

EUROPEAN AGENDA: AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK FARMING AND FISHERIES (4)

30 MARCH 2021 - 8 MARCH 2021



CONTENT:

[30 March 2021, Fostering EU-US cooperation on agriculture: MEP Lins meets with Congressman Scott](#)

[26 March 2021, CAP reform supertreaty: Positive partial results, but more efforts needed](#)

[26 March 2021, Enabling Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture: Public Hearing](#)

[22-23 March 2021, Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#)

[15 March 2021, Enabling innovation for sustainable agriculture: Public Hearing on Tuesday](#)

[8 March 2021, The European Union and the United States conclude negotiations on agricultural quota agreement.](#)

30 March 2021, Fostering EU-US cooperation on agriculture: MEP Lins meets with Congressman Scott

The first meeting of the chairmen of the US House of Representatives and European Parliament Agriculture Committees aimed to deepen transatlantic relations and build lasting trust.

Following Tuesday's videoconference meeting with US House Agriculture Committee Chairman David Scott (D-GA), the Chairman of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, Norbert Lins (EPP, DE), said: "I am delighted to have had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the US House of Representatives, David Scott (D-GA)

"I am delighted to have had a fruitful exchange with Representative David Scott. This first meeting was an important step forward in deepening transatlantic relations on agricultural policy".

"The discussion reflected on EU-US agricultural policy cooperation, global food security, rural development and climate change. We also discussed appropriate adaptation tools for farmers on the other side of the Atlantic."

"I am pleased to announce that, together with my colleague Congressman David Scott, we are planning to hold a joint committee debate between the European Parliament and Congress to build on best practices and foster lasting trust and cooperation."

More information

[Press release - European Parliament](#)

26 March 2021, CAP reform super-treaty: Positive partial results, but more efforts needed

Trilateral talks on EU farm policy reform held in Parliament on Friday brought negotiators closer to an agreement, but more flexibility is needed from the Council to reach a quick deal

Following the so-called super-trilogue on the three Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform regulations, held with Portuguese Agriculture Minister Maria do Céu Antunes represen-

ting the Council, Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski and Parliament's negotiating team, Agriculture Committee chair and Parliament's chief negotiator Norbert Lins (EPP, DE) said:

"Today's super-deal was a much-needed boost in the CAP reform negotiations. The discussions have been constructive and significant progress has been made, for example on the new implementation model and performance indicators. On young, new and active farmers, we have achieved a better understanding of each other's positions and are now one step closer to an agreement. In addition, we have found a provisional solution on vine planting rights and wine labelling".

"Each side has shown its commitment to reach a compromise, which has clearly paid off. However, we will need further discussions, for example on the capping of direct payments and redistributive payments, as the Council has not been flexible enough to allow us to make substantial progress in these areas."

"I would especially like to thank the three rapporteurs Peter Jahr, Ulrike Müller and Eric Andrieu and their teams who defended Parliament's priorities. Together we have made a common front for an ambitious reform".

"After today's good atmosphere, I am optimistic about the possibility to finalise the CAP reform negotiations still with Maria do Céu Antunes as our negotiating partner in the AGRIFISH Council. But the Council will have to show us more flexibility in the coming weeks to allow us to move forward quickly."

More information

[Press release - European Parliament](#)

26 March 2021, Enabling Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture: Public Hearing

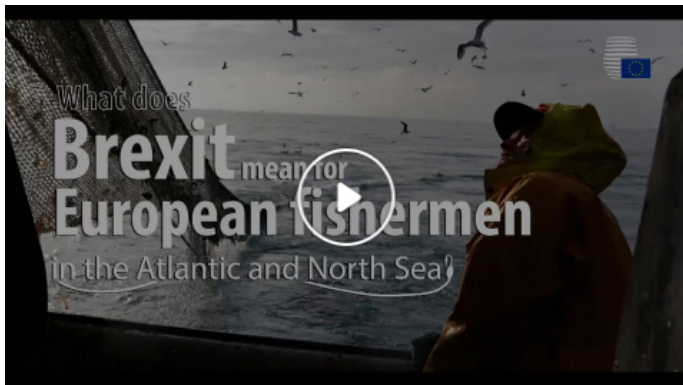
The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, with the participation of ENVI and JURI, organised a public hearing on enabling innovation for sustainable agriculture. Academics, civil society and practitioners from the European Innovation Partnership EIP-AGRI discussed with MEPs and the European Commission different aspects of innovation in both

animal and plant production.

More information

[Press release - European Parliament](#)

22-23 March 2021, Agriculture and Fisheries Council



Fisheries

Ministers took stock of the EU-UK consultations on fixing the fishing opportunities for 2021, and for deep-sea stocks for 2021 and 2022. Given the possibility that the two parties might not reach an agreement by the end of March (when the provisional and limited fishing opportunities expire), ministers agreed on a contingency plan on extending provisional EU-UK fishing opportunities until 31 July 2021. This plan ensures uninterrupted fishing activity for EU fleets until the EU and UK reach an agreement on definite fishing opportunities for 2021 and for deep sea stocks for 2021 and 2022.

Agriculture

Preparedness concerning phytosanitary measures to protect against plant pests

Ministers held an exchange of views on the EU's preparedness concerning phytosanitary measures to protect against plant pests that threaten agriculture. Ministers underlined the importance of raising awareness around plant health and the need to be able to identify dangerous pests early and eradicate them as effectively as possible.

Several ministers mentioned that digital capabilities (e.g. development of digital databases) and innovation can play a key role in addressing current and future challenges related to plant health and pests. Ministers also highlighted ways to strengthen Europe's preparedness against pests e.g. by developing contin-

gency plans and implementing strict border-control checks.

Use of biological control agents against pests

Ministers held a policy debate on the use of biological control agents - BCAs (macro-organisms) against plant pests. There was consensus among ministers that BCAs represent a viable alternative to chemical pesticides and can contribute towards achieving certain goals of the Green Deal and the farm to fork strategy

There was also broad support for the presidency's initiative to put forward a proposal for a Council decision asking the Commission to conduct a study on the situation in the Union and the options regarding the import, evaluation, production and marketing of biological control agents.

CAP reform package

The presidency provided ministers with an update on the ongoing inter-institutional negotiations on the three regulations constituting the common agricultural policy (CAP) reform package (for the period 2023-2027). The presidency took note of the different views expressed by ministers on several aspects of the reform package. The presidency, with renewed political guidance from the ministers, will now aim at advancing further the inter-institutional negotiations, notably in a 'super trilogue' on Friday 26 March 2021. The ministerial discussions on the three regulations touched upon topics like:

- strategic plans
- new delivery model
- targeting of payments
- market management and exceptional measures
- EU Forest Strategy post-2020

The Austrian delegation, with the support of 11 member states, expressed their concerns about the way various initiatives under the EU Green Deal address forest-related aspects, potentially predetermining the scope of the upcoming EU forest strategy post-2020. The majority of ministers stressed the need to promote the sustainable management of forests and their multifunctional role in the EU forest strategy. They also called on the Commission to acknowledge the forests' contribution to biodiversity and climate change mitigation in the upcoming EU post-2020 forest strategy.

Proposals to make CAP implementation simpler

The French delegation, on behalf of 14 member states, presented a non-paper on limiting the administrative burden in the new CAP with specific proposals on the new delivery model, the content of the CAP strategic plans, delegated acts and more.

COVID-19 crisis and the wine sector

The Spanish delegation, together with 13 member states, informed ministers on the need for additional funds to support the wine sector, which has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis and by US tariffs.

More information

[Press release - European Council](#)

15 March 2021, Enabling innovation for sustainable agriculture: Public Hearing on Tuesday

The public hearing organised by the Agriculture Committee will be divided into two parts. The first panel will focus on innovation in animal husbandry and the plant sector, including improved feeding and innovative breeding techniques. The second panel will look at the use of data, for example from digital technologies, to improve evidence-based decision-making on EU farms and process innovation along the supply chain.

More information

[Press release - European Parliament](#)

8 March 2021, The European Union and the United States conclude negotiations on agricultural quota agreement.

The European Union and the United States have concluded negotiations to adjust the European Union's agricultural quotas at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. This is the culmination of two years of WTO negotiations to divide these EU quotas so that some of the volume stays in the EU-27 and some goes to the UK, based on recent trade flows. The agreement covers dozens of quotas and billions of euros of trade, including beef, poultry, rice, dairy, fruit and vegetables and wine.

Commenting on today's agreement in principle, Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciejowski said: "I am delighted that we have reached an agreement with our most important trading partner, the United States. This agreement, done in the WTO framework, maintains the original volumes but splits them between the EU and the UK. It gives security and stability to agricultural trade and to our markets. I am particularly pleased that this agreement marks the importance of our trade and economic relationship. It is a good sign of our commitment to work together both bilaterally and in the WTO framework. I would like to thank my team and our US colleagues for a job well done".

The EU is conducting similar TRQ sharing negotiations with 21 other eligible partners, and has already concluded negotiations with Argentina, Australia, Norway, Pakistan, Thailand and Indonesia, among others.

Once the EU-US Agreement has been adopted by the Commission, it will be sent to the Council and the European Parliament for ratification so that it can enter into force as soon as possible..

More information

[Press release - European Commission](#)

Recommended bibliography:

[Action plan on nutrition. Fourth progress report April 2018 – March 2019 : food and nutrition security / sustainable agriculture](#)

[Agriculture and rural development. 2020 Edition](#)

[Agriculture and bioeconomy: Unlocking production potential in a sustainable and resource-efficient way](#)