

highlights



27 june - 1 july '11



What fish do we eat?

Rules of origin and certification of fish products with a view to their access to the EU market as well as to provide the EU consumer with better information is going to be the topic of an EPP Group Public Hearing taking place on Wednesday afternoon. The Hearing will be attended by the European Commissioner in charge of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as well as representatives of large European fishing and food organisations.

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Problem of synthetic drugs in Europe

Rising popularity of psychoactive substances, so-called 'legal highs', in particular among youth, is a growing threat across the EU. Legal highs are intoxicating drugs which are not prohibited by drug laws. The problem raises concerns in the EU and poses major challenges to policy-makers, who struggle to identify, assess and if deemed necessary, control their proliferation. To find responses to this emerging phenomenon at national and EU level, MEPs Elena Oana Antonescu and Bogusław Sonik are organising an



EPP Group Public Hearing on Wednesday on New Psychoactive Substances. The aim of the Hearing is to bring together experts from European Institutions and Agencies, representatives of national governments, scholars and NGOs to discuss the range of problems related to the spread of new psychoactive substances in Europe.

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EPP in National Parliaments

Chairmen of EPP Parliamentary Groups in EU National Parliaments are meeting for their regular annual meeting on Monday and Tuesday. They will discuss budgetary stabilisation and structural reforms in light of the Europe 2020 Strategy as well as migration and border controls. European Commission President José Manuel Barroso will address the participants. The meeting is not open to the press, but individual statements are possible on request.

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Trade with Taiwan

Taiwan is increasingly a very important trade partner of the EU. It has a highly developed market economy, which has been growing at a very rapid pace in the recent years, even in the context of

the global financial and economic crisis. Taiwan's dynamic economy provides many opportunities for European companies. With a Hearing taking place on Thursday morning, the EPP Group wants to analyse the current status quo of the EU's trade relationship with Taiwan and explore the possibilities of deepening this trade relationship with a view to having a potential free trade agreement between the EU and Taiwan in the near future.

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Innovative financial instruments in cohesion policy

The scope of the Hearing taking place on Thursday morning is to clarify the role of innovative financial initiatives, with a view to increasing their use in the framework of cohesion policy. Although the global economic recovery is proceeding, its moderated pace makes clearer and clearer the necessity, for the years to come, of a coherent, systematic and sound funding strategy, pulling together all existing financial mechanisms - EU, national, EIB financial instruments, public and private resources - in order to increase synergies between them and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cohesion policy.

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press conferences

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Wednesday @ 13.30 hrs: Bogusław Sonik MEP, and Elena Oana Antonescu MEP on New Psychoactive Substances

Wednesday @ 15.00 hrs: Crescenzo Rivellini MEP on title tbc

Wednesday @ 15.30 hrs: Salvatore Iacolino MEP on title tbc

Friday @ 11.00 hrs: Pre-session briefing



High Nature Value Farming

High Nature Value Farming systems provide important environmental services maintaining some of Europe's most threatened habitats and species and contributing to soil carbon storage, the protection of water resources and fire prevention. These systems are also part of a rich cultural heritage underpinning an active land-managing rural population and sustaining a unique way of life in some of the most economically fragile areas in Europe. An event taking place on Tuesday morning will showcase a variety of High Nature Value Farming systems across Europe, explain their benefits and why greater support of these systems is needed in the new CAP.

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Minority rights after Lisbon

The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty strengthens the basic values and rights of the European Union by including the rights of persons belonging to minorities in the Preamble. Furthermore, the Charter of Fundamental Rights confirms the respect of cultural and linguistic diversity in the Union, and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, being from a national minority, and language. A conference organised by Kinga Gál taking place on Monday afternoon looks forward, with a common discussion with the Council and Commission, the Fundamental Rights Agency and other international actors on what the post-Lisbon era can bring to this field.

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