



**2016/0383(NLE)**

9.6.2017

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## **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on trade in organic products (05530/2017 – C8-0144/2017 – 2016/0383(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández

***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on trade in organic products  
(05530/2017 – C8-0144/2017 – 2016/0383(NLE))**

### **(Consent)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the draft Council decision (05530/2017),
  - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Chile on trade in organic products (05551/2017),
  - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), point (a)(v) of the second subparagraph of Article 218(6) and Article 218(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0144/2017),
  - having regard to Rule 99(1) and (4) and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A8-0000/2017),
1. Gives its consent to conclusion of the agreement;
  2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Chile.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On 6 March 2017, the Council adopted a Decision on the signing of the Agreement between the EU and Chile on trade in organic products. The Agreement was signed on 27 April 2017 in Brussels and was officially referred to Parliament for its consent to the conclusion on 3 May 2017. The Committee on International Trade (INTA) exchanged views with the relevant Commission services at its meeting of 3 June 2017 and held the presentation of this draft report in INTA on 20 June 2017.

The above-mentioned Agreement, aims at ‘fostering trade in organic products, contributing to the development and expansion of the organic sector in the Union and in the Republic of Chile and achieving a high level of respect for the principles of organic production, of guarantee of the control systems and of integrity of organic products’.

By means of the Agreement, Chile will recognise as equivalent all EU organic products included in the scope of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, namely unprocessed plant products, live animals or unprocessed animal products (including honey), aquaculture products and seaweeds, processed agricultural products for use as food (including wine), processed agricultural products for use as feed, vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation. The EU, meanwhile, will recognise as equivalent the following products from Chile: unprocessed plant products, honey, processed agricultural products for use as food (including wine), vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation.

The Agreement foresees the establishment of a Joint Committee on Organic Products composed of representatives of the Union and representatives of the Government of Chile, which will hold periodical consultations at least once a year, with a view, among others, to ensure the correct application of the Agreement, to examine any request by one Party to update or extend to new products the list of products and to facilitate information exchange and cooperation.

The Commission’s proposal also includes, as a strong safeguard, the possibility to unilaterally suspend the recognition of equivalence, if a Party considers that the laws, regulations or administrative procedures and practices of the other Party no longer meet the requirements for equivalence.

Considering the objectives specified by Commission’s proposal and Council’s draft decision, which INTA supports, and taking into consideration the opinion adopted by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), the Rapporteur is proposing to grant consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

However, the Rapporteur in INTA requests: (1) periodical, timely and detailed information to the Parliament during the implementation phase, equivalent to that given to the Council, notably as regards the activities of the Joint Committee, allowing for a duly informed political debate and action; (2) an initial evaluation of the impact of the Agreement two years after its entry into force, providing adequate information to the Parliament and all other public and private stakeholders to allow for an facts-based debate and appropriate action, before the expiry of the initial 3 years of application and, thereafter, every 3 years (3) the elaboration of guidebooks with practical and updated information, addressed to producers, exporters, importers and consumers, with a view to maximise the potential economic benefits introduced by the Agreement and to allow consumers for an informed choice.

In the light of these considerations, the INTA Rapporteur hereby reiterates its support to the

Agreement, but recalls the need for the Parliament to be thoroughly and fully informed throughout the whole life-cycle of international agreements, including the negotiations and the implementation phases.

International agreements pertaining to the EU's Common Commercial Policy are subject to Parliament's consent; for this reason the Rapporteur regrets the lack of timely information by other institutions during the negotiations of the present Agreement, and expects the Council and the Commission to redress the situation and adequately inform the Parliament about its implementation once it enters into force, including as regards any decisions that might be taken in connection to Articles 4 and 5 of Council's Decision. The expectations on the need to inform civil society and Parliaments are expressed as regards all parties to the Agreements.