



**2016/2222(INI)**

10.1.2017

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests  
(2016/2222(INI))

Rapporteur: Heidi Hautala

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Calls for improved coordination of forest, agriculture, land use and rural development policies with a view to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the climate change commitments;
2. Recalls that the EU is a major importer of products resulting from illegal deforestation; calls for the immediate termination of EU subsidies for biofuels produced from food crops and for a phase-out of such fuels; stresses the inadequacy of voluntary certification schemes, such as the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), in addressing land grabs and human rights violations; calls for binding regulations on agricultural commodity importers' supply chains;
3. Calls on the Commission to put in place mechanisms to address the conversion of forests for commercial agriculture within the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) framework; calls for increased EU financial and technical assistance to producer countries and their local authorities with a view to combating corruption and improving governance;
4. Calls for the revision of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive to include land grabbing and deforestation risks in the non-financial key performance indicators; calls for inclusion of agribusiness in the scope of companies required by the Accounting Directive to report on payments to governments;
5. Is alarmed by the impacts of palm oil production on the human rights of indigenous peoples and small farmers; calls on governments of palm-oil-producing countries to commit to and implement the ILO core labour standards and Decent Work agenda;
6. Is concerned that many land deals breach the principle of local communities' free, prior and informed consent; calls for the EU and its Member States to ensure that EU-based investors adhere fully to international standards on responsible investment in agriculture, and to take steps to ensure access to remedy for victims of corporate abuses.