



27.4.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the future of food and farming
(2018/2037(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria Noichl

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Highlights that acute food insecurity affected 124 million people in 51 countries in 2017, which is 16 million more than in 2016, and that the majority of those affected by food insecurity live in rural areas;
2. Recalls that the EU is the largest exporter and importer of agricultural products and therefore plays a crucial role on world agricultural markets; notes that the EU is the main trading partner for developing countries when it comes to agricultural products;
3. Recalls the New European Consensus on Development in which the EU and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to and recognise the paramount importance of effective observation of the principle of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) established in Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which implies taking into account development cooperation objectives in all EU policies, including agricultural policy and funding, that are likely to affect developing countries in a negative way; considers, in this context, that the common agricultural policy (CAP) reform should respect the right of developing countries to shape their agricultural and food policies without weakening their food production capacities and long-term food security, in particular those of the least-developed countries;
4. Recalls the commitment of the EU and its Member States to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and underlines that coherence of the CAP with the SDGs is crucial, especially in the case of SDG 2 (zero hunger), 5 (gender equality), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land), to which the future CAP must be aligned;
5. Recognises that the CAP is far from perfect and that it must be more pro-development, preventing distortions both in Europe and on international agricultural markets and favouring a transition towards more sustainable agriculture and resilient agricultural practices, which help to protect ecosystems and natural resources and reinforce their capacity to adapt to climate change, extreme weather patterns, drought, floods and other disasters and which progressively improve the quality of the soil, in line with the second SDG;
6. Recalls that agriculture that fails to protect and improve rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being is unsustainable; calls for the EU to develop fair and environmentally sustainable food production schemes, incentivise responsible consumption and promote sustainable dietary patterns in all policies likely to affect developing countries;
7. Stresses that the CAP reform should contribute to the construction of a new European food system in line with the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement; believes that a paradigm shift from a 'green revolution' to an 'agro-ecological approach' is required to this end, in line with the conclusions of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and

Technology for Development (IAASTD) and the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, which implies recognition of the multifunctionality of agriculture and a rapid shift from monoculture cropping based on the intensive use of chemical inputs towards a diversified and sustainable agriculture based on agro-ecological farming practices, strengthening local food systems and small-scale farming and supporting traditional types of organisation;

8. Urges the EU and its Member States to implement the commitment made in the European Consensus for Development to supporting agroecology, including through the agriculture investment window of the External Investment Plan;
9. Calls for the EU and its Member States to reinforce dialogue with developing countries and provide their expertise and financial support to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture based on small-scale and family farming, targeting women and young people in particular, a commitment made in the 2017 African Union-EU Summit Joint Declaration entitled ‘Investing in Youth for Accelerated Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development’; recalls the contribution of women in rural areas as entrepreneurs and promoters of sustainable development; stresses the need to develop their potential in sustainable agriculture and their resilience in rural areas;
10. Calls, while recalling the original CAP objectives as set out in Article 39 TFEU, for another chapter in the CAP post-2020 legislation regarding its responsibility in development policy issues, to include better integration of environmental objectives and the SDGs, since the ban on export subsidies means that economic distortions persist, enabling the EU agricultural sector to export agricultural commodities below average production costs;
11. Calls on the Commission to conduct ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments of the CAP’s external effects systematically with the help of SDG indicators, and to develop a methodological framework for monitoring and evaluating the CAP’s effects on the agricultural production sector in developing countries and on the affordability and availability of food; suggests that this data be used for an alert mechanism that would signal negative effects of the CAP on the livelihoods of small-scale farmers, in particular women farmers, in developing countries;
12. Stresses that the CAP must respect the ‘do no harm’ principle and be coherent with other EU policies and international obligations in the field of development, but also with the protection of human rights, the environment, the climate, animal rights and nature; notes, in addition, that it is inefficient in terms of EU budget spending to generate negative externalities and then to cover the costs these externalities generate;
13. Considers it necessary, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda policies and the SDGs, to recognise the geographical imbalances in trade relations and competition in the farming sector between developing countries and the EU and to promote a more balanced relationship with trading partners;
14. Calls for the EU to ensure that the future CAP will overcome the problems related to the current export-oriented agricultural model by enhancing the EU’s internal markets and short food supply chains in a sustainable manner so as not to undermine countries’ development while ensuring resilience to external shocks and threats;

15. Notes that EU exports and imports of agri-food products are based on trade agreements; stresses that these agreements should ensure a level playing field between farmers in the EU and the rest of the world, with preferences given to developing countries;
16. Urges the Member States to put an end to the goal of an ever more intensified European agriculture and to cease overproduction in the livestock sector through the obligatory introduction of an area-based livestock farming system; notes with concern that EU dependence on imported animal feed, particularly soy, has contributed to the growing demand for land abroad, leading to deforestation, biodiversity loss, displacement of communities and increased intoxication as a result of the cultivation of pesticide-intensive genetically modified soy in South America; urges the Member States, therefore, to reduce and progressively phase out their imports of protein crops from third countries such as Argentina and Brazil;
17. Calls, in addition, for crop rotation with leguminous plants on all applicable arable land and for the implementation of an EU-wide protein strategy aimed at decreasing import dependency on soy from third countries; calls, in the meantime, for the introduction of sustainability criteria for imports of vegetable protein;
18. Recalls the importance of empowering local farmers to move up the value chain by providing them with help and support on organic and value-added products and with new knowledge and technologies, as achieving sustainability requires direct action to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources;
19. Calls for a shift away from indirect and untargeted subsidies such as area payments; asks for subsidies to be disbursed only if they contribute to public goods such as local jobs, biological diversity, animal welfare, clean air and water, and healthy, living soils;
20. Recalls in this context the market-distorting effects of the reintroduction of coupled support in the CAP 2014-2020; recalls that the abolition of milk quotas in 2015, with the expectation of new market outlets for European agricultural products in developing countries, has aggravated overproduction, resulting in lower prices and affecting the development of the dairy sector in both Europe and developing countries;
21. Reiterates its view that the distribution of payments is unbalanced; is of the opinion that larger farms do not necessarily need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller or lower income farms in times of income volatility, since they may benefit from economies of scale which are likely to make them more resilient;
22. Recalls that hunger and malnutrition in developing countries are largely related to a lack of purchasing power and/or the inability of the rural poor to be self-sufficient; urges the EU, therefore, to actively help developing countries to overcome impediments (such as poor infrastructure and poor logistics) to their own agricultural production;
23. Calls for the EU and its Member States to strengthen developing countries' domestic food production, as advocated in the SDGs, rather than increasing EU agricultural exports to developing countries; urges the EU to encourage developing countries to increase and diversify their food production to satisfy domestic food demand and the growing demand of the South-South market, as EU agricultural policy alone is not responsible for feeding a growing world population; stresses, for that reason, the

importance of fighting land grabbing in developing countries;

24. Calls for the EU to respond to developing countries' calls to protect their food production and their population from the potentially destructive effects of cheap imports;
25. Points out that more than half the population of the least developed countries will still be living in rural areas in 2050 and that the development of sustainable agriculture in developing countries will help to unlock the potential of their rural communities, maintain rural populations and reduce underemployment, poverty and food insecurity, which in turn will help to tackle the root causes of forced migration;
26. Welcomes the Commission proposal to create employment opportunities and revenue-generating activities in regions of origin and transit of migrants through CAP-supported projects; calls on the Commission to implement EU-African Union exchange programmes through cooperation and dialogue on agri-food production and agricultural innovation;
27. Recognises the critical role that space technologies, such as those developed in EU space and satellite programmes managed by the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus), can play in the attainment of the UN's SDGs by providing affordable solutions to facilitate the move towards precision agriculture, thereby eliminating waste, saving time, reducing fatigue and optimising the use of equipment;
28. Calls on the Commission to explore space science technologies and applications and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation as mechanisms to assist in the monitoring of crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, support farmers, fisherfolk, foresters and policymakers in their efforts to employ diverse methods of achieving sustainable food production, and respond to related challenges;
29. Underlines that more generally, agricultural trade must contribute, on a partnership basis, to reducing global inequalities and bringing more inclusive social benefits for all trade partners in the future, while staying within the ecological limits of our planet.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.4.2018
Result of final vote	+: 15 -: 0 0: 7
Members present for the final vote	Ignazio Corrao, Mireille D'Ornano, Nirj Deva, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Arne Lietz, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Eleni Theodorou, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wentă, Anna Záborská, Joachim Zeller, Željka Zovko
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Pál Csáky, Monika Vana

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

15	+
ALDE	Paavo Väyrynen
ECR	Eleni Theoharous
EFDD	Ignazio Corrao, Mireille D'Ornano
GUE/NGL	Lola Sánchez Caldentey
PPE	Joachim Zeller
S&D	Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Arne Lietz, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon, Elly Schlein
VERTS/ALE	Maria Heubuch, Monika Vana

0	-

7	0
ECR	Nirj Deva
PPE	Pál Csáky, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Cristian Dan Preda, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Anna Záborská, Željana Zovko

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention