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**The latest EU agriculture, environment & trade news**


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### **FARM COUNCIL PREVIEW: PROGRESS REPORTS ON FUTURE CAP, AS FISHERIES DOMINATE**

EU Agriculture Ministers will hold an exchange of views on two separate progress reports on the future CAP when they gather in Brussels tomorrow morning (Nov 19) for the penultimate Council under the Austrian Presidency. Discussions on fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea stocks (2019-2020) look set to dominate the agenda. Under the chairmanship of Austria's Federal Minister for Sustainability & Tourism Elisabeth Köstinger, responsible for agriculture, forestry, environment & water management, the meeting will kick off at 10am with a preliminary exchange of views on the fisheries proposal, following the adoption of the 'A' points. *From around 9am tomorrow morning, the Good Food Good Farming movement – comprising more than 80 civil society groups, representing farmers, food activists & environmental organisations – will stage the closing event of the 'European Days of Action' (which ran on Oct 27-28) outside the Justus Lipsius building. Representatives of the pan-European campaign will also present a petition signed by over 114 000 EU citizens to the Austrian Presidency in protest against industrial farming, calling instead for a "socially & environmentally ambitious" policy.*

From around 11.10am, EU Farm Commissioner Phil Hogan will debrief Ministers on the latest developments on the main agricultural markets. After lunch (1.30pm), Council will hold an exchange of views on the current challenges in the field of plant protection & in particular on possible actions to reduce the impact of new exotic pests & diseases on agriculture & forestry and the EU system for the approval & authorisation of plant protection products. A broader discussion on future farm policy will follow from around 3.15pm (public session) on the two proposed regulations for financing, management & monitoring of the CAP & for the Common Market Organisation of agricultural products (CMO). The Presidency has tabled a questionnaire to steer the debate, focusing on the increased responsibilities of paying agencies & certification bodies under the new delivery model & on the appropriateness of existing market support measures. From about 6.15pm, Council will hold an exchange of views on the work conducted by the Task Force for Rural Africa (TFRA), with Chairman Tom Arnold (IE) in attendance. The aim is to provide the international experts with "political guidance on the possible priorities in an enhanced policy dialogue between EU & Africa in the area of agriculture & food production & how to maximise the impact of investments on African rural & agricultural development". The TFRA will hold the last full-day dedicated session on Dec 10-11. The panel will present a final report with recommendations by the end of the year including, where appropriate, proposals for further initiatives in this field to be submitted under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). The Commission plans to present the final recommendations at the EU-Africa High-Level Forum of EU & African Union Heads of State & Government, organised by the Presidency in Vienna on Dec 18. Fisheries-related talks will then resume, with Ministers expected to strike a political agreement on fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea stocks (2019-2020) later in the evening. The Commission will also present an information point on the implementation of the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

### **SUSTAINABILITY KEY TO SUCCESS OF DAIRY SECTOR, HOGAN TELLS EDA CONGRESS**

Improved sustainability will not only generate an environmental & climate dividend, it will also help dairy farmers to maintain their competitive edge internationally, EU Farm Commissioner Phil Hogan stated on Friday morning (Nov 16). During his keynote address at the European Dairy Association (EDA) annual convention in Dublin under the theme 'A Green Future for European Dairy', the Farm chief said it was "very much in the interest of the industry to follow the 'green' agenda, as the market seeks sustainability & the EU must respond to these signals". Commenting more broadly on climate obligations, the Irish Commissioner said the EU had "committed to ambitious 2030 climate & energy targets, where all sectors, including agriculture, have to contribute", adding that "there are no exceptions ...everyone has to put their shoulder to the wheel". "We need to be honest & clear-sighted enough to recognise that our agri-food sector needs to increase its contribution", while "technology & innovation can offer many solutions", he added. The Tullaroan native, who is understood to be interested in a second mandate, possibly in charge of trade, also alluded to plans for a long-term EU Strategy to achieve zero emissions by 2050 due to be adopted on Nov 28.

Gathering on the historic grounds of Dublin Castle, Hogan told the 200-strong audience of dairy executives & experts - representing more than one-third of the EU milk volumes processed per annum at owner, president or CEO level - the "importance of the dairy sector is clear ... the EU has a trade surplus of almost €20 billion & you make up 50% of this". On Brexit, the Irishman thanked the EU-27 for the "unity & support shown for agriculture & avoiding any potential market disturbance", saying the UK's decision to leave the bloc was a "sensitive subject for the dairy sector across Europe, but particularly here in Ireland". Countries such as NL, DK, SE, BE & FR are also exposed to developments in London, he added. Following the Cabinet decision to back the withdrawal agreement on Wed evening, he said "the simple reality is that free & frictionless trade will require the UK to retain a high degree of convergence with EU rules, as a full 70% of UK agri-food imports came from the EU in 2017". The UK has the second largest dairy deficit in the world, with around 98% of UK dairy imports of EU origin, he elaborated.

During the panel discussion on a '*Solid & ambitious basis for the European dairy sector*', Dutchman Hein Schumacher (Chief Executive Officer at Royal FrieslandCampina since Jan 1, 2018) highlighted the importance of "sustainability criteria" encompassing climate, animal health & welfare, meadow-grazing & biodiversity. He said it was "crucial to market sustainability with our products, by realising added-value", making reference to the global company's "top dairy line". He urged Hogan to continue efforts to expand trade opportunities worldwide as "internal dairy consumption in the EU-28 is saturated". For his part, Sodiaal chief Jorge Boucas, in the post since Jan 2017, urged against the renationalisation of the EU's future farm policy, acknowledging the need for flexibility, while expressing fears about "distortion of competition between countries". The man in charge of France's largest dairy cooperative - 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest in Europe & 5<sup>th</sup> in the world - raised the issue of crisis management in a sector that is "particularly prone to market volatility ... due to political or sanitary reasons for instance". He encouraged Hogan to protect Geographical Indications (GIs) in ongoing trade talks. Deputy CEO of Savencia Robert Brzusczak (since 2010) pointed to the expectations of increasingly discerning consumers, which exhibit divergent demands (loyalty to health/sustainability agenda but also those looking for good value for money). The President of the French national federation of private dairy industries (FNIL) & former EDA President (1998-2004) slammed any further segmentation of the market & disruption to the single market when it comes to the labelling of milk.

For his part, Kerry Group's Executive Director Edmond Scanlon (since Oct 2017) called on Hogan to expand the risk management instruments available to farmers, describing the move as a "win-win situation" for the entire supply chain. The Sliabh Luachra native, who joined Kerry's graduate development programme in 1996, drew attention to Ireland's unique exposure as a result of the UK's decision to leave the bloc. *Just over 40% of Irish agricultural exports are destined for the wealthy & sophisticated market of 65 million, while more than 30% of dairy exports go to Ireland's nearest neighbour. The figure for beef is even higher at 50%.* The mantra at board level is clear, "we must hope for the best & prepare for the worst", with dedicated Brexit taskforces in place "to mitigate the impact". Hedging risk is key, Scanlon added, referring to Kerry Group's international presence. He underlined the need for greater market differentiation, continued investment in innovation & exploring new growth opportunities on 3<sup>rd</sup> country markets. Further work on attracting young blood into the sector & looking at the demographic of farmers is vital for the continued success of the dairy industry, the Brosna man concluded.

At the session after lunch, Bord Bia CEO Tara McCarthy presented the '*Origin Green*' initiative, Ireland's food & drink sustainability programme established in 2012. The programme is a "unifying brand that underpins the food chain ... for a more recognised international reputation rooted in the clear evidence & proof of verified green credentials", the former CEO of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (the country's seafood development agency) outlined. The voluntary tool, involving farmers, food producers, retailers & food service operators seeks to "measure what matters ... with the common goal of sustainable food production", the Clonakilty woman added. Under the initiative, nearly 350 companies are committed to the sustainability agenda, with members representing over 90% of total Irish food & drink exports.

The 3-day annual convention (Nov 14-16) was hosted by Dairy Industry Ireland (DII), with Chairman Pat Murphy (Kerry Group) underlining the importance of the "future EU UK Dairy Framework ... to Irish dairy companies & dairy farmers especially as the exit date for the UK edges closer". The fundamental principle has to be "to keep the milk moving", acknowledging that any disruption to "historic trade flows would bring displacement & difficulties for everyone as evidenced by the 2014 Russian ban", Murphy added. For his part, Michel Nalet, Director of Communications & External Affairs at Lactalis, said "the stable basis for the dairy industry is the success of the European project - the Single Market concept, an ambitious EU trade strategy & the CAP". The Frenchman - who was re-elected EDA President for a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive term - concluded that "building a more sustainable foundation in terms of our environmental footprint is not a choice, it's a must". The next EDA convention will take place in Vienna in Oct 2019 (16-19), where the theme will be '*Shaping the EU dairy landscape 2019-2024*'. \*Further details at <http://eda2018.eu>;

**BREXIT NEWS: May under Siege; Barnier floats longer transition; New Brexit Sec; Reactions: UK's May under siege over Brexit withdrawal agreement:** UK Prime Minister Theresa May has been under siege from critics on both sides of the EU membership debate since late on Wednesday evening (Nov 14), as her own party's right-wing & Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), on which she relies

for support, rejected the draft withdrawal agreement [see AF89-18]. The 585-page text, backed by Cabinet, also came under fire from pro-EU voices, while it is unlikely to secure a majority if it goes before the House of Commons, in its current form, in early Dec. Following a tumultuous couple of days in London, talk of an immediate challenge to her leadership appeared to have fizzled out over the weekend. Under the rule of her party, a vote on the leader can be triggered by 48 letters - 15% of Tory MPs - submitted to Sir Graham Brady MP, Chair of the 1922 Committee - the group of all Conservative backbench MPs. They can do so anonymously & can withdraw the letters, so speculation on how many letters Brady holds is constant. By 2pm on Sunday afternoon, at least 23 MPs were reported to have submitted correspondence, but others may have done so without making it public, as the backlash against the Brexit agreement grows. Commenting today on *BBC 5Live* show, Brady would not say if he was any closer to the requisite target of 48, but said if it happens, it "should be an expeditious process ... as it ought to be a test of opinion very quickly, in order to clear the air & get it resolved". He said it was unwise to challenge the Prime Minister as "we are coming to the endgame of a very serious, very difficult negotiation & for the government to be plunged into uncertainty would have implications". The Premier has been hit by a flurry of Ministerial resignations since this week's divisive Cabinet meeting, including Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab & Work & Pensions Secretary Esther McVey. As the week came to close, DEFRA Secretary Michael Gove confirmed his intention to stay, with commentators seeing the Surrey Heath MP as a potential replacement as Premier, should May be deposed, or decide to resign.

Speaking to reporters on Thurs (Nov 16), Council President Donald Tusk said the EU was prepared for a final deal in Nov & also stands ready for a no deal scenario. "But of course we are best prepared for a no-Brexit scenario," he said. Following a meeting with EU negotiator Michel Barnier, Tusk said Brexit was now "a lose-lose situation, & that our negotiations are only about damage control." The agreement was now being analysed by Member States, with Tusk calling an Extraordinary EU Summit on Nov 25 to finalise & formalise the agreement "if nothing extraordinary happens". Brexit supporting UK MPs have called for renegotiation of the deal, but the answer from EU leaders has been a firm no. German Chancellor Angela Merkel insisted there was "no question" of reopening the draft texts. Officials are expected to release the final political declaration on Britain's future trading relationship with the EU on Tuesday (Nov 20).

**Barnier floats transition until end of 2022:** The EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier has floated the idea of extending the Brexit transition period until the end of 2022, it emerged today (Nov 18). During a special meeting with Ambassadors from the EU's 27 Member States, the French politician said the proposed move would allow an additional two years to negotiate a trade deal, while the UK would continue to follow EU rules & pay into the Community budget. The two negotiating teams have already agreed a transition period - or an implementation period as the British government calls it - until the end of 2020 (21 months), with a possibility to extend once by mutual consent. Foreign Ministers will gather in the European capital tomorrow (Nov 19), while talks on the withdrawal agreement look set to continue all week, ahead of the Extraordinary Summit on Nov 25, which will seek to strike a political accord. The UK's Prime Minister Theresa May confirmed during an interview on Sky News today she would be travelling to Brussels to meet Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker this week. But the announcement has not yet been confirmed. A spokesman said Juncker was of course ready to meet PM May once the negotiations on the political declaration have advanced in a decisive manner. "Work on this is ongoing", while it was "too early to say when a meeting could take place".

**New UK Brexit Secretary appointed:** UK Prime Minister Theresa May appointed little-known MP Stephen Barclay as Brexit Secretary on Friday (Nov 16), following the resignation of the previous holder of the office, Dominic Raab, the day before. The 46-year-old was born in Lytham St Annes in the North-West English county of Lancashire & represents North East Cambridgeshire, in eastern England. He previously held the post of Minister of State (Junior Minister) at the Department of Health & Social Care, since Jan of this year. Barclay is a lawyer, who campaigned for Britain to leave the EU. He is noted for following the government line, being one of very few backbench MPs, who have not taken part in any significant rebellion.

His predecessor Raab resigned over the draft withdrawal agreement, despite the fact that his role as Brexit Secretary made him theoretically responsible for negotiating the deal, saying the provisions on Northern Ireland threatened the integrity of the EU. The backstop arrangement for the Irish border amounted to "a hybrid of the EU Customs Union & Single Market obligations," while he complained about a lack of "democratic control over the laws to be applied." Raab had been side-lined in negotiations by May & is reported to have had a poor relationship with his EU counterparts. His apparent lack of grasp of the key issues was highlighted embarrassingly after a meeting on Nov 8 at which he said, "I hadn't quite understood the full extent of this, but if you look at the UK & look at how we trade in goods, we are particularly reliant on the Dover-Calais crossing."

**Copa-Cogeca pleased to avoid "catastrophic" no deal:** Copa & Cogeca called the draft Brexit blueprint "an essential step towards an orderly Brexit," minimising the chance of a no deal Brexit, "which would be catastrophic for both EU & British farmers & agri-cooperatives," in a statement issued on Thurs (Nov 15). The farm group noted that if agreed by Council it would have to be ratified by EU & UK parliaments. Secretary General Pekka Pesonen described the deal as "essential for the future of our sector as we need to ensure continued free & frictionless trade after the UK leaves the EU."

**NFU responds to deal with trade call:** The England & Wales National Farmers' Union (NFU) responded to Wednesday's UK Cabinet agreement on a Brexit deal with a call to UK & EU leaders to ensure free & frictionless trade after the UK leaves the bloc in March 2019. NFU President Minette Batters stressed the need to avoid the "mayhem" of a no deal Brexit & noted that the withdrawal agreement meant a transition with frictionless trade, thereby providing stability for farmers. However, there was "still a huge job to be done" in negotiating a future relationship that maintained trade & allowed access to migrant labour. She hoped a future relationship securing those "vital objectives" could still be agreed.

**Scottish union wants certainty & confidence:** The outlook for Scotland's farmers does not look set to become any more certain & confident in the near future, following this week's Cabinet agreement to a withdrawal deal, according to their union. In a blog on the union's website\*, NFU Scotland's Political Affairs Manager Clare Slipper reiterated a call for "free & frictionless" trade with "no tariffs or non-tariff barriers introduced," continued access to workers from the EU & outside and powers for devolved authorities to develop new farm policies that "genuinely deliver for the unique agricultural characteristics of their nations."

\*See <https://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/political-affairs-manager-blog-15-november>

**Sheep group hopes for stability:** The UK's National Sheep Association responded to Wednesday's Cabinet deal by expressing the hope it would "deliver some much-needed stability for the future of the sheep industry." In a statement on Nov 15, NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker said it would take time to explore the 585-page deal, but noted that it would "keep us from the cliff edge in March 2019 that we have been warning would decimate our industry." He expected Defra to release specific information "in the coming days." "It would be in the interest of our industry for MPs to get behind this agreement." It would "allow the UK more time to build on its future relationship with the EU."

**German union calls deal "common sense":** Joachim Rukwied, President of the German farm union DBV described the UK's withdrawal agreement with the EU as "a signal of political & economic common sense." In a statement issued on Thursday (Nov 15), he noted that the UK was one of the most important export markets for German food & farming. The farm leader & COPA President pointed out that a transitional continuation of the Customs Union would help to avoid disruption in food trade. He called for customs & veterinary authorities to build increased capacity to make sure that trade formalities would be as frictionless as possible.

### **MARKET UPDATES: Rabobank on price stability: Eggs, milk & pigmeat drive rise in farm output:**

**Trade wars, disease, El Niño threaten price stability:** World food price stability in 2019 is under threat from trade disputes, disease & the El Niño weather pattern, according to a report published by the Dutch Rabobank. In a 40-page analysis entitled '*Outlook 2019: Trade war turbulence, with soft landing*'\* published on Nov 15, the international financial services provider described "threats on many fronts" to price stability, following a year of uncertainty. The outlook was bleak for US soybean farmers, unless the US-China trade dispute is settled, although Brazilian farmers are benefiting, authors note. The meat sector faces disease problems while extreme weather could hit soft commodities such as coffee, cocoa & sugar. Stefan Vogel, Head of Agri Commodity Markets at Rabobank & co-author of the report - along with bank analysts Carlos Mera, Charles Clack, Michael Magdovitz & contributors from its offices in Brazil, the US and Singapore - said that although prices were currently stable, "it is difficult to remember a time there were so many threats to food commodity prices on so many fronts, from trade wars to currency movements to weather threats & livestock disease." The greatest threat for farmers was the US-China trade war, "we're likely to see commodities like US soybeans continue to take a real hit as China snubs them," Vogel said. The expectation of a strong dollar well into 2019 would add to the "financial pain". China might switch back to US soybeans if the dispute is resolved, but "a full recovery of this trade flow seems unlikely," the expert added. The bank forecasts that the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) will affect world pork production, particularly in China. Justin Sherrard, Rabobank Global Strategist for Animal Protein, predicted that biosecurity will become a "higher business priority for livestock producers", while he expected a shift to beef & seafood consumption in some markets. \*See <https://research.rabobank.com/far/en/sectors/agri-commodity-markets/outlook-2018-good-buy-low-prices.html>

**Eggs, milk, pigmeat drive rise in EU farm output.** The total value of EU agricultural output rose by 6.2% to €432.6 billion in 2017, according to figures released on Friday (Nov 16) by Eurostat\*. The increase was mainly driven by hikes of 20.2% for milk, 17.9% for eggs & 11.6% for pigs, "mostly as a result of increases in prices," the statistics agency said. The 2017 total is broken down into €244.1bn spent on input goods & services, leaving €188.5bn in gross value added. In a statement issued on Friday afternoon Eurostat explained that while gross value added had increased by 12.4%, spending on inputs had risen by just 1.8%. The biggest rise in the value of output was in Estonia (+18.2%) to €0.9 billion, followed by IE (+13.6%), RO (+13.2%), UK (+12.6%) & PL (+11.1%). There was a fall of 4.7% in Slovenia & -3.1% in Malta. The value of EU crops rose by 3.6%, with volume up 1.7% & prices up 1.9%, largely driven by a 10.2% rise for wheat & spelt & a 7.7% rise for industrial crops. Input cost rises were driven by energy & lubricants, up 5.9% & fertilizers & soil improvers, which were nearly 5% higher. \*<https://ec.europa.eu/Eurostat>;

### **IN BRIEF: Russia nitrate duty cut change; Copa-Cogeca - lack of progress on cadmium;**

**Russia nitrate duty cut change:** The Commission has decided to cut the anti-dumping duty on Russian ammonium nitrate, despite finding that Russia's industry poses a threat to EU nitrogen producers. The move has triggered a protest from industry group Fertilizers Europe. In a 30-page implementing regulation\* dated Nov 14, the EU's executive responded to a call from farm groups in FR, IT, IE, FI, UK & ES, to look again at the measure [see AF97-17], first imposed in 1995, by announcing a cut in the duty from €47.07 to €32.71 a tonne. The regulation enters into force on the day following its publication. Fertilizers Europe, which represents fertilizer manufacturers, expressed concern with the Commission's decision to reduce by one-third the anti-dumping duty on ammonium nitrate originating from Russia. Director General Jacob Hansen, called it "a very dangerous precedent, which puts at risk high-skilled jobs & competitiveness of European fertilizer industry as a whole." The group said it could not rule out asking for a further review, with the aim of getting the duty increased. On the occasion of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Fertilizers Europe is organising a conference entitled 'The European Fertilizer Industry at the crossroads between nutrition & energy' on Nov 21, plus the launch of the report 'Feeding Life 2030' presenting the long-term vision of the industry.

\*See <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1722&from=EN> & \*\*[www.fertilizerseurope.com/feeding-life-2030/](http://www.fertilizerseurope.com/feeding-life-2030/);

**Copa & Cogeca bemoan lack of progress on cadmium:** The EU's largest farm lobby organisation Copa-Cogeca has expressed concern at limited progress made on critical points on CE marked fertiliser products at trilogue level, notably on cadmium limits. The farm group insisted in a statement on Friday (Nov 16) that a proposal by the Commission & Parliament to lower the 60 mg/kg limit on cadmium to 40mg/kg [see AF83-17] was not backed by science or impact studies & complained it could mean a rise in fertilizer prices. Copa & Cogeca backs a Council proposal, which would not lower the limit & would add a 16-year standstill period for the industry to adapt. Pekka Pesonen, Copa & Cogeca's Secretary General, called on negotiators to make sure farmers "will get the choice & appropriate information when selecting their fertilizer in the future." He said the 60mg limit was "a good compromise to keep a competitive market while maintaining a sustainable use of fertilizers." The final trilogue on the revision of the Fertilizers Regulation is pencilled in for next week (Nov 20).

### **TIMETABLE: Week ahead (in Brussels unless otherwise stated)**

- Nov 19** Farm Council [see above]; Foreign Affairs Council; Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker receives Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO; Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis receives French Minister for Agriculture Didier Guillaume & delivers a speech at the meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> EU Platform for Animal Welfare in Brussels [https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw\\_platform\\_20181119\\_agenda.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw_platform_20181119_agenda.pdf) Andriukaitis also receives WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus & meets Greek Minister for Agricultural Development & Food in the margins of the Farm Council Stávros Arachovítis; COMENVI (&20);
- Nov 20** Foreign Affairs Council (Defence); Hogan receives representatives of the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea & addresses an event with Spirits Sector European CEOs; Vice-President Jyrki Katainen & Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella deliver speeches at 'The Globe EU high-level conference on sustainable finance'; Vella receives WHO Director-General; Andriukaitis participates in the European Business Summit 'Think Digital' [www.ebsummit.eu/](http://www.ebsummit.eu/) & gives a speech at the European Vaccination conference organised by the Institut Pasteur;
- Nov 21** Commission College *inc.* European Semester (Annual Growth Survey), Communication on the Investment Plan for Europe – stock-taking & next steps & Single Market Communication (with an assessment of remaining barriers & options for action to tackle these barriers); Juncker receives Mamuka Bakhtadze, Prime Minister of Georgia, Juncker together with the College of Commissioners, receive the Government of Georgia for a working lunch; EU Foreign Affairs chief Federica Mogherini & Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström deliver keynote speeches at the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Australia Leadership Forum; Andriukaitis participates in the 4<sup>th</sup> European Reference Networks Conference <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/4th-conference-european-reference-networks> & participates in the Eurogroup for Animals Conference 'The illegal online puppy trade – towards a safer EU for animals & people online'; Andriukaitis also participates at the Bayer CropScience SA Annual Reception; COMAGRI (&22) *inc.* discussion on three draft reports on future CAP; Forest Academy of EU decision-makers takes place in the depths of Finland's forests (until 23), where Agriculture Ministers Jari Leppä (FI) & Sven-Erik Bucht (SE) will publish the initiative; Spirits Summit 2018 'Europe – A spirit of ambition'; BirdLife Europe & European Environmental Bureau (EEB) host joint event on climate change mitigation under the new CAP; Fertilisers Europe conference entitled 'The European Fertiliser Industry at the crossroads between nutrition & energy', where the report 'Feeding Life 2030' will be launched (long-term vision of the industry) [www.fertilizerseurope.com/feeding-life-2030/](http://www.fertilizerseurope.com/feeding-life-2030/);

- Nov 22** EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Council; Hogan in Zagreb, delivers speech at the Inter-parliamentary conference *'The Role of Parliaments in Shaping the Future of Food & Farming'*, with Tomislav Tolušić, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Agriculture and participates in a roundtable with Croatian farm organisations; Conference on the development of plant proteins in the EU in Vienna (&23); Austrian Farm Minister Elisabeth Köstinger, Hogan & German Liberal MEP Ulrike Müller will address the 200-strong gathering on the second day (Nov 23) \*[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/events/documents/plant-protein-conference-agenda\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/events/documents/plant-protein-conference-agenda_en.pdf); Katainen participates in the Politico Playbook cocktail event on *'Europe's transition to a Circular Economy'*; Malmström delivers a speech on *'Investment protection, Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reforms, & the EU plans for a permanent Multilateral Investment Court'*, at an event organised by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Development Cooperation; Vella receives Janez Potočnik, Chairman of the Board of the Rural Investment Support for Europe (RISE) Foundation; BirdLife Europe, German member NABU & EEB host international workshop at Hotel Leopold on *'How a bill becomes a better CAP – can a broken system be fixed?'*; ECJ judgment on EU ban on oral tobacco products;
- Nov 23** Malmström in Umeå (SE) delivers a speech at the Umeå University's 50 Years Celebration event *'Democracy: Where are we going?'*; Andriukaitis in Vilnius, meets Aurelijus Veryga, Lithuanian Minister of Health & holds meeting with the Members of the Parliament of Lithuania regarding the European Semester Annual Growth Survey; Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development Neven Mimica on official visit to Rome, participates in the International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers organised by the UN's Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO);
- Nov 25** *EU leaders gather in Brussels for an Extraordinary European Summit on Brexit [see above];*

#### **Management & Regulatory Committees**

- Nov 21** Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets – horticulture;
- Nov 22** Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets – animal products *inc.* sale of SMP stocks out of public intervention;
- Nov 23** Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food & Feed (PAFF) on Animal health & welfare/Control & import conditions; Standing Committee on Biocidal Products;

ENDS