



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2013/2091(INI)

2.9.2013

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

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

on the food crisis, fraud in the food chain and the control thereof
(2013/2091(INI))

Rapporteur: Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Highlights the importance for consumers of knowing where the food they buy comes from; welcomes, therefore, the Commission's upcoming implementing acts on the application of voluntary origin labelling for all food ingredients; calls on food operators to take the initiative in this regard by providing for efficient traceability systems and by ensuring transparency through accurate information provided on their products;
2. Welcomes the Commission's forthcoming implementing act on origin labelling of all meat and impact assessment on origin labelling for meat used as food ingredient; is concerned, however, that further legislation in this area may lead to increased costs for SMEs and consumers;
3. Stresses the need to regain consumer confidence in a single market for foods; points out that self-regulation, better legislation and efficient control activities, rather than more legislation, is the way forward;
4. Considers that the reference to fraudulent practices in the General Food Law¹ is inadequate and that it leaves out frauds that do not pose a food safety or a public health risk; calls on the Commission to provide a definition of fraud which includes the financial gain and the intention of fraudulent practices;
5. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's review on official controls provides for economical disincentive to fraud; stresses, however, that the penalties currently applied in the food sector are inappropriate to prevent fraud; urges, therefore, the Commission and the Member States to introduce stronger and more dissuasive sanctions;
6. Is concerned that instances of fraud rarely lead to legal actions; highlights the need for improved cooperation between all relevant public authorities and the food operators; stresses the need to increase antifraud skills and to be proactive rather than reactive.

¹ OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1.