



2016/2222(INI)

19.10.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

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

on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests
(2016/2222(INI))

Rapporteur: Tiziana Beghin

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that palm oil accounts for about 40 % of global trade in all vegetable oils and that the EU, with around 7 million tonnes per year, is the second largest global importer; calls on the Commission, in this connection, to reduce the amount of imported palm oil from third countries by applying different customs duty schemes for certified sustainable palm-oil products;
2. Recalls that Malaysia and Indonesia are the main producers of palm oil, with an estimated 85-90 % of global production, and that the growing demand for this commodity puts pressure on land use and has significant effects on local communities, health and climate change; stresses, in this context, that the EU-Indonesia Free Trade Agreement should not cover palm oil and its derivatives within the current negotiations;
3. Stresses the importance of improving the situation through appropriate certification, easily accessible for SMEs, confirming that the palm oil in question has been produced without undue harm to the environment and society and that the product is effectively and transparently traceable throughout the entire supply chain;
4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ban EU imports of biodiesel derived from palm oil and to introduce a mandatory labelling scheme for biodiesel ingredients and their origins, and for other palm oil products;
5. Considers that sustainability of palm oil is legally defined in the Renewable Energy Directive for bioliquids and in the Fuel Quality Directive for biofuels while no criteria exist for palm oil used in food industry;
6. Stresses that, under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Regulation and Voluntary Partnership Agreements between the EU and timber producing countries, the first fully operational licensing scheme is with Indonesia as of 15 November 2016.