exchange of views on the AGRI opinion to an own initiative report by INTA, the Committee on international trade, on the negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The report aims to express the Parliament's recommendations to the Commission with regard to the main issues on the negotiating table. Paolo De Castro (S&D, IT) and Jim Nicholson (ECR, UK) are co-rapporteurs for this important AGRI opinion.

Votes

2013 EU budget discharge



AGRI Members will vote on the draft opinion by Peter Jahr (EPP, DE), on the 2013 EU budget discharge. 19 amendments have been tabled by Members in view of this vote. The Committee on budgetary control (CONT) is the lead Committee in this procedure, which aims at closing EU accounts for the 2013 budget and formally discharging the European Commission of its responsibility over these.

Next Committee meetings

Tuesday 27 January 2015, 15.00 – 18.30 (Meeting room: ASP 5G3)

Hearing on "The milk package and the prospects for the dairy sector"

23-24 February 2015 (Meeting room: ASP 5G3)

Monday 23 February: 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 24 February: 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30

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