



2021/2007(INI)

4.6.2021

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on an intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and
resilience
(2021/2007(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Irène Tolleret

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the significant role played by geographical indications (GI) and traditional specialities guaranteed (TSG) in protecting the reputation of the EU food and drink sector in the single market and international markets, despite the fact that they only represent 7 % of total EU food and drink sales;
2. Recalls that the value of all these products has increased to more than EUR 75 billion, of which over one fifth derives from exports outside the EU; stresses, therefore, the need to protect GI and TSG as intellectual property rights, both within the single market and worldwide through bilateral and multilateral agreements with non-EU countries;
3. Points out that promotion campaigns raise consumer awareness about these products, making it easy to identify their authenticity and, indirectly, to protect them against usurpation and imitations; calls on the Commission to strengthen GI and TSG promotional campaigns in the next revision of the corresponding legislation;
4. Notes the great potential of the online market for GIs and TSGs, but stresses that it can only be achieved if intellectual rights are better protected; calls on the Commission to be at the forefront of online protection by including it in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements;
5. Considers it essential to protect intellectual property rights to promote innovation, in particular with the aim of introducing more resilient agricultural varieties to cope with climate change and achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal;
6. Insists, however, that intellectual property rights should not lead to a reduction in the diversity of species and varieties and a loss of independence for farmers; also insists that farmers must remain the owners of their seeds and breeding material.