

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2008/2220(INI)

11.2.2009

OPINION

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

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on ensuring food quality - Harmonisation or mutual recognition of standards
(2008/2220(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Magor Imre Csibi

(*): Associated committee - Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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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. underlines that food quality systems should provide information and offer a guarantee for consumers of the authenticity of local ingredients and production techniques; considers therefore that such schemes need to be implemented and operated with reinforced controls and traceability systems;
2. considers that labelling the main ingredient(s) of food products with the place of origin is desirable if the main ingredient does not come from a "Protected Geographical Indication" (PGI) or "Protected Designation of Origin" (PDO) area; considers that the main ingredient should be interpreted as the ingredient that constitutes more than 50 % of the food product; stresses furthermore that such labelling schemes should be used on a voluntary basis;
3. calls for further simplification of marketing standards by clarifying the main criteria to be applied; calls for the development of EU guidelines on the use of general reserved terms, such as "low in sugar", "low carbon", "dietary" and "natural", in order to avoid misleading practices;
4. stresses the need to promote organic products and farming as a source of high-quality food and a catalyst for environmental and animal welfare protection; calls for a simplification of the certification system so as to further develop the market for organic products and the introduction, without further delay, of a compulsory EU logo as a means to further increase consumer knowledge and recognition of organic products;
5. recognises that consumers have ever growing demands concerning the quality of food and food products, not only in terms of safety, but also in terms of ethical concerns, such as environmental sustainability, animal welfare protection and genetically modified organisms (GMO) technologies; calls on the Commission to provide criteria for quality initiatives such as voluntary GMO-free labelling schemes which will provide consumers with a clear choice.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	10.2.2009
Result of final vote	+: 45 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Adamos Adamou, Georgs Andrejevs, Pilar Ayuso, Irena Belohorská, Maria Berger, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Martin Callanan, Magor Imre Csibi, Chris Davies, Avril Doyle, Mojca Drčar Murko, Anne Ferreira, Elisabetta Gardini, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Gyula Hegyi, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Christa Kläß, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Holger Krahmer, Urszula Krupa, Peter Liese, Linda McAvan, Péter Olajos, Miroslav Ouzký, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Vittorio Prodi, Frédérique Ries, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Guido Sacconi, Amalia Sartori, Carl Schlyter, Horst Schnellhardt, Richard Seeber, María Sornosa Martínez, Antonios Trakatellis, Thomas Ulmer, Åsa Westlund
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Iles Braghetto, Jutta Haug, Hartmut Nassauer, Andres Tarand
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Emanuel Jardim Fernandes