

Question for written answer E-008421/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
Lena Ek (ALDE)

Subject: Commission opposition to climate-smart dietary recommendations

The foods we eat have an impact on climate emissions. Consumers very much want to know what foods are best for the environment.

It is therefore a slap in the face for climate-aware consumers that the Commission has opposed the Swedish National Food Administration's proposals for climate-smart dietary recommendations.

Cross-border trade is a prerequisite for a growing economy and for continued European prosperity. The trend towards climate nationalism and protectionism is a dangerous development which the Commission should rightly work to check.

However, of course, it is possible to produce climate-smart dietary recommendations which reconcile environmental concerns and cross-border trade. For instance, consumers can vary their purchases on a seasonal basis. Similarly, furthermore, informed consumers are a prerequisite for a properly functioning internal market.

I therefore put the following questions to the Commission:

1. Is it right for European food authorities to produce pro-environment dietary recommendations?
2. How, in the Commission's opinion, should climate-smart dietary recommendations be formulated so that they are both environment-friendly and in line with internal-market legislation?
3. How does the Commission intend to support the work of the Swedish National Food Administration in producing climate-smart dietary recommendations?
4. How, in the Commission's opinion, is the decision to oppose the Swedish climate-smart dietary recommendations compatible with the EU's ambitions of working towards a better climate?