



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 1/28/2008

GAIN Report Number: E48013

EU-27

Agricultural Situation

European Parliament 2008 Calendar

2008

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Report Highlights:

European Parliament 2008 Calendar

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E4]

European Parliament 2008 Calendar

Plenary Sessions

One of the main roles of the European Parliament (EP) is to pass legislative proposals under the "co-decision" procedure. This procedure places the EP on equal footing with the Council and it applies to a wide range of fields including food safety and environmental issues. The EU's annual budget is also decided jointly by the EP and the Council and does not come into force until it has been signed by the President of the EP.

The EP has three work places: Brussels (Belgium), Strasbourg (France) and Luxembourg. Each month, with the exception of August, the EP meets during one week in plenary sessions held in Strasbourg. Additional two-day plenary sessions take place in Brussels.

| European Parliament – 2008 Plenary Sessions | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Strasbourg | Brussels |
| January | 14-17 | 30-31 |
| February | 18-21 | - |
| March | 10-13 | - |
| April | 21-24 | 9-10 |
| May | 19-22 | 7-8 |
| June | 16-19 | 4-5 |
| July | 7-10 | - |
| August | - | - |
| September | 1-4, 22-25 | - |
| October | 20-23 | 8-9 |
| November | 17-20 | - |
| December | 15-18 | 3-4 |

Parliamentary Committees

The preparatory work for the plenary sessions is done by the Members of Parliament in the various parliamentary committees that specialize in particular policy areas. Committee members represent the full range of political groups. The importance of these committees depends on the issues they deal with. For example, the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety deals with politically sensitive issues such as GMOs which gives them the possibility to exert considerable pressure within the EU. The parliamentary committees generally meet for one to two weeks per month in Brussels. Draft agendas for the committee meetings can be found at

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/draftAgendas.do?language=EN>.

| Parliamentary Committees – 2008 Meetings | |
|---|--------------|
| January | 21-24, 28-29 |
| February | 25-28 |
| March | 25-27 |
| April | 1-3, 7-8 |
| May | 5-6, 26-29 |
| June | 2-3, 23-26 |
| July | 14-17 |
| August | - |
| September | 8-11 |
| October | 6-7 |
| November | 3-6 |

| | |
|----------|-----|
| December | 1-2 |
|----------|-----|

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