

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on International Trade*

**2008/2153(INI)**

13.11.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on The Common Agricultural Policy and Global Food Security  
(2008/2153(INI))

Rapporteur: Béla Glattfelder

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade 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. Considers that Europe's and the world's food security are increasingly threatened by the high volatility in food prices, which was recently reflected in a major price increase after 30 years of decreasing prices in real terms; stresses that it is the poorest population groups in both developing and developed countries that are the hardest hit;
2. Estimates that the recent sudden soar in prices can be primarily explained by the structural growth in world demand for agricultural products, stemming from population growth, changing eating habits and the growth in agri-fuel production, as well as unfavourable developments such as poor harvests and speculation on world markets, which is causing significant problems for poorer segments of the population both within Europe and even more so in poor countries around the world; stresses that this is therefore not a passing crisis and that a global, long-term response is required;
3. Stresses that efforts to meet people's basic needs, in particular as regards food and water, can often be a source of conflict; notes that the growth in the world's population, which is expected to rise by 3 billion by 2050, will exacerbate such tensions in all regions of the world; calls, accordingly, for this geo-strategic factor to be taken into account in the future formulation of agricultural policy;
4. Stresses that the current food challenges call for food production to be stepped up in order to keep pace with increasing demand, while improving quality, lowering costs and ensuring greater sustainability; considers that, in order to achieve this, public policies need to be overhauled with a view to improving production and stock management methods, as well as world market regulation;
5. Whereas a significant factor in global food production is a lack of trade in foodstuffs, notes that according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, global rice production increased in 2007 while trade in rice fell in the same year;
6. Believes that further, unregulated liberalisation of agricultural trade would lead to a further increase in food prices and even higher price volatility; stresses that the worst affected would be the most vulnerable, food-importing developing countries; stresses, furthermore, that world trade rules must under no circumstances go against the right of countries or regions to support their farming sectors with a view to ensuring food security for their population;
7. Believes that market opening policies for agricultural products in the framework of the WTO and bilateral free trade agreements have significantly contributed to a loss of food security in many developing countries and in the context of the current global food supply crisis; calls on the Commission to re-assess its free market approach to agricultural trade accordingly;

8. Calls on the large food exporting countries (Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, etc.) to act as reliable suppliers of staple foods and to avoid export restrictions, which could have disastrous consequences, especially on poor food-importing developing countries;
9. Insists that the EU must play a part in matching food supply to demand worldwide and that all forms of agriculture must be involved in order to achieve this; considers, furthermore, that the EU must guarantee its food security by maintaining the fundamental principles and objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): reasonable prices, ensuring availability of supplies, stabilising markets, to ensure a fair standard of living and increased productivity by technological progress and better crops, and creating safety nets to react to crises akin to those being faced today;
10. Regrets that the new measures proposed by the Commission as part of the Health Check of the CAP do not take sufficient account of the lessons learnt from the current food crisis;
11. Invites the Commission to steer agri-fuel production towards the use of second-generation technology, in order to avoid a reduction in food supply and to revise and adapt agri-fuel production targets on the basis of clearly identified economic, social and environmental criteria.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	5.11.2008
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 27 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Kader Arif, Daniel Caspary, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Jacky Hénin, Caroline Lucas, Erika Mann, Helmuth Markov, David Martin, Vural Öger, Georgios Papastamkos, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Tokia Saïfi, Peter Šťastný, Gianluca Susta, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Iuliu Winkler, Corien Wortmann-Kool
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Bastiaan Belder, Ole Christensen, Albert Deß, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Zbigniew Zaleski
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Sepp Kusstatscher, Michel Teychenné