

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Ref.: BEUC-X-2023-082/CPE/cm

Brussels, 13 June 2023

Subject: Plenary vote on Report on 'Ensuring food security and long-term resilience of the EU agriculture'

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Tomorrow (14 June), you will vote on a report regarding a European Parliament's motion for a resolution on 'Ensuring food security and long-term resilience of EU agriculture'.

Ahead of this vote, BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation, wishes to share the enclosed voting recommendations with you.

These recommendations seek to ensure that the European Parliament's final take on food security better reflects - amongst others - the following points:

- **The availability of food is not at stake in Europe today - but affordability is.** The current food price inflation is pushed by the EU food system's dependency on fossil fuels, imported fertilisers and animal feed, as well as by increased corporate profits.¹ **Further intensifying food production at the expense of sustainability will do little to support struggling households**, whose food habits have been steered further away from diets good for health and the planet by rising food prices. What we need in the short term to support consumers through the cost-of-living crisis are adequate social protection measures and for national competition authorities to take a closer look at food prices.
- In the long run, the Commission's study on drivers of food security² warns that food production could be increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change and biodiversity losses. Ensuring food security in the long term, therefore, requires **reinforcing the sustainability and resilience of the EU food system**. The **upcoming proposal for an EU Sustainable Food System Framework law (FSFS)** is a unique opportunity for doing so and this must be recognised in the INI report.

.../...

¹ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/ecb-lagarde-says-corporate-profits-contributed-to-inflation/>

² European Commission. [Analysis of the drivers of food security](#). Staff Working Document SWD (2023)4.

- **The report as adopted by the AGRI Committee remains surprisingly silent on the role of consumer food choices and diets in ensuring food security.** Yet the Commission's study points at some positive drivers and 'win-win' solutions for food security, such as dietary shifts. Echoing a previous analysis by close to 700 academics,³ it notes that switching to more plant-based diets in the EU – where average meat consumption exceeds recommendations for good health – would contribute to global food security (because of reduced feed-food competition) while bringing health and environmental benefits. Importantly, the Commission's study recognises **the role of the 'food environment'** (incl. factors such as food advertising and marketing, food characteristics, labelling, pricing) in shaping consumers' food choices and facilitating (or not) the adoption of sustainable healthy diets. This evidence needs to be reflected in the final INI report.

We thank you in advance for considering the above ahead of the vote tomorrow and remain at your disposal for any question(s) you may have.

Yours faithfully,

Camille Perrin
Senior Food Policy Officer

³ Pörtner, Lisa M.; Lambrecht, Nathalie; Springmann, Marco; Bodirsky, Benjamin Leon; Gaupp, Franziska; Freund, Florian; Lotze-Campen, Hermann; Gabrysch, Sabine. We need a food system transformation – in the face of the Ukraine war, now more than ever. [Statement](#) signed by 668 academics.

FINAL VERSION

Report: MORTLER (A9-0185/2023) [init.]
Ensuring food security and the long-term resilience of EU agriculture

Committee: Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Subject of the amendment	Am No	Author	RCV etc.	BEUC voting recommendations
§ 1	1	MEPs	RCV	0
	7	MEPs	RCV	+
§ 18	§	<i>original text</i>	separate	-
After § 31	2	MEPs	RCV	+
§ 34	3	MEPs	RCV	+
§ 39	§	<i>original text</i>	separate	-
§ 40	§	<i>original text</i>	separate	-
§ 48	8	MEPs	RCV	+
§ 49	§	<i>original text</i>	split	
			1 RCV	+
			2 RCV	-
			3 RCV	-
After § 56	4	MEPs	RCV	+
§ 62	5	MEPs	RCV	+
§ 69	§	<i>original text</i>	split	
			1 RCV	+
			2 RCV	-
After § 71	6	MEPs	RCV	+
<i>vote: resolution (as a whole)</i>			RCV	

Miscellaneous

MEP Nikos Papandreou has withdrawn his support from AM 1.

Requests for roll-call votes

Greens/ EFA: am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8; § 49 and 69
Renew: am 3 and 5
MEPs: am 1

Requests for separate votes

MEPs: § 18, 39 and 40

Requests for split votes

MEPs:

§ 49

1st part: Text as a whole excluding the words “however” and “without first offering ... of harmful organisms;”

2nd part: “however”

3rd part: “without first offering ... of harmful organisms;”

§ 69

1st part: Text as a whole excluding the words “since ceasing biofuel ... the food crisis”

2nd part: these words