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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2008/2153(INI)

3.12.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on The Common Agricultural Policy and Global Food Security
(2008/2153(INI))

Rapporteur: Silvia-Adriana Țicău

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy 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. Stresses the importance of a comprehensive analysis of rising food prices, taking into account rising energy prices for end consumers, stronger weather phenomena and increased demand for energy owing to the increased global population, and calls on the Commission to investigate further the possible link between high food prices and rising energy prices, in particular for fuel;
2. Notes that the global food crisis is among the great threats to peace and security in the world; in that respect welcomes the recent efforts of the Commission to investigate ways of tackling the global food security issue; calls on the Member States to support such initiatives at national and local level;
3. Recognises that the agricultural sector, which generates a significant share of total CO₂ emissions, needs improved energy efficiency;
4. Considers that expansion of biofuels and bioenergy production could impact positively on the agricultural and food processing sector which is suffering from higher prices for inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, and diesel, as well as transport and processing costs;
5. Recognises that the agricultural sector supports the livelihood of the majority of the population in many developing countries, therefore encourages these countries to develop a mechanism of stable and transparent agricultural policies that will ensure long-term planning and sustainable development;
6. Asks the Commission to monitor closely the effects of increased bioenergy production in the EU and in third countries as regards changes in land use, food commodity prices and access to foodstuff;
7. Reiterates that incentives for sustainable cultivation of energy crops should not jeopardise food production;
8. Stresses that it is necessary to reach an equilibrium on the sustainability criteria for biofuels, which, on the one hand, allows any negative effects of increased bioenergy production on biodiversity, foodstuff prices and land use patterns to be avoided and which, on the other hand, does not undermine the prospects of attaining the 2020 renewable energy targets;
9. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote research and development to prevent and adapt to climate change, including, inter alia, research into the next generation of biofuels, in particular the use of high-yield energy crops, environmentally friendly fertilisers that are as effective as possible, new agricultural technologies with minimum negative effects on land use, the development of new plant types that are resistant to changes in climate and related diseases and research into ways to use waste in agriculture;

10. Believes that there is a need for further agricultural research, in order to increase sustainable farm productivity, and calls on the Member States to exploit fully the opportunities offered in this respect by the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development, and to adopt measures that will improve agricultural output in a sustainable and energy efficient way.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Šarūnas Birutis, Jan Březina, Jerzy Buzek, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Dragoș Florin David, Den Dover, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, David Hammerstein, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Mary Honeyball, Ján Hudacký, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Pia Elda Locatelli, Eluned Morgan, Antonio Mussa, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Aldo Patriciello, Miloslav Ransdorf, Vladimír Remek, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Mechtild Rothe, Paul Rübig, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Claude Turmes, Nikolaos Vakalis, Adina-Ioana Vălean
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriele Albertini, Alexander Alvaro, Pierre Pribetich, John Purvis, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Vladimir Urutchev