

AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee on
Agriculture and Rural Development

Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 10/2016

Meeting of:

Wednesday 13 July, 09:00-12:30

ASP 5G3

Wednesday 13 July, 15:00-18:30

Thursday 14 July, 09:00-12:30

PHS 3C050



Highlights

Priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the EU



Slovakia's Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Gabriela Matečná, will present and debate with AGRI Members on 13 July at 9.00 the priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the EU for the second semester of 2016. The Presidency intends to look at ways to strengthen farmers' position in the food supply chain, especially in the dairy and pigmeat sectors, to monitor the situation on agricultural markets and to discuss the need for measures to stabilise these markets. It also intends to evaluate the progress made towards simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the aim of identifying further ways to reduce the administrative burden on farmers. It will also look at the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy, in particular as regards the guiding principle of global forest responsibility.

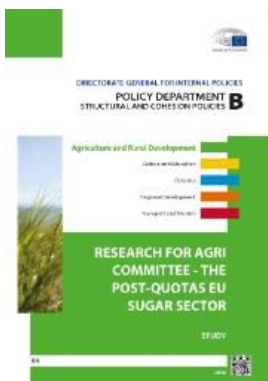
Hearing on the future of the EU sugar market after the abolition of quotas



The AGRI Committee is organising a hearing on the future of the EU sugar market after the abolition of sugar quotas in 2017 on 13 July from 16.00 to 18.30. Seven experts have been invited to address Members and reply to their questions: Helmut Bleckwenn of the North German Umbrella Association of Sugar Beet Growers, José Ignacio Senovilla of the Spanish Union of Small Farmers, Pekka Myllymäki of the MTK Sugarbeet Committee of Finland, Laura Girol, European Sugar Refineries Association, Pascale Giry of Saint Louis Sucre (France), Giovanni Tamburini of the Italian Unionzucchero and Krzysztof Nykiel of the Polish National Union of Sugar beet planters.

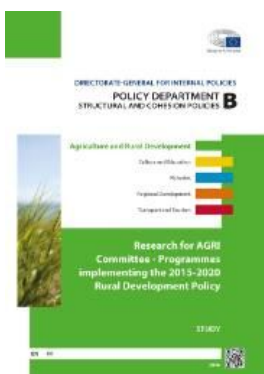


The post-quota EU sugar sector: study presentation



Just before the hearing on the future of the sugar market after 2017 on 13 July at 15.00, Members will hear the presentation of a study on the post-quotas EU sugar sector by Ms Barbara Wielicko and Mr Piotr Szajner from the Instytut Ekonomiki Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej of Poland. This study analyses the impact of the liberalisation of the sugar market in the EU and the changes it will bring about in the sector. Elimination of production quotas and the minimum price for the purchase of sugar beet will affect competition and sugar production. Foreign trade will play a key role in the market balance. The EU market will become strongly linked to the world market. The sugar sector is of strategic importance and CAP market policy should include instruments that allow the maintenance of sugar production.

Implementation of the 2015-2020 rural development programmes: study presentation



Ms Janet Dwyer from the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI, University of Gloucestershire, UK), and Mr Francesco Mantino from the Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of Agricultural Economics (CREA, Italy) will present on 13 July at 10.30 a research on “Programmes implementing the 2015-2020 Rural Development Policy”. This study examines the choices made by EU Member States in preparing their Rural Development Programmes for the 2015-2020 period. It finds much continuity compared to the previous period but some notable changes, including more funding for knowledge and co-operation and greater focus upon the goals of environmental management and investments for primary sector competitiveness, with less for rural diversification.

State of play of Xylella Fastidiosa: Commission presentation



Courtesy of EPPO gallery

Representatives of the Commission’s DG SANTE will provide an update on the measures taken to eradicate the Xylella Fastidiosa disease in Southern Europe. The Regional Administrative Court of Lazio issued legal orders that suspended the Commission decision to remove plants in the vicinity of infected olive trees. The EU Court of Justice however confirmed in a judgement last June the validity of the decision with respect to Directive 2000/29 in the light of the precautionary and proportionality principles.

AGRI Mission to Andalusia (Spain - 17-19 May 2016): report presentation



Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D, ES) will present the findings of the AGRI Committee delegation to Andalusia (Spain), which took place from 17 to 19 May. Members visited the provinces of Sevilla and Cordoba with the aim to better understand the specific conditions of agricultural production in this area, in particular, in the “dehesa”, a landscape and agricultural system which integrates crops, livestock and forestry. Members also had the opportunity to become more familiar with the most emblematic crop of the region: olive.



Work in progress

2017 EU budget: presentation of draft AGRI opinion



Following the AGRI Committee's vote on the Parliament's mandate for trilogue on budgetary negotiations, the Committee is now preparing an opinion on the general budget for 2017, as well as amendments to the budgetary figures. Due to the UK referendum, the Commission delayed its presentation of the draft budget for 2017 until 1 July. The Council estimates will not be available before mid-July. As most of AGRI amendments to the budgetary figures relate to the Council estimates, the AGRI rapporteur, Peter Jahr (EPP, DE), will not present his view on the figures, but only provide a general overview together with the presentation of his draft opinion on the draft budget.

National Emission Ceilings for certain pollutants: update on agreement reached



AGRI members will discuss the agreement reached in trilogue on the proposal of a new national emission ceilings (NEC) Directive for which Julie Girling (ECR, UK), was the rapporteur in the ENVI Committee. AGRI had adopted an opinion for which Jan Huitema (ALDE, NL) was rapporteur. The Commission proposal was setting reduction objectives for four main pollutants, however adding two new pollutants, fine particulate matter and methane, which both concern agricultural activities. It was agreed at the last trilogue on 21 June to exclude methane from the scope of the directive.

Next committee meeting

19 July 2016 (08.30-10.30)

30 August (09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30)

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