

**Subject: European Parliament's proposed amendment to CMO Regulation Art. 188a
(pesticide import tolerances)**

Dear Attaché,

We are writing regarding the on-going inter-institutional negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy 2020 reform package, and more specifically the Regulation on the Common Market Organisation (CMO) of agricultural products.

On behalf of the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) and in view of the Special Committee on Agriculture meeting to be held on 21st June, we would like to share some considerations about the European Parliament's proposed amendment to CMO Art. 188a regarding the discontinuation of import tolerances for residues of pesticides (which are banned in the EU) in food and feed products imported from third countries.

BEUC welcomes and supports this amendment, which echoes our position as outlined in our contribution to the public consultation on the EU Trade Policy review.¹ Ensuring that food that is imported into the EU complies with relevant regulations and standards (e.g., in relation to pesticide use, but also for instance animal welfare) is key to achieving the objectives of the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. Indeed, it would create a level playing field for EU farmers, many of whom are dragging their feet to move towards more sustainable production practices because they fear they might be exposed to unfair competition from third countries.

A survey of European consumers on attitudes towards sustainable food published by BEUC² found that consumers expect the EU to continue to lead on food sustainability, regardless of whether other world players are doing the same or not. To achieve that, the EU trade policy must go beyond cooperation and dialogue to effectively ensure that trading partners wanting to export food into the EU **abide by the same rules as those that apply to EU farmers and food producers, as relevant.**

An example to follow is the EU legislation on veterinary medicinal products, which will oblige third country producers exporting animal products to the EU to follow our rules and restrictions in terms of the prudent use of antimicrobials in farmed animals.

Against this background, we call on the Council to **support the European Parliament's amendment** during the final rounds of inter-institutional negotiations on the CMO file.

We thank you in advance for considering the above comments in view of the Special Committee on Agriculture meeting and remain at your disposal for any question(s) you may have.

Yours faithfully,

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Senior Trade Policy Officer

¹ [BEUC response](#) to the European Commission's public consultation on the Trade Policy review.

² BEUC. [One bite at a time: consumers and the transition to sustainable food](#). Analysis of a survey of European consumers on attitudes towards sustainable food. June 2020.