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# REPORT

on recognition of agriculture as a strategic sector in the context of food security  
(2010/2112(INI))

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Rapporteur: Daciana Octavia Sârbu

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on recognition of agriculture as a strategic sector in the context of food security (2010/2112(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its resolution of 8 July 2010 on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 January 2009 on the Common Agricultural Policy and Global Food Security<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 5 May 2010 on EU agriculture and climate change<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 7 September 2010 on fair revenues for farmers: A better functioning food supply chain in Europe<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on OTC derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories, SEC(2010)1058,
  - having regard to its resolution of 22 May 2008 on rising food prices in the European Union and developing countries<sup>5</sup>,
  - having regard to the Communication from the Commission entitled ‘An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges’,
  - having regard to the UN Millennium Goals, which include halving the proportion of the global population suffering from hunger in 2015 as compared with 1990,
  - having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A7-0376/2010),
- A. whereas ensuring food security for Europe’s citizens, providing consumers with healthy and high-quality food at reasonable prices, and safeguarding farm incomes have been the core objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) since its inception and remain key objectives of the EU at present,
- B. whereas recent food and commodity price volatility has raised serious concerns about the functioning of the European and global food supply and whereas the increase in food

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2010)0286.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 46E, 24.2.2010, p.10.

<sup>3</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2010)0131.

<sup>4</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2010)0302.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 279E, 19.11.2009, p.71.

prices has hit the most vulnerable population groups hardest,

- C. whereas price volatility in agriculture is permanent in nature, as prices respond disproportionately to small variations in the level of production, very frequently as a result of speculation,
- D. whereas at a recent meeting of the Committee on World Food Security in the FAO, the EU highlighted the problem of extreme price volatility and the new High Level Panel of Experts was asked to report on causes and measures in relation to price fluctuations,
- E. whereas climatic and other events may lead countries to pursue protectionist policies, as illustrated by the recent export bans on wheat imposed by Russia and Ukraine, which together export some 30% of the world's wheat,
- F. whereas global food production can be regularly undermined by a range of factors including the impact of pests and diseases, availability of natural resources and natural disasters, as illustrated in 2010 by the prolonged drought and fires in Russia and the massive floods in Pakistan,
- G. whereas climate change will result in more frequent occurrences of such natural disasters, thus undermining food security,
- H. whereas the challenge is to produce 'more from less', with an emphasis on sustainable production, due to pressure on natural resources,
- I. whereas the EU is the largest net agricultural products importer, and is over-reliant on imports of protein, oleaginous products and maize for its animal husbandry sector, as well as fruit and vegetables, not least because our producers are not allowed to use the same production methods for such products,
- J. whereas the estimated growth in the global population from 7 to 9.1 billion will require a 70% increase in the food supply by the year 2050, according to the FAO,
- K. whereas poverty and famine still exist in the European Union; whereas 79 million people in the EU still live below the poverty line (60% of the average income of the country in which the person lives); and whereas 16 million EU citizens received food aid through charities last winter,
- L. whereas food security does not only mean the availability of food supplies, but also includes according to the FAO the right to food and the accessibility of healthy nutrition for all; whereas, by becoming ever more competitive, Europe can contribute to global food security,
- M. whereas lack of food security for the poorest members of society has been aggravated by the effects of the global economic and financial crisis,
- N. whereas farmers' incomes fell dramatically in 2009 after a decade of income stagnation, due largely to difficult market conditions and rising costs of production; whereas agricultural incomes are significantly lower (by an estimated 40% per working unit) than

in the rest of the economy, and income per inhabitant in rural areas is considerably lower (by about 50%) than in urban areas,

- O. whereas farmers receive a steadily decreasing share of the value added generated by the food supply chain, while the share of the food industry has increased; whereas a proper functioning food supply chain is a necessary prerequisite to ensure that farmers obtain a fair return for their produce,
- P. whereas along the whole food production, supply and consumption chain, up to 50% of the food produced in the EU is wasted,
- Q. whereas only 7% of farmers in the EU are under 35 years of age,
- R. whereas food security is a central issue for Europe and requires coherence and coordination between various sectoral policy areas at EU level, namely the CAP, energy policy, research programmes, development and trade policies, and financial regulation;
  - 1. Stresses that a strong and sustainable agricultural sector across the EU and a thriving and sustainable rural environment, ensured by a strong CAP, are vital components of meeting the food security challenge;
  - 2. Affirms that the EU has the highest standards of agricultural and food production in the world with a strong emphasis on food safety, food quality and the environmental sustainability of agriculture;
  - 3. Takes the view that we will need to make use of all forms of farming in order to be able to feed Europe and third countries;

#### **Food security in Europe and the world**

- 4. Believes that the right to food security is a basic human right and it is achieved when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to suitable, safe (from the point of view of health) and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life;
- 5. Affirms that the EU has a duty to feed its citizens and that continuing farming activity in the EU is key in this regard; draws attention to declining farm incomes in the EU, caused by rising production costs and price volatility, which impact negatively on farmers' ability to maintain production; highlights the costs that European farmers have to bear in meeting the highest food safety, environmental, animal welfare and labour standards in the world; stresses that farmers must be compensated for these additional costs and for providing public goods to society; underlines that food from third countries entering the EU must meet the same high standards, so that European producers do not suffer in terms of competitiveness;
- 6. Recognises that guaranteeing an adequate supply of food is an essential component of food security, but also acknowledges that access to food and affordability of food requires that attention be given to the provision of an adequate standard of living, particularly for those with insufficient economic resources, who are often children, elderly persons,

migrants, refugees and unemployed persons;

7. Supports the formula Food Security - Nutrition - Quality - Proximity- Innovation - Productivity; believes that in order to achieve this the future CAP should take note of the public expectations that it should be both an agricultural and a food policy geared to providing public information about a healthy diet;
8. Considers that the EU should create better conditions for the implementation of nutrition programmes such as School Fruit and School Milk in the Member States, as well as better support for education and awareness-raising about the origin of products and nutrition, given that informed choices about diet can prevent disease and reduce the heavy strain on social spending in Europe; also calls for more dietary support programmes, which should have a reduced administrative burden, and for the budget for those programmes to be increased; invites the Commission to assess the practicalities of these programmes.
9. Reaffirms its support for the EU's Most Deprived Persons programme; recalls that through its Farm Bill the US allocates significant support to its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme, which generates substantial revenues for the sector and the economy in general, in addition to alleviating some of the food needs of its poorest people.
10. Is conscious of the great challenge climate change poses to achieving food security, especially through an increase in the frequency and scale of climatic events, such as droughts, floods, fires and storms; highlights the increasing challenge of water scarcity and its impact on food production; stresses the need to tackle water management and climate change as a matter of urgency.
11. Recalls that energy security and food security are very closely linked; recognises that energy costs are a key factor in determining the level of profitability of agriculture, which is the main oil dependent; encourages measures that incentivise farmers to become more energy efficient and develop alternative energy supply sources; recalls that more consistent support for research development and advisory services is needed.
12. Considers, however, that the increased drive to develop renewable energy sources and meet the 2020 targets must take into account the impact on food production and supply; stresses the delicate balance involved in meeting the food/fuel challenge;
13. Notes the level of reliance on imports of proteins and oleaginous products from third countries, which has negative consequences for the food and farming industry, in particular the animal husbandry sector when price spikes occur;
14. Calls on the Commission to propose a technical solution to the problem of low-level presence of GM material in non-GM imports and to propose a faster approval process within the EU for the importation of a new GM feed variant once it has been proved safe, while also looking into the possibility of authorising the use of production methods brought to bear in third countries;
15. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that the public have access to information on the outcome of food security controls in order to increase transparency at

European level;

16. Is concerned about the emergence of the phenomenon of land grabbing and its implications for food security in developing countries and the future of agriculture and farmers; calls on the Commission to investigate this situation in relation to land tenure and natural resources;
17. Observes that, due to high feed costs, the situation of livestock farms within the EU has deteriorated; calls, therefore, for targeted use of the instruments available under the Common Market Organisation Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 to stabilise the market and avert a crisis;
18. Believes that the productivity gains that will be made in the new Member States will increase the amount of land available and will provide an opportunity to boost the production of proteins and oleaginous products in the EU;
19. Notes that food security cannot be guaranteed if free access to genetic resources for food and agriculture is not available; recognises the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as an important instrument for the preservation of agricultural biodiversity which thereby averts the consequences of climate change;
20. Stresses that the incentives for sustainable energy crops currently being planned should not in any way compromise food security for the public;
21. Calls on the Member States to develop and implement programmes containing concrete agricultural measures aimed at mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change;
22. Stresses the need to promote the launching of an information campaign for consumers regarding efforts by farmers and the agricultural sector in terms of environmental protection and food security;

### **Agriculture, financial markets and price volatility**

23. Believes that financial and agricultural markets today are more intertwined than ever; considers that a European response alone is no longer sufficient and that Europe should act in concert with third countries and international organisations on the issues of price volatility and food security; endorses the action taken towards this end by the G20 Presidency;
24. Highlights the problems faced by farmers at times of extreme market and price volatility; draws attention to the difficulties that farmers encounter in attempting to plan ahead at times of extreme volatility; urges the Commission to introduce permanent and robust measures to address volatility in agricultural markets as a matter of urgency; believes that this will be a key determinant in ensuring that production is maintained in the European Union;
25. Notes that the price index on financial markets for primary agricultural goods has never been so unstable; cites as an example the recent increase in the price of contracts for wheat, which rose by 70% in two months, with the volume of trading in them more than

doubling on the Paris commodities market;

26. Highlights the fact that these events are only partly caused by market fundamentals such as supply and demand and are to a great extent the result of speculation; notes that speculative behaviour has accounted for up to 50% of the recent price hikes; endorses the conclusions of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food regarding the role played by large institutional investors, such as hedge funds, pension funds and investment banks – all generally unconcerned with agricultural markets – in influencing commodities price indexes through their movements on derivatives markets;
27. Supports, in this context, a revision of the existing legislation on financial instruments, which should provide for more transparent trading and minimum thresholds for the operators allowed to trade on these markets; recalls that financial instruments should serve the economy and help agricultural production surmount crises and climatic events; at the same time, speculation should not be allowed to threaten otherwise efficient agricultural holdings;
28. Welcomes the Commission proposal for a regulation on OTC derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories; wishes to see safety nets against extreme price volatility available as a rapid reaction crisis tool; wishes to see coordination on legislation between the EU and third countries, such as the US, in order to reduce opportunities for speculators to take unfair advantage of the differences between various regulatory systems;
29. Is in favour of bolder European action to tackle the problem of speculation, including through a mandate issued to regulators and oversight bodies to restrict speculation; believes that commodity derivatives are different from other financial derivatives and that the former should be dealt with only by traders who have legitimate interests in protecting agricultural merchandise against risks and by other categories of persons directly linked to real agricultural production; calls on the Commission to ensure that dealing with food commodity derivatives is restricted as far as possible to investors directly linked to agricultural markets;
30. Expresses its concern about the far-reaching concentration which has occurred in cereals trading, as a result of which the businesses concerned are able to influence market prices; notes that this can increase the volatility of prices, as cereal merchants have an interest in major price fluctuations because of their speculative transactions; considers that this also demonstrates the need for intervention stocks or for some other safety net to promote price stability and defend the interests of farmers and consumers;
31. Stresses that it is not possible to take effective action against major price fluctuations without intervention stocks or strategic stocks; considers, therefore, that the role of market intervention instruments must be enhanced in the future CAP;
32. Stresses that increased transparency and fairness in the food supply chain is required to ensure a fair return for farmers, fair profits and pricing along the food supply chain and a viable agricultural sector that will deliver food security; urges the Commission to come forward with tangible and effective proposals to address this issue;



33. Points out that, when confronted with price volatility, countries with low income food deficit (LIFDC) tend to be more vulnerable;

#### **Global food stocks for global food security**

34. Notes that at present the total global food supply is not insufficient and that it is rather inaccessibility and high prices which deny many people food security;

35. Notes, however, that global stocks of food are much more limited than in the past, having fallen to a record low of 12 weeks' worth of global food reserves during the food crisis of 2007; points out that world food production is increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events linked to climate change, to increased global pressure on land as a result of urbanisation, and to an increasing number of pests and diseases which can cause sudden and unpredictable food shortages;

36. Considers, therefore, that a targeted global system of food stocks (both emergency stocks to reduce hunger and stocks to be used to regulate commodity prices) would be beneficial, helping to facilitate world trade when price spikes occur, warding off recurring protectionism and easing the pressure on world food markets; considers that these stocks should be managed by a common body under the aegis of the United Nations, or by the FAO, and make full use of the experience amassed by the FAO and the UN World Food Programme; calls on the Commission as a matter of urgency to study and report to Parliament on the most effective way to achieve this; further calls on the Commission to play a leading role in advocating this targeted global food-stock system;

37. Recalls that the EU has so far responded with aid and money, including through the Food Facility; wishes to see reports on the effectiveness of this facility, including with regard to progress in combating causes and symptoms, and calls on the Commission to analyse the possibility of introducing an instrument to help fight famine in the world;

38. Reiterates the importance of developing agriculture in the developing world and the importance of allocating an appropriate share of EU ODA to the agriculture sector; regrets that there has been a dramatic reduction in the level of development aid allocated to agriculture since the 1980s and welcomes the recognition of the need to reverse this trend; calls on the Commission to prioritise agriculture in its development aid, including assistance to farmers in accessing markets;

39. Is dismayed at the conclusions of the 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), pointing out that developed countries are a long way from meeting the commitments given in terms of official development assistance;

40. Commends the initiative taken by the World Bank at the 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to increase its support for the agricultural sector, so as to boost incomes, employment and food security, particularly in low-income areas;

#### **A new CAP to respond to challenges**

41. Reaffirms the position set out in its report on the future of the CAP after 2013; reaffirms

its commitment to a strong agricultural and rural development policy which ensures food security for all, maintains the vitality of rural Europe, makes agriculture more competitive, ensures the continuation of agriculture production throughout the EU, is supportive of innovation, competitiveness and employment, and plays its part in meeting major global challenges, such as climate change; emphasises also the need for further simplification and debureaucratisation of the CAP in order to reduce the implementing costs for beneficiaries;

42. Stresses the role that must be played by young farmers in the future CAP; points out that only 7% of European farmers are younger than 35, and at the same time that no fewer than 4.5 million farmers will retire in the next 10 years; favours strengthening measures beneficial to young farmers such as installation premiums, subsidised interest rates on loans and other incentives which have been implemented by Member States through their rural development budgets; reaffirms the substance of its budget amendment on the exchange programme for young people and wishes to see this implemented as a pilot project; calls also for the removal of all administrative constraints preventing young people from taking up farming;
43. Believes that research and innovation are key to meeting the challenge of food security in increasing production while using less resources; highlights the importance of promoting professional training, access to education, knowledge transfer and the exchange of best practices in the farming sector; reiterates the need for a coordinated approach between the CAP and other policies in order to facilitate access to research and innovation in agriculture;
44. Calls on the Commission and Member States to avail themselves to the full of the opportunities offered by the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development in the field of research and technological innovation so as to improve productivity while respecting energy efficiency and sustainability criteria;
45. Notes that every year the amount of land available for agricultural production is reduced due to climate change and urbanisation; underlines that food security in the EU could be increased by producing food on land affected by climate change, fallow land or abandoned land;
46. Wishes to stress in particular the importance of diversity in European agriculture and of ensuring the coexistence of different agricultural models, including small-scale farming which creates jobs in rural parts of the EU, as well as that of the diversity and quality of food, including small-farm and non-industrial products in short supply chains, and nutrition across Europe, with a view to fostering the development of rural areas and preserving the heritage of regional food and wine sectors;
47. Notes that local traditional agricultural practices, family farming, small-scale, and organic farming, can make a valuable contribution to food security, because they often represent effective ways of utilising land through methods specifically developed in individual regions over lengthy periods of time and enable a deep connection to be established between a product and the area in which it originates and which symbolises the quality and authenticity of the product; stresses the need for those types of agriculture to co-exist with sustainable modern farms, combining high productivity with sustainable land use.

48. Emphasises also that the excessive subdivision of farmland in some Member States is an impediment to agricultural productivity, and that steps need to be taken to encourage the amalgamation of small agricultural holdings;
49. Highlights the need to preserve the diversity of agriculture in the EU, acknowledges that local markets supplied by fresh and locally produced agricultural goods are environmentally sustainable and help to support established farming communities; stresses the importance of agriculture in less favoured areas; calls on the Commission to address the diverse European agricultural models in its future CAP proposals, including a consideration of the possibility of creating special financial incentives and identification schemes.
50. The need to implement a fairer CAP, which should ensure a balanced distribution of support to farmers, both within and between all Member States, greater territorial cohesion, and the phasing-out of export subsidies, in parallel with the phasing out of all forms of export subsidies by the EU's trading partners and the imposition of discipline on all export measures with equivalent effect;
51. Recognises that reforms of the CAP have significantly reduced the impact of the EU's agricultural production on developing countries, with export refunds all but eliminated; calls for the EU to recognise the importance of supporting the agricultural sectors of developing countries, particularly by ensuring that agriculture is prioritised in developing countries and in the EU's overseas development aid budget;
52. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Food security is a human right. It is achieved when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Nowadays the agricultural sector must meet a growing population's need for safe and sufficient food, despite the obstacles of limited natural resources, high energy prices, and climate change.

According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), food production must increase by at least 70 percent to meet the growing demands of a world population which is expected to exceed 9 billion by 2050. Furthermore, around 900 million people worldwide are chronically hungry due to extreme poverty, while up to 2 billion people lack genuine, long-term food security due to varying degrees of poverty. In Europe, 16% of citizens still live below the poverty line. In spite of apparent sufficiency of supplies, a significant proportion of the world population cannot afford the basic food it needs; accessibility of food remains a key issue to be dealt with.

Thus, food security continues to require a strong Common Agricultural Policy. The main objectives of the CAP have been: to increase agricultural productivity; to help farmers attain a fair standard of living; to stabilise markets; and to ensure a secure supply of affordable food. But its success resulted in unintended overproduction and surpluses which distorted the market and raised environmental concerns.

Through successive reforms, the CAP has become a market oriented, decoupled and environmentally conscious policy, which includes a significant rural development component. The new CAP should improve food security by increasing productivity, whilst simultaneously encouraging environmentally sustainable food production.

In the EU around 80 million people still live below the poverty line and many of them are helped through food aid programmes. It is important to be sure that food is accessible to all social categories of people; in this regard it is essential to maintain and extend the program for the most deprived persons.

Food security as an objective cannot be reached without tackling two of the most important questions of the day: market and price volatility (strongly influenced by speculation on commodities markets) and dwindling food stocks.

Your rapporteur notes that recent extreme price volatility has only been partially caused by real market evolutions and is mainly the result of speculation. The UN special rapporteur on the right to food highlights the role played by large institutional investors, such as hedge funds, pension funds and investment banks - all generally unconcerned with agricultural markets - on commodities price indexes through their movements on derivatives markets.

I support in this context a revision of existing legislation on financial instruments which should provide for more transparency of exchanges and minimum thresholds for the operators which can trade on these markets. Financial instruments should serve the economy and help agricultural production surmount crises and climatic events; at the

same time, speculation should not be allowed to threaten efficient agricultural exploitations;

Your rapporteur also welcomes in this regard the proposal from the European Commission for a regulation on OTC derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories and hopes to see further instruments in place against extreme price volatility as part of the new CAP post 2013.

Furthermore, I draw attention to the fact that global stocks of staple foods are much more limited than in the past, having fallen to a record low of 12 weeks worth of global food stocks during the food crisis of 2007. At the same time, world food production is increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events linked to climate change, which can cause sudden and unpredictable food shortages.

Your rapporteur considers therefore that a global security system of food stocks would be beneficial, helping to ease world trade when price spikes occur, fighting off recurring protectionism and freeing world food markets. These stocks should be managed by a common body under the aegis of the United Nations and make full use of the experience amassed by the FAO and the UN World Food Programme. Therefore, your rapporteur calls on the Commission to play a leading role in advocating this global food stock system.

Finally, the new CAP to be put in place after 2013 needs to respond clearly and unequivocally to food security and other challenges, most notably climate change, the economic crisis and keeping territorial balance within the EU. Your rapporteur reaffirms her support for the text we adopted on the future of the CAP (Lyon report) and further wishes to stress some key points.

First and foremost, your rapporteur upholds the importance of diversity in agriculture around Europe. We need to promote not only competitiveness, but also traditional agriculture, small scale farming, organic farming and local distribution. These models of agriculture make a valuable contribution to food security because they often represent the most effective way of utilising land in diverse geographical regions of the EU through the use of methods which have been specifically developed in distinct regions over long periods of time. Your rapporteur calls on the Commission to address these agricultural models in its future CAP proposals and to explore the possibility of creating special financial incentives.

Furthermore, in the context of an ageing rural population, I believe it is very important to guarantee access to land and credit for young farmers. In the EU only 7% of the farmers are under 40 years old and in about 10 years 4.5 millions will retire. It is therefore vital to encourage young people to enter the agricultural sector through new programs and improved access to credit.

The EU has ambitious energy targets; 20% renewable energy in the energy mix by 2020 and 10% renewable energy in transport fuel by 2020. These targets have encouraged the cultivation of biofuels on a large scale, but biofuel production competes with food production for land, which has a potentially negative impact on food security. Improved integration of food and energy production can reduce the competition for available land,

as can the development of second and third generation biofuels.

It is essential that the financing of the CAP reflect its ambitious vision and policy objectives. To ensure food security and tackle the effects of climate change, to ensure territorial balance, to maintain reasonable food prices and a decent income for farmers, the CAP budget should, at the very least, be maintained at the current level.

30.11.2010

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY**

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the recognition of agriculture as a strategic sector in the context of food security  
(2010/2112(INI))

Rapporteur: Sergio Berlato

### **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. Reaffirms that the right to food is a fundamental human right; points out that the rights of all the Member States to food sovereignty and food security are essential to the European Union and that continuous efforts are needed to ensure that those rights are guaranteed at the EU and world level given that every day 25 000 people starve to death or die from hunger-related disease and given that, according to FAO data, an increase in the world population of between 7 and 9.1 billion will necessitate a 70% increase in food supply by 2050;
2. Recognises that food security and food safety are two complementary concepts and stresses that respecting food sovereignty constitutes an important contribution to guaranteeing food security, which goes always hand in hand with the safeguarding of high standards of food safety;
3. Stresses the importance of the security of food supply for not only the Member States but also the developing countries; calls on the European Union to undertake to assist the developing countries in achieving an adequate level of food self-sufficiency by means of more diverse food production, with a view to freeing themselves from their dependency on monoculture (coffee, cocoa, bananas etc.), which is frequently intensive and highly polluting, forcing them to import almost all the food they need;

4. Is deeply concerned at the effects of the recent economic and financial crisis, which, despite shrinking financial resources in all economic sectors with severe repercussions for the food chain, should not result in reduced vigilance over the safety of food products; calls on the Commission and Member States to strengthen existing programmes to guarantee food safety in the Member States;
5. Stresses that food products must be affordable for consumers and that producers must receive appropriate prices for their products, condemns the agreements entered into by large-scale retailers and calls for measures to be taken to end such practices and ensure transparency in the way in which final-consumer and food-producer prices for food products are formed;
6. Stresses the need to halt and reverse the decline in the diversity of cultivated plant species and varieties and the erosion of the genetic base on which human and animal nutrition depends; urges that action be taken to promote the effective use of traditional agricultural varieties specific to certain regions and encourage sustainable small and medium-scale production linked to local and regional markets and consumption;
7. Is concerned that 2008, the year of the global food crisis, was also the greatest wheat-producing year in world history;
8. Is dismayed at the conclusions of the 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), pointing out that developed countries are a long way from meeting the commitments given in terms of official development assistance;
9. Commends the initiative taken by the World Bank at the 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to increase its support for the agricultural sector, so as to boost incomes, employment and food security, particularly in low-income areas;
10. Calls for food safety controls in the Union to be improved and strengthened and endorses the conclusions of the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council on the overall operation of official controls in the Member States on food safety, animal health and animal welfare and plant health (COM(2010)0441), which calls for consideration to be given to implementing a series of measures, in close cooperation with the Member States, to make the compiling, analysis and presentation of information on controls more efficient and comprehensive, so as to enable the national authorities and the Commission to give EU citizens every assurance that control systems are effective;
11. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that the public have access to information on the outcome of the controls in order to increase transparency on a European level;
12. Stresses the fact that to ensure the production of food, the agricultural sector has to rely on sufficient water resources of good quality, thus having the obligation to implement good agricultural practices to adhere to the highest standards of both water quantity and quality;
13. Given the expected increase in global food demand and the consequent pressure on natural resources, stresses the need to meet the requirements of food security whilst ensuring the



conservation of biodiversity and urgently tackling environmental problems such as soil degradation, biodiversity loss, etc.;

14. Stresses the need to promote the launching of an information campaign for consumers regarding efforts by farmers and the agricultural sector in terms of environmental protection and food security;
15. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage research, particularly into new generations of biofuels, efficient use of farm waste, environmentally friendly fertilisers and new farming technologies, minimising land-use impact and underpinning the leading role of the EU regarding environmental protection initiatives;
16. Calls on the Commission and Member States to avail themselves to the full of the opportunities offered by the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development in the field of research and technological innovation so as to improve productivity, while respecting energy efficiency and sustainability criteria;
17. Calls for measures to improve on-the-job training for young people in areas such as EU food safety standards and to create job opportunities for those with the requisite qualifications, the principal objective being to encourage employment in this sector;
18. Considers it essential to improve the organisation of the food supply chain so as to reduce the environmental impact of food transport and promote the marketing of local traditional food products;
19. Notes that small and medium-sized undertakings are the cornerstone for development and growth in the Member States and the Union; stresses the importance of stimulating investment in productive activity and access to credit;
20. Stresses that the incentives for sustainable energy crops currently being planned should not in any way compromise food security for the public;
21. Stresses that seed oligopolies have devastating effects on the sustainability of small-scale farming, fostering dependency on a limited number of corporations for the purchasing of seeds and specialised fertilisers;
22. Notes with regret that in many cases EU rules place an undue burden on the sharing of traditional seeds and varieties and hinder time-honoured traditions of sharing knowledge and farming practices;
23. Welcomes the widespread action taken by thousands of farmers, environmental groups, scientists and citizens for the in-situ conservation and propagation of local genetic material; recalls further that the diversity of seeds adapted to local conditions is a necessary prerequisite for food security, especially in the face of climate change;
24. Points out the desirability of focusing on supporting and increasing the resilience of organic, small-scale farming systems producing for local and regional consumption;
25. Stresses the importance of organic farming practices with a view to better worldwide food

security;

26. Calls for the introduction of specific support for urban agriculture, as this will entail multiple benefits for food security, employment, environmental education, recreation and the urban climate;
27. Calls for public aid to farming to be made conditional on practices which respect biodiversity and protect the land;
28. Believes that, to ensure effective adaptation to the challenges of climate change and its consequences, particularly increased extreme weather events and pest outbreaks, a wide diversity of locally-adapted crops and breeds is needed and efforts to maintain this genetic diversity must be intensified;
29. Calls on the Member States to develop and implement programmes containing concrete agricultural measures aimed at mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change;
30. Stresses that, in order to maintain food security and pursue the EU 2020 Strategy, efficient use of resources and innovation in farming with regard to sustainability must be encouraged;
31. Takes the view that the common agricultural policy (CAP) after 2013 should properly reward EU farmers for their efforts to provide a high-quality food supply while ensuring an efficient and sustainable use of natural resources;
32. Considers that the common agricultural policy (CAP) needs to accord far more substantial support to local and regional farmers, thereby encouraging biodiversity and organic farming, which afford many benefits both to the consumer and to the environment;
33. Calls on Member States and the Commission to provide objective information and education for consumers regarding seasonal and regional foods; considers that this would support farming and preserve well-tended landscapes in the local area, as well as avoiding long supply routes and unnecessary carbon dioxide emissions and guaranteeing fresh and high-quality food for consumers;
34. Recalls that food is a valuable and limited resource which has a considerable impact on health, the environment and development; urges the Commission to propose to the Union a comprehensive food policy which, instead of a sectoral approach, brings together under the umbrella of a single comprehensive policy aspects which are currently considered in a fragmented manner;
35. Considers that the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) has a major role to play in the assessment and notification of all risks associated with the food chain as part of a set of measures designed to protect the health and wellbeing of the public; hopes that all Member States will set up corresponding national bodies to collaborate with the EFSA.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	30.11.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 44 -: 0 0: 6
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Elena Oana Antonescu, Kriton Arsenis, Pilar Ayuso, Sergio Berlato, Milan Cabrnoch, Martin Callanan, Nessa Childers, Chris Davies, Anne Delvaux, Bas Eickhout, Jill Evans, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Julie Girling, Nick Griffin, Françoise Grossetête, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Dan Jørgensen, Jo Leinen, Corinne Lepage, Peter Liese, Linda McAvan, Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Gilles Pargneaux, Andres Perello Rodriguez, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Vittorio Prodi, Frédérique Ries, Oreste Rossi, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Carl Schlyter, Richard Seeber, Theodoros Skylakakis, Catherine Soullie, Salvatore Tatarella, Anja Weisgerber, Sabine Wils, Marina Yannakoudakis
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Marisa Matias, Judith A. Merkies, Bill Newton Dunn, James Nicholson, Alojz Peterle, Rovana Plumb, Bart Staes, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Giommaria Uggias, Thomas Ulmer

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	1.12.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 34 -: 3 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	John Stuart Agnew, Richard Ashworth, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Diane Dodds, Herbert Dorfmann, Lorenzo Fontana, Iratxe García Pérez, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Elisabeth Köstinger, Stéphane Le Foll, Mairead McGuinness, James Nicholson, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Georgios Papastamkos, Marit Paulsen, Britta Reimers, Ulrike Rodust, Alfreds Rubiks, Giancarlo Scottà, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Marc Tarabella
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Alejandro Cercas, Spyros Danellis, Bas Eickhout, Marian Harkin, Giovanni La Via, Véronique Mathieu, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Dimitar Stoyanov, Artur Zasada, Milan Zver
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Heide Rühle