
The latest EU agriculture, environment & trade news

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BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE RENEWED FOR 120 DAYS; UN's GUTERRES HAILS NEWS;

The deal allowing exports of bulk commodities from ports in the Black Sea has been extended, automatically, for 120 days, in the absence of objections from any of the parties. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the extension in a statement issued on Nov 17, saying that it would otherwise have expired on Nov 18 (the final date discussed elsewhere was Nov 19). Moscow insisted that it had "clearly & openly emphasised that the agreements on Ukrainian food & the effective implementation of the Russian-UN Memorandum on the normalisation of Russian agricultural exports is a package deal, & that remains unchanged." Officials in the Kremlin said that they "took note of the intensification of the UN Secretariat's effort to fulfil its obligations in this regard & the information provided to us on the intermediate results of its work to remove obstacles to Russian fertiliser & food exports," stressing that "all these issues must be resolved within 120 days, the period for which the package deal is to be extended." "After our repeated reminders, efforts have begun to be made towards unblocking the nearly 300 000 tonnes of Russian fertilisers detained in EU ports, which Russia is donating to developing countries in need," they noted. "Further delay of these urgently needed shipments is unacceptable." The Ministry also highlighted that "it should also be absolutely clear that any attempt to use the humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea for military provocations will receive a harsh response."

UN Secretary General António Guterres said yesterday that he was "deeply moved," that agreement had been reached. Speaking in a video tweet from Cairo, on his way to COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, the Portuguese politician said that he was committed to remove "remaining obstacles to the unimpeded exports of Russian food & fertilizers," which were "essential" to avoid a food crisis in 2023. Guterres also praised Türkiye, describing Istanbul as an "essential centre for discreet diplomacy to solve dramatic problems." He thanked the Turks for their "very effective commitment."

In a separate statement, published on Nov 17, the UN Secretary General said that the UN was "fully committed to supporting the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) so that this vital supply line continues to function smoothly," as it also was "to removing the remaining obstacles to exporting food & fertilizers from the Russian Federation." "Both agreements signed in Istanbul three months ago are essential to bring down the prices of food & fertilizer & avoid a global food crisis," he said. "The Black Sea Grain Initiative continues to demonstrate the importance of discreet diplomacy in the context of finding multilateral solutions."

The President of the UN General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi commended the parties in a series of tweets, thanking Guterres for his "unrelenting commitment," & calling the Black Sea Grain Initiative a strong example of crisis management in action. For her part, Costa Rican economist, Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD), who was one of the chief negotiators of the deal, tweeted that it was "good news for global food security & for the developing world," adding that "solving the fertilizer crunch must come next." The Joint Coordination Centre*, established under the Black Sea Grain Initiative on July 27, said that as of Nov 17, the total tonnage of grain & other foodstuffs exported from the Ukrainian ports of Chornomorsk, Odesa & Yuzhny/Pivdennyi so far under the agreement is 11 186 228 (million) metric tonnes, with a total of 941 voyages (470 inbound & 471 outbound) enabled so far. No inspections had taken place on Nov 17 because of unfavourable weather, but JCC said it was planning to deploy three teams on Nov 18. According to the Centre, there are 69 vessels waiting to move following inspection into Ukraine's grain exporting ports. Those ships have a capacity to move approximately 1.5 million tonnes. A further 24 loaded vessels are awaiting inspection in Turkish waters.

*Further details available here - <https://bit.ly/JCC-vessel-movements>;

EU AGREES TO CLIMATE DAMAGE FUND IN BID FOR COP27 PROGRESS

The EU put new life into the COP27 talks on Nov 18 with an offer to agree to a fund covering loss & damage in the most vulnerable countries, a key demand of the developing world. However, Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans insisted that the new fund must have a “broad funder” base. The developing world “keep insisting that what they want is a fund,” he told journalists. The Union had proposed, “several possibilities, broad possibilities, a mosaic of possibilities, that would really allow us to finance immediately & we were of the opinion that for that you do not need a fund,” he said. “But they keep saying, ‘for us, it is very, very important that we have a fund’,” he reiterated. “So then we thought, okay, if that is the only way we are going to get an agreement, but under two very important conditions.” He insisted that the fund must be targeted to the most vulnerable & that it “should also have a broad funder base, which means that it has to be based on the Paris Agreement, so that you take into account the economic situation of the members,” which meant basing it on the economic situation of the countries in 2022, “not in 1992 which is the proposal of the G77,” a reference to the G77 group of developing countries.

“But doing all of this only has real effect if at the same time we seriously reduce our emissions,” he said, “because if you don’t seriously reduce the emissions ... there is no amount of money on this planet that can address the issue of loss & damage, the issue of adaptation.” “Mitigation, adaptation, loss & damage all go together,” the Dutch politician stressed. “So we will insist on this, if this proposal by the European Union on the fund is to be accepted, then only in a package dealing with serious, serious plans on mitigation.” “The European Union has made huge steps forward,” he said, “& in any negotiation, if we make steps forward & the other side doesn’t budge, at some point it ends.” China’s insistence on being treated as a developing country has drawn ire away from the meeting in Egypt. *Reuters* reported that German Development Minister Svenja Schulze, speaking to *Bayerischer Rundfunk* on Nov 18, stressed that “China has 28% of the greenhouse gas emissions at the moment. So they must also contribute to dealing with the damage.” “They always hide behind the fact that they are a developing country,” she said. “But de facto they are no longer a developing country.”

COP27 draft circulated: Today, Nov 18, is the final scheduled day of the meeting in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El Sheikh, which started on Nov 6. A 10-page draft on the ‘*COP27 overarching decision*’* has been circulated. The paper includes a placeholder for loss & damage, pending agreement on the issue, although the draft also contains a welcome for the parties’ agreement to include it on the agenda for the first time. It reiterates the Paris Climate Agreement’s goal of limiting the rise in temperatures to two degrees, while aiming for 1.5°C, despite calls from some countries, including the EU, for more ambitious climate action. Authors of the draft do however, recognise the importance of the agri-food sector, pointing out the “fundamental priority of safeguarding food security & ending hunger, & the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change,” as well as acknowledging “the global energy & food crises that exacerbate the impacts of climate change, in particular in developing countries.”

*<https://unfccc.int/documents/624264>

EU, Egypt in hydrogen deal: The EU & Egypt have established a strategic partnership on renewable hydrogen & readying a just energy transition in the North African country. The 7-page ‘*Memorandum of understanding on a strategic partnership on renewable hydrogen between the European Union & the Arab Republic of Egypt*’,* was agreed on Nov 16 in the margins of the COP27 meeting, being held at the Egyptian coastal resort of Sharm El Sheikh, on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Signing on behalf of the EU were Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans & Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson, while Egypt was represented by Minister for Petroleum Tarek El Molla and Minister for Electricity & Renewable Energy Mohammed Shaker El-Markabi. The Memorandum is designed to support the development of a renewable hydrogen industry & trade in the EU & Egypt, including infrastructure & financing & will support the EU’s ambition of reaching 20 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen consumption in 2030, as outlined in the REPowerEU plan, helping to reduce dependency on Russian fossil fuels. Implementation will be led by an EU-Egypt Hydrogen Coordination Group & involve representatives from industry, regulators, financial institutions & experts.

*https://energy.ec.europa.eu/memorandum-understanding-strategic-partnership-renewable-hydrogen-between-european-union-and-arab_en

FARM COUNCIL PREVIEW: FERTILISERS, FORESTRY & NATURE RESTORATION ON MENU

European Agriculture & Fisheries Ministers will gather in Brussels on Monday (Nov 21) for the penultimate Council meeting* under the stewardship of Czech Minister Zdeněk Nekula. Following the adoption of the ‘A’ points at around 10.15am, delegations will focus their attention on progress on the implementation of the New EU Forestry Strategy for 2030 & exchange views on actions taken at EU & national level. This will be followed by an information point from the Commission on an Action Plan to promote the energy transition of the fisheries & aquaculture sectors.

Just before lunch, Ministers will discuss the need to develop & strengthen the sustainable production of the algae sector. After lunch (from 2.15pm), delegates will reconvene to discuss the agricultural aspects of the Nature Restoration Law. Following the publication of the Communication on Fertilisers on Nov 9 [see

AF97-22], Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the main tenets of the blueprint, while Spanish Minister Luis Planas will inform his fellow colleagues on the need to ensure the availability & affordability of fertilisers as a basis for food security [see AF99-22]. The last point on the agenda is a Commission debrief on the EU Bioeconomy Conference 2022 that took place in Brussels on Oct 6-7 [see AF87-22]. Proceedings are expected to be wrapped up at around 5pm, while all agenda items will be web-streamed.

**For more click here - [Agriculture and Fisheries Council - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)*

Kullgren new Swedish Minister: Newly-appointed Swedish Minister Peter Kullgren will make his debut appearance at the Farm Council in Brussels on Monday (Nov 21). Christian Democrat Kullgren has been Minister of Rural Affairs since Oct 18, as part of the Cabinet of Moderate Party leader Ulf Kristersson, in the Christian Democrat, Moderate, Liberal coalition formed after Sweden's election on Sept 11. Kullgren who has replaced Social Democrat Anna-Caren Säterberg, has been Party Secretary of the Social Democrats since Sept 14, 2018. The new Minister lives in Karlstad & served as Municipal Councilor in the city (2014-2017). The 41-year-old politician is due to hold bilaterals with his fellow Ministerial colleagues in the weeks ahead before Stockholm takes over the rotating EU Council Presidency from Prague. Elsewhere, wrangling over a new government is continuing in neighbouring Denmark, following Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's Nov 1 election victory [see AF96-22]. Her Social Democratic Party said on Nov 11, that initial negotiations would take until Nov 24.

BRAZIL “PART OF SOLUTION” TO FOOD CRISIS, DELEGATES TOLD AT BRUSSELS EVENT

Delegates at an event on the future of the agri-food sector, held in Brussels, heard that Brazil, which has massively increased food production in recent years, becoming a major exporter, is part of the solution to the food security crisis. The *'Dialogue on Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Science & Resilience in Agri-food'* event held at the Thon Hotel EU, was organized by Hume Brophy & Brazil Agri-Food Facts, a cross-sector alliance of Brazilian associations within the agri-food sector that have “come together to speak with one voice & share fact-based information on the country's agriculture & food production with the European audience.” The Wednesday afternoon gathering (from 2.30pm), moderated by Mella Frewen, Non-Executive Director at Hume Brophy, brought together industry experts, policy-makers & academics to discuss the future of the sector in a meeting that included case studies on how innovation could help Brazil & Europe deliver greater food security, sustainably. Brazilian speakers highlighted the 406% increase in the country's grain output between 1980 & 2020, with 65% more land being used. Productivity gains measured in tonnes per hectare between 1995 & 2020 for soybeans were 40.32% & corn was 133.21%. Ricardo Arioli, a farmer & spokesperson for Brazil Agri-Food Facts, explained how thanks to Brazil's natural fertility & tropical climate, many Brazilian farmers are now growing two crops in the same season, with benefits that include pesticide use, fewer weeds & greater soil sustainability. They are also responding to events in Europe by increasing wheat production, with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) forecasting a hike in wheat production from 6.2 million tonnes in 2020 to 8.1 million in 2022.

During his keynote address, Rupert Schlegelmilch, Acting Deputy Director General of DG Trade, stressed the importance of trade in agricultural products, telling delegates that it was in the EU's & Brazil's “joint interest” to highlight the need for global food trade & unhindered supply chains. With a trade surplus of €11 billion in agri-food products, he described Brazil as an “agricultural powerhouse,” emphasizing the importance of an “open trading system”. Science, research & innovation in the sector are also key to feeding the world as the global population hits the 8 billion mark & is expected to expand to 10 billion by 2050, the Director for The Americas, Agriculture & Food Safety added. André Nassar, spokesperson for Brazil Agri-Food Facts, said that “the threat to food security has grown over the last two years because of geopolitical tensions, the Covid-19 pandemic & the Russia-Ukraine war.” “In Brazil, we see ourselves as part of the solution to that crisis, working together with other food producers & strategic partners, including the EU & UK - to help feed the world,” the Executive President of the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries (ABIOVE) added. In response to a question on the EU's ‘due diligence’ legislation, he pointed to a “set of procedures that were not aligned with what business is doing already,” adding that “if we need to segregate [commodities] then you are changing the business completely.” On the same panel, Andreas Schneider, a member of Janusz Wojciechowski's Cabinet, acknowledged the resilience of the farming sector, as became clear during the Covid-19 pandemic. Against a turbulent geopolitical situation, he said that food security is at the top of the political agenda, adding that food affordability in the current inflationary context - food inflation currently at 15.4% - “could become a food security problem.” “There are a lot of challenges ahead,” the former EP agri advisor stated, urging “good trade relations going forward.” For his part, Dr Bazoumana Koulibaly from Burkina Faso's Institute of Environment & Agriculture Research, explained how Brazilian shared experience & support have resulted in the implementation of water management & soil fertility techniques adapted to the African country's conditions.

EURO ANTIBIOTICS AWARENESS DAY (NOV 18): Survey; AnimalhealthEurope; EPRUMA:

Survey exposes antibiotic ignorance: Half of Europeans still think that antibiotics kill viruses, according to survey results published by the Commission on Nov 17, on the eve of European Antibiotics Awareness Day

(EAAD). The information from Eurobarometer* showed that 23% of respondents had taken antibiotics in the past year, the lowest figure since 2009, which the EU's exec claimed showed that awareness raising efforts by it & the Member States were paying off.

"Antibiotics kill bacteria, not viruses," said Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety. "Overusing antibiotics, feeds the resistance of bacteria to our medicines." "That," she explained, "is why antimicrobial resistance is often seen as the next big health crisis." The Cypriot Commissioner stressed the need for "a One Health approach, including the more prudent use of antibiotics in both humans & animals," to tackle the "silent AMR pandemic." It was crucial that "every citizen & every medical professional should be a part of this collective effort." Andrea Ammon, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control (ECDC), highlighted "concerning increases in the number of deaths attributable to infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, especially those that are resistant to last-line antibiotics." "Each day, nearly 100 people die from these infections in the EU/EEA," she said. "Further efforts are needed to continue to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use, improve infection prevention & control practices, design & implement antimicrobial stewardship programmes, & ensure adequate microbiological capacity at national level."

*<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2632>

Antibiotics for animals down by 47%, AnimalhealthEurope: Antibiotic sales in the animal sector have fallen by 47% on average across Europe over the last 10 years, according to the veterinary medicine sector organisation AnimalhealthEurope. Commenting on recent data from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), Roxane Feller, AnimalhealthEurope Secretary General, said it was "reassuring to see the continued responsible use of antibiotics in animal health reflected in the sales data collected." She referred to her lobby's recent position paper headed '*Trends in Animal Antibiotic Use*', which mirrors these figures, while also citing World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) data which showed that global antimicrobial use in animals had declined by 27% in 3 years. The report also highlights increasing sales of preventative products, which can reduce the need for antibiotics, including parasiticides & vaccines. "We need to keep in mind that not all illness can be prevented & antibiotics remain the only way to treat bacterial disease both in animals & in people," she said, therefore "we need to keep up our efforts to increase preventive measures & improve animal husbandry, but targeting reductions in sales of antibiotics for animals alone will not be enough to achieve the objectives of EU policies & Action Plans to address AMR." She recalled the theme of European Antibiotics Awareness Day '*Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together*' & underlined that "complementary action in human health is needed ... AMR can only be managed through a 'One Health' approach that works across human, animal & environment health."

*<https://animalhealtheuropa.eu/resources/trend-reports/trends-in-animal-antibiotic-use/>

EPRUMA highlights need to cut resistance: EPRUMA, the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals, has highlighted the work of the animal sector to monitor & reduce the sales of antibiotics, insisting on the importance of reducing resistance in a 'One Health' context. Highlighting a 47% drop in use in the EU, UK & EEU over ten years from 2011, EPRUMA Chair Cat McLaughlin said that "whilst the reduction in sales of antibiotics of animals shows great progress in terms of ensuring both better animal health & responsible use of medicines, we must not lose sight of the true objective: to reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance." "Scientific evidence increasingly shows that veterinary use of antibiotics is not driving resistance increases in humans, but we in the food production & veterinary sector cannot be complacent," she added. "Using antibiotics responsibly in animal care will help to preserve their effectiveness & support our high standards of animal health & welfare, our food sustainability & public health across our nations." The University of Aberdeen graduate stressed the need for testing for resistance. "Sales reporting from all sectors must also be accompanied by AMR surveillance," McLaughlin underlined. "We need to ensure that we are using this data to analyze where our attention & actions should focus."

*[EPRUMA | Responsible Use of Animal Medicines](#)

IN BRIEF: ES broadband & insurance aid; RO processor scheme & war fund; IT aid; 10 GIs;

OK for Spanish connectivity plan: The Commission said on Nov 17 that it had approved an €88.3 million Spanish scheme to support broadband provision in rural areas of the Iberian country. The scheme will run until Dec 31, 2027 & will be partly funded through the Recovery & Resilience Facility. Spain's Recovery & Resilience Plan, which has received a positive assessment from the Commission & been adopted by Council, includes support to help rural areas achieve a download speed of at least 100 Mbps & upload speed of 5Mbps. According to the Commission, Madrid's plan is designed as a temporary solution to provide affordable retail broadband services in remote & sparsely populated areas. The funding will be in the form of direct grants to electronic communication operators, covering part of the wholesale price. The EU's executive said the measure was needed to address market failure & would encourage the uptake of broadband. It contained safeguards to avoid distortion of competition. Executive Vice-President, Margrethe Vestager, said that the scheme would "enable Spain to help consumers & businesses to access affordable & high quality broadband services, contributing to the economic growth of Spain & to the EU's strategic objectives relating to the digital transition." *For more information, once any confidentiality issues have been resolved, go to the [state aid register](#) & search under case number **SA.102847**;

Spanish insurance aid approved: The Commission announced on Nov 18 that it had approved an extension to a €2.66 billion Spanish scheme* to support agricultural producers' payment of insurance premia. The plan is designed to ensure coverage for the risk of damage to certain vegetables and livestock sectors. Spain's scheme was first approved by the Commission on April 9, 2015 (SA.40313), modified in Aug 2015 (SA.42697), Oct 2020 (SA.58942) & Oct 2021 (SA.64784) and currently set to expire on Dec 31, 2022. Now Madrid is to prolong the scheme until Dec 31, 2023, with an increase in budget of €438 million, bringing the total to €2.66bn. The aid is in the form of direct grants. Spain's aim is to ensure the sector has sufficient insurance cover, particularly following the volcano eruption in the island of La Palma on Sept 19, 2021 & given Russia's war against Ukraine. **For more information, once any confidentiality issues have been resolved, go to the [state aid register](#) & search under case number SA.104060;*

Romanian processors scheme agreed: The Commission has announced approval for a scheme worth €200 million (RON 985m) in Romania to support processors of agricultural products in the context of the Russia's war against Ukraine*. On the day of approval, Nov 18, the EU's executive said that the aid would be in the form of direct grants & was particularly aimed at operators in the milling industry, oils and fats, dairy products & animal feed preparations. The aim is to provide liquidity to players affected by the crisis and the increase in energy & other input costs. **For more information, once any confidentiality issues have been resolved, go to the [state aid register](#) & search under case number SA.104570;*

Romanian war aid approved: The Commission has approved a €500 million (RON 2 500m) Romanian scheme to support companies in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine*. Under the Nov 17 decision, aid in the form of guarantees on loans & subsidised loans will be administered by the 95% State-owned Romanian public development bank *Banca de export import a Romaniei EximBank S.A.* The financial assistance will be available to SMEs with an annual turnover above €4 million (RON 20 million) & large companies in all sectors with some exceptions, such as gambling & betting activities, insurance, real estate activities, energy & fuel distribution & trade. Financial & credit institutions will also be excluded.

The guarantee part of the scheme, with an estimated budget of approximately €300m (RON 1 500m) will cover up to 90% of the loan or lease principal, while losses will be sustained proportionally by the credit institutions & the state. The budget for the subsidised loans is approximately €200 million (RON 1 000 million). The aid per beneficiary will be equivalent to either 15% of its average total annual turnover over the last three closed accounting periods, or 50% of the energy costs incurred over a 12-month period preceding the application for aid. There is also a provision for beneficiaries in sectors that are particularly affected by direct or indirect effects of the current crisis, the amount of the loan or lease may be increased by a 12-month period for SMEs & by a 6-month period for large enterprises. "With this €500 million scheme, Romania will ensure that sufficient liquidity remains available to companies in need, especially energy-intensive ones," observed Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President in charge of Competition Policy. **For more information, once any confidentiality issues have been resolved, go to the [state aid register](#) & search under case number SA.104273;*

Green light for Italian aid: The Commission approved a €120 million Italian aid scheme for SMEs* affected by the crisis in Ukraine on Nov 17. Open to companies that traded with Ukraine, the Russian Federation & Belarus, the aid will be in the form of direct grants of up to €400 000 per beneficiary, with the actual individual amount based on the difference between the company's average revenues between Feb 17 & May 17, 2022, compared to the same period in 2019. **For more information, once any confidentiality issues have been resolved, go to the [state aid register](#) & search under case number SA.104358;*

Ten new GIs from three Andean Countries: The EU has announced the protection of ten new Geographical Indications (GIs) from Colombia, Peru & Ecuador under the Multiparty Trade Agreement between the EU & the three Latin American countries. These include - one product from Colombia '*Bocadillo Veleño*' (a sweet treat comprising guava pulp & sugar cane); three from Ecuador '*Café de Galapagos*' (coffee beans), '*Maní De Transkutukú*' (a peanut harvested by hand) & '*Pitahaya Amazónica De Palora*' (fruit); & six from Peru '*Aceituna de Tacna*' (olive), '*Cacao Amazonas Peru*' (cacao), '*Café Machu Picchu-Huadquiña*' (coffee beans grown close to the historical sites of Machu Picchu), '*Café Villa Rica*' (coffee beans), '*Loche de Lambayeque*' (a fruit used in sweet & savoury preparations) & '*Maca Junín Pasco*' (a plant product). These ten products "will be protected in the EU against imitations & usurpation," DG AGRI officials confirm, adding that "GI recognition by the EU will be valuable for the reputation of these famous Andean food products." The **trade agreement** between the EU & Colombia and Peru has been provisionally applied since 2013, while Ecuador joined in 2017. Officials say that agricultural trade between the bloc & the three Andean Community countries "has been growing steadily since the entry into force of the agreement granting each side preferential access to their respective agricultural markets." Under the provisions of the trade accord, 16 GIs from the three Andean countries have been protected until now, with 116 GIs from the European side also covered. The trade agreement makes it possible to include additional agricultural products from any party. The EU is the third largest trade partner of Colombia, Peru & Ecuador, while half of their exports to the bloc are agricultural products such as bananas & other fruits, vegetables, coffee, cocoa beans & cut flowers, while close to 15% of exports are fisheries products.

TIMETABLE: Week ahead (in Brussels unless otherwise stated);

- Nov 21** Agriculture & Fisheries Council [see above]; EP plenary session in Strasbourg (until Nov 24); **President Ursula von der Leyen** in Strasbourg, meets with Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, Manfred Weber, Iratxe García-Pérez & Stéphane Séjourné, Chairs of the EPP, S&D & Renew Europe political groups; **Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager** participates in a high-level stakeholder event on the EU-US Trade & Technology Council, together with **Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis**;
- Nov 22** College meeting *inc.* European Semester Autumn Package; **Von der Leyen** in Strasbourg: participates in the solemn ceremony of the 70th anniversary of the European Parliament, together with **Margrethe Vestager (Competition)**, **Mariya Gabriel (Innovation, Research & Culture)**, **Janusz Wojciechowski (Agriculture & Rural Development)** & **Olivér Várhelyi (Neighbourhood & Enlargement)**; **Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides** in Strasbourg: delivers the opening address via videoconference (VC) to the Conference on COVID-19 lessons learned & building a stronger EU Health Security Framework organised by DG SANTE; **Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson** delivers an opening speech, via VC, at the EU-Turkmenistan conference on 'Green energy and EU strategies for the use of hydrogen & the reduction of methane emissions'; General Affairs Council (Cohesion);
- Nov 23** **Dombrovskis** meets Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board; **Simson** meets with Ebba-Elisabeth Busch, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy, Business and Industry of Sweden; European Economic Area Council;
- Nov 24** **Von der Leyen** in Espoo, Finland, participates in the 'New European Bauhaus into the Woods' Conference; **Vestager** meets with Waldemar Buda, Polish Minister for Economic Development & Technology, meets with the participants of the ALDE Women Academy, delivers a keynote speech at the UN Women Leaders' Network Event & meets with the Directors-General of the European Competition Network; **Dombrovskis** participates in the 6th European Union - Gulf Cooperation Council Business Forum; **Wojciechowski** delivers opening address at conference on '**An EU school scheme fit for the future**', organised by the Commission & receives Waldemar Buda, Polish Minister of Development & Technology; **Simson** delivers an opening speech, via VC, on 'How are citizens prepared for winter & what they can do to control their energy bills', at the 14th Citizens' Energy Forum taking place in Dublin, Ireland; **Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius** in Helsinki, Finland, attends 'New European Bauhaus goes into the Woods' Conference; Extraordinary Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council (Energy); *Election for the Presidency of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers & Forest Owners (MTK), Pekka Pesonen Vs. Juha Marttila [see AF96-22];*
- Nov 25** **Interinstitutional Relations & Foresight Maroš Šefčovič** in Paris, meets with Irish *Taoiseach* Micheál Martin, participates in an event on the European Union & the Northern Ireland Peace Process, in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Irish membership of the EU; **Commissioner for Values & Transparency Věra Jourová** together with **Commissioner Kyriakides**, hold a meeting with the organisers of the European Citizens' Initiative 'Save the Bees'; **Wojciechowski** in Rome, delivers speech at 20th International Forum on Agriculture & Food, organised by Coldiretti; **Sinkevičius** in Chişinău, Moldova (& Nov 26), attends the Consensus Building Conference, gives a plenary address in the Parliament of Moldova, meets with Iuliana Cantaragiu, Minister of Environment of Moldova & Igor Grosu, President of the Parliament, meets with representatives of Parliament Committees & Maia Sandu, President of Moldova & visits the Technical University of Moldova (UTM); **Foreign Affairs Council Trade**;
- Nov 26** **Sinkevičius** in Chişinău, meets with Natalia Gavrilița, Prime Minister of Moldova, signs the LIFE+ Programme, participates in the National Tree Planting Campaign, meets with Young European Ambassadors & participates in Citizens' Dialogue.

Regulatory meetings

- Nov 21** Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food & Feed (PAFF Committee) on Phytopharmaceuticals - Pesticide Residues (& Nov 22)
- Nov 24** PAFF Committee on Novel Food & Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain;

ENDS