



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2010/2111(INI)

2.2.2011

OPINION

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

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the EU protein deficit: what solution for a long-standing problem?
(2010/2111(INI))

Rapporteur: Csaba Sándor Tabajdi

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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:

- A. whereas increasing the share of vegetable proteins in our diets and consuming less meat represents a win-win situation for both the environment and human health,
1. Stresses the importance of increasing protein crop production within the EU in the context of climate change, soil fertility, water protection and biodiversity; stresses that the Commission should therefore introduce new incentives for the production and storage of protein crops; points out, however, that the difference in the respective market prices of cereals and protein crops, strong international price competition and the comparative advantage enjoyed by third-country producers as a result of climatic conditions, larger farms, less stringent environmental requirements, low staffing costs and low land prices necessitate a review of the EU's trade policy strategy and make it essential to provide targeted support for protein crop production;
 2. Recalls the severe consequences of past BSE diseases, which led to a threat to public health and wide-scale export bans on the EU's internal market, hampered Member States' external trade activities and caused serious damage to the EU's livestock sector; takes the view that processed animal proteins are a valuable source of proteins and part of the solution for rebalancing the EU's protein deficit; takes note of the Commission communication to Parliament and the Council entitled 'The TSE Roadmap 2' (COM(2010)0384), which seeks to ease the ban on the use of processed animal proteins from non-ruminants in non-ruminant feed; stresses that easing the feed ban can be considered only if scientific evidence and testing methods guarantee that the transmission of diseases can be excluded and the prohibition on intra-species recycling can be enforced;
 3. Underlines that excessive protein crop imports have made the European livestock sector vulnerable, contributed to large-scale price volatility and thus kept profitability down, especially that of small and medium-sized livestock producers, while also giving rise to unsustainable agricultural practices in third countries;
 4. Calls on the Commission to propose a coherent overall political approach to the application of the agro-environmental rules to food products sold within the Union with regard to imports of genetically modified protein crops;
 5. Calls on the Commission to establish a mechanism for monitoring the origin of protein crops imported into the EU, focusing in particular on the sustainability of applied farming practices in the country of origin, including land-use change, the sustainability of water use, and the use of agricultural technologies; underlines that, to this end, regular on-site checks are also necessary;
 6. Notes that soya and maize import shortages impose an additional cost burden on the EU livestock and feedstuffs sectors, putting the economic viability of domestic meat production at risk;

7. Stresses the need to integrate protein crop production into improved crop rotation systems, to promote mixed cropping for on-farm feed production and to provide adequate financial support to farmers involved in sustainable or organic agricultural production; calls on the Commission to include such measures and financial incentives in the legislative proposal on the future of the CAP;
8. Emphasises that the treatment of slaughter offal, swill, meat and bone meal must meet the strict existing provisions on the protection of human and animal health and of the environment; takes the view that animal by-products are a valuable source of protein and energy, and must therefore be utilised effectively.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	25.1.2011
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 0 0: 11
Members present for the final vote	János Áder, Elena Oana Antonescu, Kriton Arsenis, Pilar Ayuso, Paolo Bartolozzi, Sandrine Bélier, Sergio Berlato, Martin Callanan, Nessa Childers, Chris Davies, Bairbre de Brún, Anne Delvaux, Bas Eickhout, Edite Estrela, Jill Evans, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Julie Girling, Nick Griffin, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Dan Jørgensen, Karin Kadenbach, Christa Kläß, Jo Leinen, Corinne Lepage, Linda McAvan, Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Andres Perello Rodriguez, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Vittorio Prodi, Anna Rosbach, Oreste Rossi, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Horst Schnellhardt, Theodoros Skylakakis, Catherine Soullie, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Sabine Wils, Marina Yannakoudakis
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Philippe Juvin, Jiří Maštálka, Bill Newton Dunn, Alojz Peterle, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marita Ulvskog
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Ioan Enciu