



**2020/XXXX(INI)**

30.6.2020

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 86**

**Draft opinion**

**Pina Picierno**

(PE652.568v01-00)

A new strategy for European SMEs

(2020/XXXX(INI))



### **Amendment 1**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

#### **Draft opinion**

**Citation 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

- ***having regard to the Commission communication on the a Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system (COM(2020) 381),***

Or. en

### **Amendment 2**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

#### **Draft opinion**

**Citation 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

- ***having regard to the Commission communication on an EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (COM(2020) 380),***

Or. en

### **Amendment 3**

**Anne Sander**

#### **Draft opinion**

**Recital A**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

A. whereas Europe's 25 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) employ around 100 million people and account for more than half of Europe's GDP;

A. whereas Europe's 25 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) employ around 100 million people and account for more than half of Europe's GDP; ***whereas they are among the social and economic mainstays of Europe, for example in terms of regional***

*enhancement, planning and cohesion in rural areas and elsewhere;*

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 4**

**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

#### **Draft opinion**

##### **Recital A**

##### *Draft opinion*

A. whereas Europe's 25 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) employ around 100 million people and account for more than half of Europe's GDP;

##### *Amendment*

A. whereas Europe's 25 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) employ around 100 million people and account for more than half of Europe's GDP; *whereas, according to Eurostat data, 98.9 % of enterprises in the EU's non-financial business economy are small enterprises with fewer than 49 workers;*

Or. it

#### **Amendment 5**

**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

#### **Draft opinion**

##### **Recital B**

##### *Draft opinion*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 **food** and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs;

##### *Amendment*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 **agri-food** and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs;

Or. it

#### **Amendment 6**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital B**

*Draft opinion*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 food and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs;

*Amendment*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 food and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs, ***many of which are found in rural areas;***

Or. en

**Amendment 7**  
**Paolo De Castro, Pina Picierno**

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital B**

*Draft opinion*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 food and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs;

*Amendment*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were ***22 000 agri-cooperatives and*** 289 000 food and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs;

Or. en

**Amendment 8**  
**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital B**

*Draft opinion*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 food and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs;

*Amendment*

B. whereas, according to Commission data, in 2017 there were 289 000 food and drink companies in Europe, 90 % of which were SMEs ***and taking into account that they play a vital role in the rural economy;***

**Amendment 9**  
**Anne Sander**

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital C**

*Draft opinion*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a wide range of deeply transformative policies for farmers, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies;

*Amendment*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a wide range of deeply transformative policies for farmers, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies; ***whereas SMEs have a key role to play in achievement of Green Deal targets;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 10**  
**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital C**

*Draft opinion*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a ***wide*** range of ***deeply transformative*** policies ***for*** farmers, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies;

*Amendment*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a range of policies ***that will affect*** farmers, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies;

Or. it

**Amendment 11**  
**Claude Gruffat**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital C**

*Draft opinion*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a wide range of deeply transformative policies for farmers, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies;

*Amendment*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a wide range of deeply transformative policies for farmers **and other operators in rural areas**, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies, **whose successful implementation will depend to a large extent on the coherence of the CAP and of the Member States’ Strategic Plans with the strategies’ respective goals**;

Or. en

**Amendment 12**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**

**Recital C**

*Draft opinion*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a wide range of deeply transformative policies for **farmers**, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies;

*Amendment*

C. whereas the European Green Deal involves a wide range of deeply transformative policies for the **agri-food sectors**, including the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, as well as biodiversity strategies;

Or. en

**Amendment 13**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**

**Recital C a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

**Ca. whereas the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the precarious financial situation of SMEs, as many of them will not recover due to the confinement**

*Amendment*

*measures, which have had the strongest impact on sales orientated to the HoReCa sector and to third countries;*

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital Ca (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*Ca. whereas SMEs were hardest hit by the impact of the health crisis, forcing many of them out of business;*

Or. ro

**Amendment 15**  
**Michaela Šojdrová**

**Draft opinion**  
**Recital C a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*Ca. whereas the EU has traditionally supported and wants to continue to support family farms, which are typically SMEs, and a “Farm to Fork” strategy is also aimed at them;*

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Welcomes the fact that the strategy takes into account the diversity of SMEs in terms of business models, size, age and entrepreneurial profiles;

*Amendment*

1. Welcomes the fact that the strategy takes into account the diversity of SMEs in terms of business models, size, age and entrepreneurial profiles; ***stresses that the strategy should take into account their economic and social impact on the areas or sectors in which they operate;***

Or. ro

**Amendment 17**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Highlights the need to support diversity in SMEs, in the context of a lack of skilled employees as well as underrepresentation of female entrepreneurship; Considers that enhanced access to skills trainings, including managerial skills and knowledge are critical for SMEs, including appropriate mentoring, coaching, skilling and up-skilling schemes with special attention to potential female entrepreneurs;***

Or. en

**Amendment 18**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Welcomes the intention of the European Commission to scale-up and promote in the context of the Farm to Fork strategy the circular business models to provide new entrepreneurial opportunities, including by making use of food waste, and supports specific measures tailored to agri-food SMEs;***

Or. en

**Amendment 19**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b. Considers it important to reinforce support for innovative investments undertaken by the SMEs to assist them in making the ecological transition while enhancing their economic resilience;***

Or. en

**Amendment 20**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1c. Highlights the need to increase access to and availability of broadband in all rural areas in order to facilitate the establishment of SMEs and to promote innovative production methods, such as***

*precision farming;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 21**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Recalls that food production and processing is an essential sector in which SMEs play a very large role and that this sector will be crucial in the COVID-19 recovery period;

##### *Amendment*

2. Recalls that food production and processing is an essential sector in which SMEs play a very large role and that this sector will be crucial in the COVID-19 recovery period; ***highlights that a recovery based on European Green Deal and digital transition is an opportunity to accelerate and take advantage of the green and digital transformation; considers that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need for support to social economy enterprises such as small-scale food distributors, and those active in health and transport;***

Or. en

## **Amendment 22**

**Daniel Buda**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Recalls that food production and processing is an essential sector in which SMEs play a very large role and that this sector will be crucial in the COVID-19 recovery period;

##### *Amendment*

2. Recalls that food production and processing is an essential sector in which SMEs play a very large role and that this sector will be crucial in the COVID-19 recovery period; ***stresses in this regard the capacity of SMEs in the farming sector to***

*adapt to market needs;*

Or. ro

## **Amendment 23**

**Anne Sander**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Recalls that food production and processing is an essential sector in which SMEs play a very large role and that this sector will be crucial in the COVID-19 recovery period;

##### *Amendment*

2. Recalls that food production and processing is an essential sector in which SMEs play a very large role and that this sector will be crucial in the COVID-19 recovery period; ***stresses that free movement for seasonal workers in the agri-food sector must be guaranteed so as to avoid future labour shortages;***

Or. fr

## **Amendment 24**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2 a (new)**

##### *Draft opinion*

##### *Amendment*

***2a. Considers that microenterprises and SMEs, alongside rural enterprises and farms, play a significant role in sustainable regional development, by the deployment of their resources towards the production of food and other goods (sustainable bioeconomy, renewable energies) as well as services (tourism, protection of landscapes and habitats, restoration of ecosystems), which is undertaken through employment linked to the land and not suited to delocalisation;***

**Amendment 25**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***2a. Stresses that the agricultural sector is and must remain an essential and systemically-relevant sector for the EU, one which, as a primary sector, supplies high-quality raw materials for the secondary and artisanal food sectors for the benefit of our European consumers;***

Or. de

**Amendment 26**  
**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***2a. Welcomes the intention of the European Commission to tailor solutions to help SME food processors and small retail and food service operators to develop new skills and business models, while avoiding additional administrative and cost burdens, and to provide advisory services through the Enterprise Europe Network, within the framework of the new Farm to Fork strategy;***

Or. en

**Amendment 27**  
**Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Welcomes the Commission temporary framework on State aid following the severe consequences due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which will increase in the state aid limits, allowing Member States to grant up to 100.000 euros per single farms and up to 800.000 euros for food processing and marketing companies; welcomes the new temporary measure under the Rural Development Regulation, allowing EU member States to offer support of up to €7.000 per farmer and €50.000 per SME;**

Or. en

**Amendment 28**  
**Isabel Carvalhais, Pina Picierno**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Highlights that SMEs are key elements of economic development and employment in rural areas, where they account for about 75% of total employment<sup>1</sup>;**

---

**<sup>1a</sup> ESPON (2018) Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in European Regions and Cities, Final report**

Or. en

**Amendment 29**  
**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2b. Stresses the need to pay special attention to supporting agri-tourism activities by SMEs and considers it necessary to set up a specific allocation within the recovery plan, in order to assist and support agri-tourism enterprises to overcome the impact of the COVID-19 crisis;**

Or. en

**Amendment 30**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2b. Points out that agricultural production is characterised by fluctuating demand for labour and is seasonal in nature; stresses the need for a thorough understanding of employment and costs in agriculture in order to respond to unexpected fluctuations;**

Or. de

**Amendment 31**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2c. Stresses that continuous education, training and further training is essential**

*for seizing technological and innovation opportunities in the agricultural sector and continuously optimising productivity and a sustainable economy;*

Or. de

**Amendment 32**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*2d. Calls for support for entrepreneurial initiatives, skills and competences and for the continuous and targeted promotion of vocational education and training for women in rural areas;*

Or. de

**Amendment 33**  
**Claude Gruffat**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to *continue* to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to *focus on removing barriers within the single market, in order to strengthen and diversify short supply chains in the agri-food sector; considers that efforts* to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets *may be undertaken where consistent with food sovereignty of both parties, and where consistent with existing climate commitments*, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

**Amendment 34**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

*Amendment*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal; ***underlines the remarkable results obtained by European product promotion campaigns in third country markets and stresses the importance of continuing these programmes in the future;***

Or. ro

**Amendment 35**  
**Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' ***access to*** third country ***markets***, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

*Amendment*

3. ***Considers that Free Trade Agreements concluded between the EU and its global partners should not put at risk sensitive sectors in EU agriculture but should rather be an opportunity for SMEs in the agricultural sector;*** considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' ***market share and develop new market outlets in third countries***, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

**Amendment 36**  
**Veronika Vrecionová**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

*Amendment*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal. ***No measure hampering SMEs competitiveness, and the free market principle, should be proposed;***

**Amendment 37**  
**Anne Sander**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal;

*Amendment*

3. Considers it extremely important for the Commission to continue to enhance SMEs' access to third country markets, including through dialogue, exchange of good practice with trade partners and a new information portal; ***stresses the vital importance of a coherent commercial policy to avoid unfair competition from third-country imports that fail to meet our standards;***

**Amendment 38**  
**Claude Gruffat**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a. Believes that decades of globalisation have resulted in de-industrialisation and the relocation of strategic sectors such as food and health within the Union and worldwide; underlines the important lessons of the COVID crisis regarding the need to rethink the way the economy functions and the implications of this for Union policy making; stresses the particular need to reform and align Union policies; points out that the CAP and trade policy must be adapted to step up food security in the Union, for example through the relocation of sustainable agricultural and food production throughout the Union;**

Or. fr

**Amendment 39**  
**Ivo Hristov**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a. Notes that animal diseases such as African swine fever, peste des petits ruminants, lumpy skin disease and others had and/or are still having very negative impact on SMEs in the agri-food sector causing closing of businesses, which has serious socio-economic consequences for the local economies; calls on the responsible administrations to provide equal treatment and rapid and fair response and support to the affected**

*businesses;*

Or. en

**Amendment 40**

**Riho Terras**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a. Considers it extremely important for the upcoming digital transition to benefit SMEs operating in the agricultural sector, as their competitiveness is increasingly linked to the reliable functioning of digital infrastructure and services, especially in rural and peripheral regions;**

Or. en

**Amendment 41**

**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a. Urges Member States to accept as fundamental political priorities the protection of employment and SMEs' production capacity in the agri-food sector; urges them to monitor compliance with rules on commercial relations in the food supply chain and to ensure that urgent measures are taken to support SMEs at risk of insolvency;**

Or. it

**Amendment 42**  
**Claude Gruffat**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3b. Emphasizes that EU and national authorities must strengthen their efforts to protect SMEs from unfair market practices that can result from the abuse of dominant market positions, whether of large suppliers, processors or customers;**

Or. en

**Amendment 43**  
**Claude Gruffat**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3c. Recalls that 99.8% of EU companies are SMEs, and therefore their sustainability is vital for the EU's sustainability; Highlights that sustainability objectives can create new jobs and business opportunities for SMEs whilst improving their competitiveness; stresses that the Farm to Fork Strategy can create opportunities for local value chains, composed of small farmers and food companies;**

Or. en

**Amendment 44**  
**Claude Gruffat**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for **adequate and** sufficient support for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules;

*Amendment*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for sufficient support for **microenterprises and SMEs in order to support them in investing in regionalised organic supply chains, and** to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules;

Or. en

**Amendment 45**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules;

*Amendment*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; **stresses that small and medium-sized farms and SMEs in the farming and food sector must not suffer the consequences of measures to implement this strategy and should therefore receive special attention;** believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules;

Or. ro

**Amendment 46**  
**Michaela Šojdrová**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support, for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules;

*Amendment*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support, ***including through financial instruments (in particular in the framework of CAP, cohesion policy and recovery plan)*** for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules; ***calls for strategies and legislation to take into account the potential and experiences of small and medium-sized farmers;***

Or. en

**Amendment 47**  
**Anne Sander**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules;

*Amendment*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that ***all types of agriculture (conventional, organic, conservation and precision farming)*** can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support for SMEs to deal with any associated increased administrative requirements or compliance rules; ***stresses that this strategy should not entail additional administrative constraints for***

*the enterprises concerned and should provide for appropriate transition support measures;*

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 48**

**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

#### **Draft opinion**

##### **Paragraph 4**

###### *Draft opinion*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support for SMEs *to deal with any associated increased* administrative requirements or compliance rules;

###### *Amendment*

4. Points out that the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy will affect most farmers, whose operations are often small family businesses operating on low margins; believes that the organic sector can benefit from this strategy, and calls for adequate and sufficient support for SMEs; *believes that this strategy should not increase* administrative requirements or compliance rules *for European farmers;*

Or. it

#### **Amendment 49**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

#### **Draft opinion**

##### **Paragraph 4 a (new)**

###### *Draft opinion*

###### *Amendment*

*4a. Supports the Commission’s call on Member States and contracting authorities to divide large public procurement contracts into smaller lots, given the potential to facilitate the participation of agri-food SMEs in public procurement and thereby contribute to shortening and diversifying supply chains, in line with the goals of the Farm to Fork*

*Strategy; calls for more guidance to public authorities and to SMEs on existing flexibilities and adaptation of public procurement rules to this end;*

Or. en

**Amendment 50**  
**Isabel Carvalhais, Pina Picierno**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4a. Stresses that SMEs in rural areas, especially those located in peripheral rural areas, often face distinctive and more challenging conditions for operation, such as small local markets and distance of major markets, lower transport connections and digital connectivity and less training opportunities; emphasises the need for appropriate policy design and support with respect to market development, exporting and marketing for rural SMEs;*

Or. en

**Amendment 51**  
**Anne Sander**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4b. Recalls that the digital transition is a major issue for our SMEs, in the agri-food sector and elsewhere; stresses the need to promote digital training and upskilling;*

Or. fr

**Amendment 52**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4a. Considers that the next CAP reform should strongly pursue a simplification of the administrative procedures as red tape has very negative impact for small and medium holdings, by increasing their disadvantages in comparison with bigger ones;**

Or. en

**Amendment 53**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4b. Calls for stricter application of the Late Payments Directive, and urges the Commission to improve monitoring and enforcement;**

Or. en

**Amendment 54**

**Irène Tolleret, Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4b. Is of the opinion that the CAP**

*reform should deliver a more balanced support for small and medium farms and that the EU support should prioritised the family farm model;*

Or. en

**Amendment 55**  
**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4c. Calls for a strong CAP budget that meets the new Green Deal challenges and asks that the New Generation EU allocation to CAP prioritise the support to the small and medium size enterprises;**

Or. en

**Amendment 56**  
**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4d. Highlights the need to boost the support of entrepreneurship via accessible investment, training, accessible R&D, and innovation for SMEs in the food supply chain;**

Or. en

**Amendment 57**  
**Irène Tolleret, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4e.** *Notes that there is a high level of fragmentation in the agricultural production compared to other operators of the food chain to the detriment of the bargaining power of small farmers and therefore considers it necessary to reinforce the EU derogations and adaptations to the competition rules in the agricultural sector in order to establish a better balance between the different operators;*

Or. en

**Amendment 58**  
**Irène Tolleret, Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4f.** *Welcomes the new legislation on Unfair Trading Practices, and recognises that it is a first historical step in the direction of harmonizing the rules at EU level which would benefit the bargaining power of SMEs in the agri-food sector, but regrets that sales at a loss are not covered by the EU directive;*

Or. en

**Amendment 59**  
**Irène Tolleret, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 g (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4g. Strongly supports the application of the “think small principle/SME test” across all legislative proposals and in particular in tailoring the measures relevant to rural SMESs in the new Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies and therefore asks for the realisation of proper impact assessments by the European Commission;**

Or. en

### **Amendment 60**

**Claude Gruffat**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

#### **Draft opinion**

##### **Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company;

*Amendment*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, **and in particular social SMESs**, to ensure long-term **environmental and economic** sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company;

Or. en

### **Amendment 61**

**Daniel Buda**

#### **Draft opinion**

##### **Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Considers that support under the

*Amendment*

5. Considers that support under the

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company; **welcomes the decision to earmark 2% of unspent EAFRD appropriations for crisis measures that could save the SMEs hardest hit by the pandemic fallout;**

Or. ro

**Amendment 62**  
**Herbert Dorfmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) **could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company.**

*Amendment*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) **is very important for farms and SMEs in the agri-food sector;**

Or. it

**Amendment 63**  
**Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire

*Amendment*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs **in the agri-food sector, to promote**

lifecycle of a company;

***multifunctionality and*** to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company;

Or. en

**Amendment 64**  
**Anne Sander**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term ***sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company.***

*Amendment*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term ***development and diversification.***

Or. fr

**Amendment 65**  
**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs, to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company.

*Amendment*

5. Considers that support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) could be targeted towards farms and other businesses in rural areas, which may include SMEs ***in the agri-food sector,*** to ensure long-term sustainability along the entire lifecycle of a company.

Or. it

**Amendment 66**  
**Claude Gruffat**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Stresses the need for provision of support and advice for SMEs in terms of sustainability and digitalisation; Considers that, as concerns digitalisation within the SME strategy, priority must be given to provision of basic digital skills to all non-digital SMEs, including information on their rights and obligations within digitalisation, and that this need is particularly acute in sectors which have high percentages of SMEs and in which digitalisation is not developed;**

Or. en

**Amendment 67**  
**Paolo De Castro, Pina Picierno**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Calls on the Commission to ensure a full and homogenous enforcement of the Late Payment Directive, as well as of the Directive on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain, in order to improve the functioning of the entire food supply chain within the EU Single Market and strengthen the bargaining position of farms, cooperatives and agri-food SMEs;**

Or. en

**Amendment 68**  
**Ivo Hristov**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5a. Urges authorities, local, regional and national to support and encourage use of agri-food EU and/or national and regional quality schemes especially among SMEs as means of creating jobs and preserving traditional production practices and culinary heritage;***

Or. en

**Amendment 69**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5a. Stresses that promoting the concept of diversification, e.g. through agrotourism or direct marketing, social services or other farm-based activities, forms an important entrepreneurial basis and complements an adequate income for farms;***

Or. de

**Amendment 70**  
**Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.** *Points out that many EU rural areas are also zones where high quality agricultural products and foodstuffs are produced; underlines the importance of cooperatives in the agri-food sectors and their social added value to rural areas; stresses the importance of SMEs in the agritourism sector, and their role in ensuring vibrant rural areas by providing employment; asks therefore for support to those SMEs, often family businesses, especially for broadband access and connectivity and promotion of their products in the single market and third countries; calls for the development of an EU e-label to provide online consumers with a modern and digital list of ingredients and nutrition information;*

Or. en

#### **Amendment 71**

**Irène Tolleret, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

#### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.** *Regrets that the new provisions proposed by the European Commission in the context of the Rural Development regulation to help farmers overcome the crisis are discriminatory towards those countries that do not have funds left at the end of this programming period and this unbalanced situation may end up with a distortion of competition between Member States;*

Or. en

**Amendment 72**

**Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5b. *Highlights that women represent only 30% of EU farm managers; notes that on average they tend to have significantly smaller farms compared to men; stresses the need to promote and support female entrepreneurship in agriculture with targeted measures;***

Or. en

**Amendment 73**

**Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Jérémy Decerle, Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5b. *Points out the deficiencies detected in the functioning of green lanes during the confinement period, due to the lack of harmonisation of procedures between Member States and the negative impact this has had on a large number of agri-food SMEs, and stresses the need to avoid disruptions in the single market to guarantee the supply of goods and the movement of essential workers;***

Or. en

**Amendment 74**

**Ivo Hristov**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5b. Reminds that some sectors such as beekeeping are managed mostly by micro- or SMEs, which do not have the same financial liquidity as bigger enterprises and which makes it harder to get loans or other similar financial instruments to grow or develop; notes that factors such as uncontrolled or overuse of plant protection products in some regions or price pressure have had devastating economic effects on beekeepers and SMEs, who depend on them;***

Or. en

**Amendment 75  
Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5b. Considers that improved quality of services and facilities in the general interest is as important in rural areas as in urban areas; stresses that such services for everyday life, such as childcare, care for the elderly, health care and schools, lead to improved living standards in rural areas and minimise rural depopulation;***

Or. de

**Amendment 76  
Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5c.** *Points out that only 11% of EU farms, mostly SMEs, are run by persons under 40; commends the already existing measures to support young farmers, such as the Young Farmer Payment (YFP); notes that, nonetheless, poor information flows and administrative burdens may lead to young farmers missing out on EU subsidies; calls therefore for additional targeted measures for young farmers; urges support for improved knowledge transfer between generations of farmers and generational renewal in agriculture;*

Or. en

**Amendment 77**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5c.** *Calls for support for work-life balance initiatives in order to take account of the needs of farming families and to ensure appropriate measures such as parental leave or the provision of replacement workers in the event of illness;*

Or. de

**Amendment 78**  
**Pina Picierno, Paolo De Castro, Carmen Avram, Ivo Hristov, Isabel Carvalhais**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5d.** *Calls for targeted measures to*

*support the development and the dissemination of digital skills in the agri-food sector; asks for support to innovative SMEs in order to deliver sustainable and green-tech innovations; highlights the importance of developing AI technologies tailored to the agri-food sector;*

Or. en

**Amendment 79**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5d. Notes that the development of effective bioenergy competence centres is crucial in adequately addressing the need for solutions to climate change, enabling the shift towards carbon-neutral agriculture by 2050 to become one of the pillars of the Green Deal;*

Or. de

**Amendment 80**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5e. Stresses that bioenergy from agriculture and forestry for mobile and stationary use is already the fastest and cheapest possible development in the mobility and heating sector and can be rapidly expanded in the future, within reasonable sustainable limits, with maximum CO<sub>2</sub> efficiency; points out that it would further contribute to regional*

*added value creation and a significant  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction;*

Or. de

**Amendment 81**  
**Marlene Mortler**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5f. Is of the opinion that agriculture is the most important sector for Europe to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050; stresses the important role of agriculture in the energy, heat and mobility transition if its resources are used as a supplier of biogenic energy storage technology and sustainable agriculture;*

Or. de

**Amendment 82**  
**Claude Gruffat**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*6. Calls on the Commission to support entrepreneurship by improving the business environment in rural areas through measures to promote sustainable growth, rapid access to flexible small-scale funding (including solidarity savings) and broadband internet access throughout the Union.*

Or. fr

**Amendment 83**  
**Herbert Dorfmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**6. Considers that provisions should be included in public procurement procedures that enable SMEs, particularly local SMEs, to participate in calls for tender, thus supporting low- and zero-mile products.**

Or. it

**Amendment 84**  
**Veronika Vrecionová**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**6. Calls for the prerequisite of a comprehensive, science-based and SMEs centred impact assessment, to be carried out prior presenting any measures directly or indirectly resulting from the European Green Deal. Impact Assessment results should form the base for any proposal of forthcoming legislation.**

Or. en

**Amendment 85**  
**Anne Sander**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**6. Stresses the importance of**

*providing diversified SME funding in the farming sector.*

Or. fr

**Amendment 86**

**Mara Bizzotto, Ivan David, Angelo Ciocca, Gilles Lebreton, Elena Lizzi, Joëlle Mélin**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 6 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***6a. Recalls the key role of vocational training, which is essential for promoting the absorption of graduates and unemployed workers into the labour market, and ensuring that SMEs in the agri-food sector can count on properly trained staff; encourages the Member States to make better use of the next ESF Plus and ERDF;***

Or. it