



**2016/2222(INI)**

11.10.2016

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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

on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests  
(2016/2222(INI))

Rapporteur: Florent Marcellesi



## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes the increased use of palm oil in processed food, with some 50 % of packaged goods now containing palm oil, and as a biofuel; calls for clear and transparent labelling of palm oil in processed goods;
2. Notes the alarming scale of deforestation driven by palm oil; notes that palm oil is an important driver of deforestation for commercial agriculture, where extremely biodiverse tropical forest is being converted to monocultural palm oil plantations;
3. Notes with concern the occurrence of land grabbing and illegal acquisition of plantation land; notes further that land acquisition may lie outside the law, as local communities' customary tenure rights are often not respected;
4. Recognises the role of oil palm as part of diverse intercropping systems in ensuring food security and income for smallholders;
5. Is concerned that the certification schemes do not guarantee genuinely sustainable palm oil, notably certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) certification, which is not effective in ensuring relevant standards and compliance therewith;
6. Urges the Commission to step up dialogue with governments of palm-oil-producing countries in order to increase environmental, land tenure and human rights standards, as well as transparency on land tenure and corporate ownership;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to establish a regulatory framework of strong and enforceable measures to guarantee that all actors throughout the supply chain, including EU financial institutions and the investments and loans they provide, are not involved in deforestation;
8. Calls for the phasing-out of all land-based biofuels, such as palm oil biodiesel, that drive deforestation and compete against food production for land or do not significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
9. Calls on the Commission to honour the EU's international commitments and to press ahead with developing an EU action plan to protect forests and forest people's rights.