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**To:** [Olga Kikou](#)  
**Subject:** Glyphosate support wobbles on Parliament, Council pushback  
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POLITICO Pro Morning Agriculture and Food



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**SNEAK PEEK**

— **Brussels is revising its proposal to reauthorize glyphosate** amid pushback from EU countries and MEPs.

— **Ukraine is eligible for quarter of the CAP budget**, according to internal EU estimates.

— **The animal welfare package will be reduced to transport rules only**, the new Green Deal chief tells MEPs.

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## DRIVING THE DAY

**PARLIAMENT SPLIT ON GLYPHOSATE PROPOSAL:** The Commission is revising its proposal to reauthorize the controversial herbicide glyphosate in an effort to win over France, but it may not receive support from the Parliament.

**Reminder:** At an October 13 vote, the Commission needs the support of a qualified majority of EU countries for glyphosate to be reapproved for another 10 years — otherwise, the executive might have to approve the chemical on its own.

**Prospects:** A qualified majority is out of reach at the moment, with Germany planning to vote against and France abstaining, unless Brussels harmonizes its [national approach](#) to phasing out the chemical.

**Ch-ch-changes:** Reluctant to go it alone, the Commission is now revising its proposal, [according](#) to Euractiv. If France votes yes, the majority could be sufficient to approve glyphosate outright.

**Not happening:** A diplomat involved in the discussion called that scenario “ridiculous,” given France’s national commitments to minimize pesticide use. “At most, they’ll abstain. They would never vote for it.” The diplomat added that the Commission has already called the French proposal unworkable at the EU level.

**Paris delights not me:** Another diplomat said France has threatened to vote against if it doesn’t get its way. “First they forced a lot of things in order to graciously abstain from voting, and now they are Hamlet-izing that they might even vote against.”

**Split house:** During a debate in the Parliament on Wednesday, MEPs from various political groups expressed concern about the Commission’s proposal, with only lawmakers from the largest group, the European People’s Party (EPP), expressing unequivocal support.

**Cherry picking:** Banning glyphosate is not the way to go, said German lawmaker Pieter Liese of the EPP. “If our own European experts on food and chemicals say it is not a problem, then I say to the Socialists and Democrats and the Greens, listen to the science, but not only when it suits you.”

**Safe not sorry:** “It is irresponsible to wait until we are 100 percent sure that glyphosate is dangerous,” countered Dutch Socialist MEP Mohammed Chahim. “Let’s change it and make sure it is 100 percent safe for people and the environment before we approve it.”

**Known unknowns:** Echoing Liese’s words, Frenchman Pascal Canfin of the centrist Renew Europe said there were “two messages from science” — the first that glyphosate is not dangerous enough to be banned from agriculture, and second, that a lot is unknown about glyphosate’s impact on biodiversity.

**But but but:** Canfin called the Commission’s proposal to authorize glyphosate “without any conditions” unacceptable. “It does not take into account the complexity of the messages from scientists,” he said. “We want a much more balanced proposal which would allow us to introduce restrictions on use in line with science, as has been done in France.”

**No restrictions:** Kyriakides rejected accusations that glyphosate will be reauthorized without restrictions. “We propose a number of conditions and restrictions, and these are based on the scientific assessment and do take into account that the responsibility for the

authorization of plant protection products lies firmly within the hands of the member states,” she said.

**Flipside:** Spaniard Mazaly Aguilar of the European Conservatives and Reformists, on the contrary, said the Commission should not have listened to “ecologists” in promising to review its approval if new evidence emerged that the chemical was toxic.

**Cue villainous laughtrack:** With the weedkiller likely to be reapproved, Irish left-wing MEP Clare Daly speculated that “the boardrooms of Monsanto and Bayer must be cracking open the champagne to the sound of the deathknell of nature.”

## CAP

**UKRAINE ELIGIBLE FOR A QUARTER OF EU FARM SUBSIDIES:** Unless the EU reforms the Common Agricultural Policy and stops subsidizing farms based on size, Ukraine, if it joined today, would gobble up 25 percent of the budget, according to estimates by the Council of the EU.

**Background:** The calculations, first reported by the Financial Times on Wednesday, come from an internal paper prepared by the Council’s secretariat over the summer. The paper, seen by POLITICO, examines the impact on the bloc’s finances of the possible accession of nine new member states — Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and six Western Balkan countries. Of all sectoral policies, the paper singles out the CAP as among the most impacted by an EU enlargement.

**The deets:** Under current EU rules, Ukraine would receive €96.5 billion from the CAP’s seven-year budget of €387 billion, according to the estimates. If all nine countries joined the EU, existing member states would see their own farm subsidies cut by about 20 percent.

**How so:** The CAP currently rewards countries according to the area they devote to agriculture. At 41.1 million hectares, Ukraine’s farmland is a quarter of that of the entire EU 27, according to Council figures.

**Market day:** Ukraine’s accession would also send shockwaves across the bloc’s single market. “As an EU member, Ukraine would probably increase its production of agricultural products and its exports to the EU,” the paper reads, “with possible disruptive effects in some sectors and markets.”

**On the other hand,** the paper adds, Ukraine’s accession would “further improve the EU’s food security, and increase EU exports.”

**Way forward:** The paper outlines several ways the EU could address the CAP’s budgetary and market implications in an enlarged EU. These range from decoupling direct payments from the size of agricultural areas, and linking them instead to the “execution of specific actions;” to increasing the CAP budget; or introducing a phasing-in period when new members receive less money per hectare than existing ones.

**Peanuts:** According to the paper, the EU would be far less affected by the accession of the other eight candidate countries not named Ukraine, for whom a phase-in period would likely suffice. For Kyiv, the paper suggests overhauling the bloc’s entire agricultural policy.

Check out [this story](#) by Barbara Moens.

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## ANIMAL WELFARE

**ANIMAL PROTECTION CONFINED TO TRANSPORT:** New Green Deal chief Maroš Šefčovič has provided a [new timeline of outstanding policy files](#) under the Green Deal that includes a proposal for the “protection of animals during transport,” scheduled in December.

**Refresher:** The animal welfare rules were expected to be unveiled last month, and initially consisted of four pillars — the welfare of animals at farm level; during transport; at the time of killing; and a voluntary European label for animal welfare. After weeks of talks, the Commission proposed a scaled-back version that tackled only the transport aspect.

**Where’s the rest?** Animal transport is the most advanced pillar, Šefčovič [told lawmakers](#) on Tuesday. The executive is still “reflecting on and carefully assessing important aspects, however, including the related costs and the appropriate length of the transition period” for the various files, according to a Commission spokesperson.

“It is important to have the support of all involved to make these proposals a success,” the spokesperson added, an approach that Šefčovič signaled would be part of the new strategic dialogue for the future of agriculture expected to launch before the end of the mandate.

**Crumbs or nothing:** “We knew that this text was almost off the table [...] you can conclude that the rest of the text is off the table,” liberal MEP Canfin told reporters on Wednesday. The lawmaker — who also chairs ENVI — added it was either that or nothing. “We have the answer,” he said.

**Cool with it:** The EPP would have opposed a proposal on animal welfare as a whole, AGRI coordinator Herbert Dorfmann told POLITICO, adding that his group has “no problem with a proposal for a regulation being presented specifically on the subject of animal transport.”

**Not cool with it:** “My position is very clear,” socialist MEP Maria Noichl told POLITICO. “Not only have I been waiting for that revision for years now, but more importantly, the European citizens have been waiting,” she said, referencing two European Citizen Initiatives to ban cages and end fur farming in the EU.

“I will use all my power to make sure that we adopt the proposal in the EP, because we don’t want to start again from scratch after the next election,” she added.

**Not cool (extended version):** For Michal Wiezik, a Renew MEP on ENVI, postponing the rest of the legislation “will only unnecessarily prolong unhuman practices,” and will create space for opponents and industry lobbyists “to challenge relevant authorities, impact assessments and civil consultations.” He added, however, that the ambitions that have been set on animal transport “will serve as stepping stones for the rest of the proposals.”

**Clock ticking:** For the Greens, the new timeline is “too little [and] too late,” MEP Thomas Waitz [posted on X](#): “Too late to be anywhere near finished, we can only hope that the new Commission will include it in the work program.”

## WATER

**CONTROVERSIAL DOÑANA BILL SUSPENDED:** The regional government of Andalusia has suspended a controversial bill that would expand irrigation around the endangered UNESCO-protected wetlands of Doñana after striking an agreement with

Madrid.

Under Tuesday's agreement, the central government will create a €350 million plan for social projects in Huelva, a province in Andalusia, which depends heavily on intensive berry agriculture, [El País reports](#).

**Burying the hatchet:** The agreement is a first step toward ending a nearly two-year fight embroiling Andalusia, Madrid and the Commission — as well as scientists, NGOs and farmers. Critics feared the Andalusian government's scheme would grant amnesty to berry farmers who have been taking water from the endangered area illegally for decades. Antonia and Zia dove into the issue earlier this year [here](#).

**Ribera pleased:** Spain's Ecological Transition Minister Teresa Ribera told POLITICO she is "very satisfied and happy because with this agreement we can save Doñana by pushing forward on economic progress." She added that "not only the Andalusian or Spanish people were concerned, but Europe and the international community were watching us and asking themselves what was being done with Doñana."

## SOLIDARITY LANES

**EU TRADE BOSS HEADS TO SLOVAKIA:** Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis is in Slovakia today to see the EU's solidarity lanes in action. Accompanied by Slovak Transport Minister Pavol Lančarič, Dombrovskis plans to visit a transshipment facility in Čierna nad Tisou on the border with Ukraine.

**Tricky timing:** Slovakia promised last week to lift its unilateral ban on imports of Ukrainian grain as long as Kyiv controlled how much entered the country through a licensing system. Bratislava has yet to do so, however, and [last weekend's elections](#), won by an anti-Ukraine party, could add uncertainty.

## HEADLINES

Here's a recap of yesterday's news, along with Pro articles and alerts from overnight.

### [French business says EU could lose out if Mercosur talks drag on](#)

Opposition to the long-awaited Latin America trade deal dominates the French political debate, but leading business lobby Medef backs it.

By Giorgio Leali · Oct 4, 2023, 3:05 PM

### [Ukraine's accession would cost €186B, EU estimates](#)

Future enlargement of the EU would greatly affect farming and cohesion funding allocation.

By Barbara Moens · Oct 4, 2023, 1:10 PM

### [EU's new climate leadership duo gets nod from MEPs](#)

Maroš Šefčovič and Wopke Hoekstra get committee approval, setting scene for formal confirmation vote on Thursday.

By Zia Weise · Oct 4, 2023, 8:28 AM

### [Chemicals reforms, food strategy MIA from Green Deal chief's policy timeline](#)

Maroš Šefčovič did provide timings for other outstanding policy files.

By Zia Weise · Oct 4, 2023, 7:34 AM

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