

# AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee on  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 14/2015

Meeting of Monday 9 November  
15:00-18:30, JAN 6Q2  
and Thursday 12 November 2015  
09:00-12:30 JAN 2Q2



## Highlights

### Spanish Agriculture Minister to exchange views on national food supply chain law



The AGRI Committee will welcome on Thursday 12 November at 09.00 the Spanish Minister for Agriculture, Mrs Isabel García Tejerina, who has been invited to participate in an exchange of views with Members on the Spanish experience in the implementation of national legislation on the food supply chain. The Spanish law, which was passed in August 2013, is aimed at improving the functioning and structure of the food supply chain in order to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the Spanish food sector and reduce imbalances in trade relations between the different operators along the value chain.

### EIB Vice-President in charge of agriculture to discuss bank activities



Mr Pim van Ballekom, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) with new responsibilities for agriculture, will participate in a first exchange of views with the AGRI Committee on 12 November (after the votes). His visit will be an occasion to present himself and discuss with Members the Bank's role and activities in the field of agriculture. In 2014, the EIB invested 475 million euros in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. The Bank is operating mainly in the European Union (90% of the projects) and in partner countries. Mr Ballekom has taken over the responsibility for agriculture from Wilhelm Molterer, who left the Bank in August.



## Work in progress

### School schemes: Feedback from first trilogue



Rapporteur Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE) will report on the first trilogue on the school schemes proposal which took place on 20 October. This file is very important for Parliament as it concerns the free distribution of healthy agricultural products to children in schools thanks to EU funding. However, Council disputes co-decision with Parliament on key policy aspects such as the budget of the schemes, the criteria for allocating the budget among Member States and the possibility of budgetary transfers between programmes.

### Enhancing innovation in farm management : exchange of views



Jan Huitema (ADLE, NL) will present his plans in view of his future draft own-initiative report on the importance of enhanced innovation and economic development for EU farm management and what this could mean for the entire farming sector. He believes that innovative farming practices have over decades significantly contributed to the development of European agriculture.

### Cohesion policy in mountainous regions



Members will exchange views with their rapporteur for opinion Michel Dantin (EPP, FR) on the agricultural aspects of a non-legislative own-initiative report requested by the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) on cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU. The AGRI draftsman intends to present his draft in January in view of a vote in February. Please note that this agenda item has been postponed from 9 November to 12 November.

### EU 2104 budget discharge: exchange of views



For the second consecutive year, AGRI has decided to draw up an opinion on the budget discharge for 2014. It is indeed in the Committee's interest to have a say on how agricultural monies have been spent and where adjustments are necessary. Agriculture still has the largest share of the EU budget and Members want to ensure that the money has been spent properly. Tibor Szanyi (S&D, HU) is the draftsman and will present his views. CONT, the Committee on Budgetary Control, is the lead Committee on the discharge.



## Emergency trade measures for Tunisia: presentation of draft opinion



Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D, ES) will present her draft opinion on the Introduction of emergency autonomous trade measures for Tunisia. The Commission proposal aims at opening an additional tariff-free quota of 35 000 tonnes for export of olive oil from Tunisia to the EU in order to help Tunisia to offset economic losses, mainly in the tourism sector, following the terrorist attacks of 26 June 2015 in Sousse. The proposed measure is exceptional and limited to a 2 year period with a possibility of extension by means of implementing acts. INTA, the Committee on International Trade, is the lead Committee on this file.

## Votes on 12 November

### Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain: vote on AGRI opinion



In total 195 amendments were submitted to Mairead McGuinness' (EPP, IE) draft opinion on "Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain". 9 compromise amendments, covering the main points, were drafted after negotiations between political groups. AGRI is associated to IMCO, the Committee on Internal Market and Consumers protection, which will adopt on own-initiative report on this issue in December.

## Next committee meetings

30 November, 15.00-18.30

1 December, 9.00–12.30-15.00-18.30 (Brussels)

## Useful links

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