



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2009/2237(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

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

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on fair revenues for farmers: A better functioning food supply chain in Europe
(2009/2237(INI))

Rapporteur: Esther Herranz García

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the Commission's communication on 'a better functioning food supply chain', since it recognises the existence of major power imbalances among operators, but believes that the measures suggested in that communication are not sufficient to deal with the problems involved;
2. Regrets the failure to establish a correlation between high consumer prices and the prices paid to European farmers, and stresses the need to achieve a fairer distribution of value added along the various links of the chain;
3. Calls for a European strategy to boost the bargaining power of the weaker links of the chain, especially in the primary sector; believes it is necessary, *inter alia*, to modify the EU competition legislation and harmonise the criteria used by the national competition authorities, taking account of the characteristics of the agricultural sector;
4. Calls for a list to be drawn up of abusive market practices, such as loss leader pricing and sales commissions, and for such practices to be explicitly outlawed by the EU; demands that companies failing to comply be 'named and shamed' and that penalties be instituted;
5. Stresses, in particular, the need to reinforce the EU legislation on late payments to suppliers, for contracts with both public bodies and private-sector partners; calls, in addition, for measures at European level to prevent unfair competition practices related to own-brand marketing by distribution companies;
6. Considers it necessary to promote the closer integration of the various links of the chain in the context of interprofessional organisations and to draw up codes of good practice and voluntary standard contracts, with the possibility, in certain cases and especially for perishable goods, of Member States demanding that they become binding.