



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 October 2013

14427/13

**PE 437
AGRI 635**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Delegations

Subject: Partial summary record of meeting of the European Parliament **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)** held on 30 September 2013

– Items 6 -11 on the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr DE CASTRO (S&D, IT).

Item 6 on the agenda

Production and making available on the market of plant reproductive material (plant reproductive material law)

AGRI/7/12787

***I 2013/0137(COD)COM(2013)0262 – C7-0121/2013

Rapporteur: Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)

Responsible: AGRI –

- Exchange of views
- Deadline for tabling amendments: **4 December 2013, 12.00**

In his introductory remarks the rapporteur, Mr SILVESTRIS (EPP, IT), stressed the importance of the Commission proposal on plant reproductive material, which he considered to be the starting point for all agricultural production. Not only did it provide vital input at the root of the entire food chain, it also had a major impact on both sustainability and competitiveness.

Mr SILVESTRIS also stressed the economic impact of this sector, which catered for around 50 000 jobs in about 7 000 companies in Europe. He said that many of these companies struggled with the complexity of the 12 directives currently in force, some of which had already become obsolete. The rapporteur therefore welcomed the Commission proposal, designed to merge these 12 directives into one single major regulation with streamlining and simplifying existing legislation as their main objectives.

He explained that the two pillars of the existing legislation, namely the registration of varieties and reproductive material and the certification of individual species, were retained in the consolidated version of the text, which however provided for exemptions from these procedures for certain players in the sector. In this context, the biggest concern for the Parliament was the question of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the role of which had to be strengthened. Mr SILVESTRIS therefore welcomed the Commission's initiative to introduce new elements into the text relating to organic farmers and small farmers in particular. He believed that the proposal would contribute to simplifying procedures for these and to reducing requirements on the sector.

The rapporteur informed the Committee that it would take joint charge with the ENVI Committee on some important issues relating among other things to recognised status, non-uniform material, labels for standard material, storage, etc.

In the debate that followed the members of the Committee raised *inter alia* the following issues:

Registration and certification

Mr DORFMANN (EPP, IT) acknowledged that the certification procedure was an important element in the proposal and represented a safety mechanism. At the same time he called for the possibility of exemptions, in particular relating to the planting of local seeds or varieties.

Mr HÄUSLING (Greens/EFA, DE) expressed serious doubts about the currently proposed thresholds for exemptions which he thought were of very little value for SMEs. He called on the Commission to re-think the objective of this measure and to raise the thresholds considerably to allow SMEs to benefit from them. Otherwise there was a high risk that even more SMEs would disappear in the future, he said.

Ms KADENBACH (S&D, AT) believed that the proposed regulation benefitted industrial varieties and small farmers would have to face a massive amount of red tape.

Ms KADENBACH, Mr AGNEW (EFD, UK), Ms RODUST (S&D, DE) and Mr TARABELLA (S&D, BE) asked the Commission to clarify whether the scope of the regulation solely covered the commercial sector without covering non-professional activities / private individuals.

Biodiversity

Mr HÄUSLING (Greens/EFA, DE) and Ms KADENBACH regretted that the protection of biodiversity was not well enough reflected in the current proposal. They called on the Commission to introduce appropriate measures to strengthen it further.

Simplification

Several members of the Committee (Ms KADENBACH, Mr AGNEW, Mr REIMERS (ALDE, DE)) questioned whether the proposal as presented would lead to simplification and the reduction of red tape. Mr LYON (ALDE, UK) warned about achieving the opposite, namely more bureaucracy resulting in high extra costs which could be passed on to the industry.

The Commission representative (DG SANCO) acknowledged that the proposal was complex, technical and far-reaching but said that the objective was to bring together all aspects of plant reproductive material in one single text with some particularities.

He stressed the importance of certification but recalled that some flexibility provisions were built in: in the case of the use of certain traditional varieties or certain organic plants, exemptions from the usual procedure would apply. In addition, certification did not cover non-profit activities or exchanges between amateurs.

With regard to SMEs, the Commission representative said that procedures would be kept as simple as possible and in certain cases exemptions from inspection and control fees might also apply.

***** Voting time *****

Item 7 on the agenda

Direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the CAP

AGRI/7/07515

***I 2011/0280(COD)COM(2011)0625 – C7-0336/2011

Responsible: AGRI –

- Presentation on the results of the trilogues and adoption of the consolidated text

The consolidated text was adopted with 31 votes in favour, 8 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 8 on the agenda

Common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)

AGRI/7/07522

***I 2011/0281(COD)COM(2011)0626 – C7-0339/2011

Rapporteur: Michel Dantin (PPE)

Responsible: AGRI –

- Presentation on the results of the trilogues and adoption of the consolidated text

The consolidated text was adopted with 27 votes in favour, 14 against and 0 abstentions.

Item 9 on the agenda

Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

AGRI/7/07529

***I 2011/0282(COD)COM(2011)0627 – C7-0340/2011

Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos (S&D)

Responsible: AGRI –

- Presentation on the results of the trilogues and adoption of the consolidated text

The consolidated text was adopted with 35 votes in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

Item 10 on the agenda

Financing, management and monitoring of the CAP

AGRI/7/07536

***I 2011/0288(COD)COM(2011)0628 – C7-0341/2011

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via (PPE)

Responsible: AGRI –

- Presentation on the results of the trilogues and adoption of the consolidated text

The consolidated text was adopted with 35 votes in favour, 6 against and 0 abstentions.

The reactions of the three rapporteurs may be summarised as follows:

Mr CAPOULAS SANTOS (S&D, PT), rapporteur on the direct payment and rural development Regulations, called the final outcome of the negotiations "very satisfactory". He appreciated that important elements of the original proposal could be considerably improved and that as a result more fairness among farmers, a greener CAP and less bureaucracy could be achieved. He also appreciated the fact that the Council finally accepted the Parliament as negotiating partner;

Mr DANTIN (EPP, FR), rapporteur on the Single CMO Regulation, acknowledged the improvements relating in particular to sectoral policies (wine, sugar, fruit and vegetables). However, he regretted the lack of progress in the area of dairy products and added that this sector was still at risk. He believed that the reformed CAP would leave more choice to the players involved and would not be one that was governed from Brussels. Finally, he stressed the importance of proper implementation of the CAP;

Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT), rapporteur on the horizontal Regulation, expressed his satisfaction with the overall result and considered that despite the lower budget allocated to agriculture compared to the previous one an appropriate financing of the reformed CAP for the next seven years would be ensured.

Item 11 on the agenda

Transitional provisions regarding the regulations on direct payments, rural development and the financing, monitoring and management of the CAP

AGRI/7/12535

***I 2013/0117(COD)COM(2013)0226 – C7-0104/2013

Rapporteur: Albert Deß (PPE)

Responsible: AGRI –

- Adoption of draft report

The draft report was adopted with 35 votes in favour, 3 against and 0 abstentions.

Date of the next meeting:

17 October 2013 (Brussels).
