

Amendment 1

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on behalf of the ID Group

Report**A9-0281/2023****Emma Wiesner**

European protein strategy
(2023/2015(INI))

Motion for a resolution (Rule 181(3) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A9-0281/2023

European Parliament resolution on European protein strategy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 17 April 2018 on a European strategy for the promotion of protein crops – encouraging the production of protein and leguminous plants in the European agriculture sector¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 24 March 2022 on the need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security inside and outside the EU in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine²,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 15 November 2022 entitled ‘Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector’ (COM(2022)0592),
 - having regard to Articles 119, 120, 168 and 169 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Commission report of 22 November 2018 on the development of plant proteins in the European Union (COM(2018)0757),
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Fisheries,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A9-0281/2023),
 - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas protein is essential for both humans and animals and is, therefore, an indispensable component of food and feed consumed on a daily basis;
- B. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have had

¹ OJ C 390, 18.11.2019, p. 2.

² OJ C 361, 20.9.2022, p. 2.

significant effects on European and global trade, highlighting that the EU needs to diversify its food and feed supply chains in order to increase its autonomy and reduce its dependence on inputs from just one or a few foreign suppliers and to strengthen the domestic production of plant protein and the overall resilience of the EU protein sector;

- C. whereas the EU produces 77 % of the feed protein it uses (rising to 96 % for low protein content feed and 89 % for medium protein content feed); whereas, however, only 29 % of the high protein feedstock needed to balance animal feed originates in the EU; whereas, as a consequence, the EU is heavily dependent on imports of high protein plant-based products from non-EU countries, making the EU reliant on imports of soya beans and meal from the United States and South America;
- D. whereas although protein crop production in the EU has improved over the last 10 years, there continues to be a significant shortfall in domestic production, which has consolidated the EU's heavy dependence on imports of protein-rich crops from non-EU countries;
- E. whereas leguminous crops and grasslands help maintain and improve soil quality and fertility, increase biodiversity, fix carbon and nitrogen and contribute to water retention; whereas legumes can be grown with less chemical fertiliser owing to their symbiosis with soil bacteria; whereas despite its low economic profitability, the growing of leguminous crops makes a positive contribution to mitigating climate changes and other environmental impacts, as well as reducing weed pressure;
- F. whereas new breeding techniques could play a key role in enhancing profitability by raising yields, boosting protein content and quality, allowing the adaptation of crops to regional conditions and making them more resilient to weather conditions and pathogens;
- G. whereas the common agricultural policy (CAP) allows the cultivation of protein crops and grasslands to be supported;
- H. whereas the processing of protein crops and grasslands generates by-products that can be used for different purposes such as for fertiliser or animal feed; whereas livestock produce valuable fertiliser as a by-product, which boosts the resilience of food production; whereas the nitrogen needed to grow crops is mainly provided by synthetic fertilisers, which are costly and energy-intensive to produce; whereas, as part of manure management systems, as well as the safe usage of sewage sludge, RENURE (REcovered Nitrogen from manURE) materials increase resource efficiency;
- I. whereas animal husbandry can produce highly bioavailable proteins for human nutrition; whereas a healthy diet is based on variety and balance, which for most people also includes meat consumption;
- J. whereas the production of all types of agricultural crops, including protein crops, produces biomass that is mostly inedible for humans (one kilo of plant-based protein generates around three to five kilos of biomass that is edible only by ruminants);
- K. whereas the consumption of locally and sustainably produced animal proteins contributes to the EU's food security and enhances the vitality of Europe's rural areas;

whereas animal proteins are produced in the EU according to some of the world's highest sustainability standards, taking into account animal welfare, climate and the environment; whereas animal proteins are an important component of a balanced diet; whereas animal husbandry in the EU is heavily dependent on imports of high protein content crops, which are grown on arable land outside the EU;

- L. whereas enhancing European food resilience and security by consuming animal proteins produced in the EU contributes to more sustainable production globally and rewards the know-how and excellence of European breeders whose incomes rarely reflect their efforts to take into account animal welfare, resistance to antimicrobials, the preservation of landscapes and cultural legacy, while being committed to producing high quality meat at affordable prices;
- M. whereas animal-sourced proteins provide high quality proteins and are the most bioavailable protein source for humans, which is particularly important for women's fertility, their health and the health of children, adolescents and older or frail persons; whereas the traditional consumption of animal proteins in the form of meat, cheese or milk is part of the cultural heritage of the European continent; whereas this practice makes a substantial contribution to the gross domestic product of EU Member States;
- N. whereas extensive livestock production, particularly in remote and mountainous areas, is a highly sustainable activity and helps ensure that these areas remain populated;
- O. whereas sustainable aquatic and aquaculture protein can contribute to global food security, nutrition and healthy and balanced diets; whereas intensive aquaculture, especially outside the EU, may often generate diverse negative environmental impacts, such as the consequences of using chemicals or antibiotics; whereas algae can help reduce the negative environmental impacts of aquaculture;
- P. whereas Regulation (EU) 2015/2283³ allowed for the possibility of using insects for human nutrition, despite the fact that the European Food Safety Authority study commissioned by the Commission itself warns of significant potential health risks; strongly recommends that further research is conducted and data collected on human pathogenic parasites and contaminants, among other things; whereas sufficient research on this has not been conducted and the necessary data has not yet been collected;
- Q. whereas the market for sustainably produced protein, especially plant- and animal-based protein, has developed in recent years; whereas the production of these proteins creates many opportunities for European farmers and food producers; whereas plant-based proteins already enjoy high and rising consumer demand and acceptance, and benefit from technological maturity;
- R. whereas consumers are calling for more transparency and information about food sustainability and animal welfare; whereas there are no voluntary standardised labels or product declarations to certify the environmental sustainability of proteins, whether for

³ Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (OJ L 327, 11.12.2015, p. 1).

human consumption or for animal nutrition, or the animal welfare standards in their production;

- S. whereas the adoption of a value chain approach is important for creating added value in sustainably produced proteins, especially plant-based proteins, since the production of locally sourced and high added value products enhances the value chain and encourages farmers to invest;
- T. whereas research on and innovation in the sustainable production of all sources of protein needs to include farmers; whereas research and innovation should increase its focus on plant- and animal-based protein, as both private and public EU research and innovation has mainly concentrated on cereals and oilseeds in recent decades;
- U. whereas general training and knowledge transfer only reaches about 10 % of EU farm holdings; whereas there is a critical need to further invest in training and advisory services for farmers in order to spread know-how on protein crops, disseminate best practices and promote the cultivation of grasslands and the extraction of protein from alternative sources;

A clear need for a comprehensive EU protein strategy to harness the potential of proteins

- 1. Calls on the Commission to urgently present a comprehensive and ambitious EU protein strategy covering the sustainable production of plant- and animal-based protein and including effective measures to boost European protein autonomy in the short, medium and long term; underlines that the production of protein crops and plant-based protein should be prioritised with the objective of guaranteeing European food security;
- 2. Considers that the EU protein indicative roadmap should be based on:
 - (a) a vision for strategic and sustainable EU protein production and trade flows that fit our needs and requirements;
 - (b) an action plan for increasing EU plant-based protein production and consumption;
 - (c) better conditions for the production of both plant- and animal-based protein in the EU;
 - (d) the development of economically and environmentally sound protein systems for food and feed;
 - (e) a holistic approach that must include farmers along with the whole food value chain, taking into account the possible added value of the circular economy where appropriate;
 - (f) concrete science-based policy actions to promote the development of sustainably produced proteins and innovation and research in this field;

A vision for increased EU protein production

- 3. Underlines that, from a geopolitical and strategic perspective, as well as to ensure food

security, European resilience levels need to be significantly increased in crucial sectors such as food and feed supply by reducing, as far as possible, dependencies on agricultural products and resources from just one or a few suppliers through stronger domestic production, while enhancing the EU's competitiveness in order to avoid the concentration of markets in the hands of just a few key players; stresses, therefore, that the EU needs to step up the production of plant protein and that this is only possible in stages if farmers and markets are able to adapt accordingly;

4. Highlights that sustainable, diversified and domestic protein production must be recognised as a crucial aspect of the EU food and feed system in order to ensure sufficient availability of safe and high quality food and feed and to maintain functioning and resilient food supply chains and trade flows; emphasises the importance of achieving the goal of a more sustainable and diversified supply of protein in the EU food system;
5. Considers that the growing of protein plants and grasslands can have significant benefits for soil quality, the environment and biodiversity, and that under certain conditions they have the potential to reduce inputs, such as fertilisers and plant protection products; points out that extensive grassland-based animal farming also meets animals' natural dietary needs, can have positive effects on the environment and help mitigate climate change; emphasises the importance of cereals and grasslands, especially grass and clover pastures, as a feed source for livestock; believes that Member States could consider rolling out eco-schemes for legumes and grasslands and the creation of dedicated protein plant funds, which has already been done in some Member States; stresses that extensive livestock production, particularly in remote and mountainous areas, is a sustainable activity and provides local populations further incentives to live in these areas;
6. Points out that a valuable indicative protein roadmap should contribute to European protein autonomy and to the resilience and incomes of European farmers and rural areas; acknowledges the potential role of protein sources in the circular economy; considers that taking into account the possible circularity of by-products and wastes and ensuring the production of all available protein types, especially plant- and animal-based proteins, can contribute both to maintaining high levels of human health and facilitating the transition to more virtuous food systems, while improving food affordability; recalls the possible compatibility between sustainable livestock rearing and crop cultivation;
7. Considers that developing plant protein production in line with customary European standards and practices, as well as making livestock production more profitable, while maintaining its sustainability through measures such as increasing the circularity of the food and feed value chains, are effective ways of addressing many of the challenges that we face, such as the relocation of production and overfishing outside the EU; believes that farmers could play a pivotal role in building a resilient protein system if properly supported; acknowledges that protein production requires a holistic approach to sustainable and resilient food systems;
8. Considers that imported products should meet comparable sustainability standards in order to allow EU producers to be more competitive and prevent the relocation of EU

production abroad;

9. Considers that ensuring EU food security is a key objective that requires a level playing field and strong support for the European agricultural sector; warns against any attempt to reduce livestock numbers, which would be counterproductive;

Better conditions for protein production in the EU

10. Emphasises that food security, and therefore protein production, starts with farmers, with the support of fishers and aquaculture farmers, so they must therefore be at the centre of the strategy, as they are the key to building a resilient protein system; stresses that a profitable agriculture, food and feed sector is a prerequisite for a strong protein sector in the EU; calls, therefore, on the Member States to explore opportunities that would help create a profitable business model for farmers to help them convert their less profitable crops into attractive food and feed products by increasing crop resilience, protein yields and protein quality;
11. Stresses that European agriculture and businesses must become more competitive in proteins for food and feed, and that the agriculture sector is dependent on sustainable and affordable inputs, such as energy, feed, feed additives, good plant material, fertilisers and good quality soils; takes the view that in order to increase the competitiveness of European protein producers, incentives must be scaled up and that unnecessary regulatory burdens on protein production must be eased;
12. Recognises the importance of feed additives in improving protein digestion and in ensuring correct feeding strategies and feed reformulation; stresses that the authorisation period for feed additives must be shortened and more flexibility allowed; underlines that the renewal process for authorisations must not risk phasing out effective additives;
13. Recalls that it will be impossible to increase the production of plant-based protein without good quality plant materials; recalls that new breeding techniques will provide great opportunities for developing regionally adapted plants and species optimised for European conditions, including those in the outermost regions; considers that more research and development on cereals, protein plants and grass are needed in order to increase their nutritional value and make them better adapted to local conditions and more resistant to natural threats;
14. Calls for the swift adoption of a tailored framework for new breeding techniques in order to allow for the faster development of new and robust plant varieties, including protein crops;
15. Considers that pest and pathogen control plays a vital role in successful protein crop harvests and that monitoring and scientific research on the occurrence, development and spread of these pests and pathogens is therefore crucial; recognises that the development of efficient measures to reduce the economic damage caused by these pests and pathogens and the development of alternative measures using technical innovations, such as precision farming, robotics, beneficial insects or low-risk pesticides, are important for boosting total European protein production; warns against the adoption of binding pesticide reduction targets that could hamper yields and incomes and therefore

the attractiveness of protein production;

16. Believes that grassland fertilisation using manure contributes to farmers' protein self-sufficiency; considers that properly fertilised grass remains by far the cheapest, most efficient and most sustainable source of protein for ruminants; calls on the Commission, taking into account the environmental assessments that have already been conducted, to propose without delay medium- and long-term policy measures to close the nutrient loop, for example by allowing the use of alternative organic products such as recovered nitrogen from digestate, bio-waste, other manure (RENURE) products and food industry waste, by classifying them as a substitute for chemical fertilisers; calls on the Commission to do this on the basis of scientific criteria and to promote it as an opportunity for farmers to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilisers and increase on-farm circularity and sustainable livestock production through the recovery and reuse of residues such as manure;
17. Recalls that the production of biomethane, biogas, biofuels or other bio-based chemicals that use biowaste streams could be a factor that contributes to more profitable production by providing significant additional revenue sources that enhance the value of protein-rich crops and would thus strengthen the business case for farmers to plant them; underlines that increasing the production of plant protein for food and feed could lead to by-products being used in more ways for bioenergy and hence allow higher economic value to be generated from protein crop production;
18. Recognises that the development, cultivation and utilisation of protein-rich crops often requires new management practices and cooperation between farmers; considers that the possibility of new organisational structures being recognised within the CAP should be analysed;
19. Stresses that, in order to boost investments in healthier soils and new crop rotation practices, long-term goals need to be accompanied by an evaluation of the services provided to society;

Ensuring a proper and functional protein sector by recognising the complementary role of both plant-based and animal proteins in the system

20. Highlights the significant potential and added value of locally produced plant- and animal-based proteins and the fact that the sustainable development of the sector will benefit European farmers, soil quality, nutrient cycles, biodiversity and human health and is strategically important for European food security;
21. Underlines that policies must create a level playing field for all stakeholders and products, and that protein consumption must be made more affordable; supports policy measures that allow consumers to compare the geographical origins of products, including processed food, and the animal welfare conditions in their production;
22. Stresses the importance of roughage, such as from grasslands or grass-clover, in particular in combination with livestock production, as a protein source and the positive co-benefits on biodiversity of grasslands; calls on the Commission and the Member States to make use of CAP tools, such as eco-schemes, to incentivise farmers to grow these protein sources; underlines that ruminant husbandry is an efficient way to convert

permanent grassland into food for human consumption;

23. Recalls that the production of animal proteins using inedible resources for feed, such as forage and by-products from the processing of protein plants, contributes greatly to reducing food waste, provides significant added value to protein plant production and is also key to ensuring dynamic rural areas, landscape management and environmental preservation;
24. Encourages the production of soya beans in the European Union as a source of plant-based protein, which could be promoted by investment in research and development to improve crop quality and yields; draws attention to the need to ensure access to funding and the need for additional support for agricultural producers, including small-scale producers, in order to step up soya bean production in the EU; considers it necessary to identify and promote agricultural best practices in soya bean cultivation in the EU, including the use of sustainable production technologies and compliance with environmental protection rules; draws attention to the need to reduce dependence on soya from non-EU countries in animal feed;
25. Stresses that research programmes should focus on plant protein crops that are suitable for Europe's climate, growing conditions and nutrition habits, and that can be integrated into existing farming systems; believes that it is important to support farmers in this transition, remove the barriers to entry to this market and help farmers benefit from these new value chains;
26. Calls for more research on and development of crop varieties with short production cycles that provide additional sources of protein and which are suitable for intermediate cropping in existing crop rotation plans;
27. Encourages the Member States to use all available CAP incentives to increase the growing of leguminous crops, including coupled support, agri-environmental measures, advisory services and new sectoral programmes; considers that, in addition, promotion campaigns to boost demand for legumes for food could go a long way toward stimulating EU production, while respecting European dietary habits;
28. Recognises the strong potential of hemp as a sustainable protein crop and acknowledges the need to facilitate its cultivation and processing into food and feed;
29. Stresses the importance of applying sustainability standards to imported products, thus protecting the competitiveness of European producers and ensuring transparent information for consumers;
30. Stresses that the European fisheries sector provides an important source of sustainable high quality protein for human use in the form of fresh fish; underscores that the viability of the fisheries sector must be improved by measures to provide relief to fishers, who for decades have faced an endlessly increasing EU regulatory burden in addition to a spike in energy prices;
31. Highlights the role of the European fishery and aquaculture sectors in guaranteeing food security and providing diets based on healthy and high quality protein; stresses that their products can play an important role in building a sustainable food system; calls on the

Commission to ensure that the upcoming European protein strategy recognises the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the possibility of improving animal welfare in the aquaculture sector, which can lead to fewer diseases, reduced antibiotic use and healthier ecosystems, while acknowledging that high sustainability standards have already been achieved in the EU; stresses the importance of involving these sectors in the development of its protein strategy;

32. Highlights that the EU is a net importer of fishery and aquaculture products, as almost 60 % of total consumption in the EU is imported; considers it necessary, therefore, to strengthen the economic viability of the European fisheries and aquaculture sectors and acknowledge their sustainability, taking into account their three dimensions (economic, environmental and social) in order to reduce the EU's growing dependence on imports; stresses the importance of the sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the EU's protein supply and, in particular, the important role of small-scale and artisanal fishers as well as shellfish gatherers, both in the EU and elsewhere;
33. Emphasises that regular consumption of fishery and aquaculture products is an essential component of a healthy diet and that, thanks to its heart-healthy properties, fish consumption has considerable potential to address diet-related ailments such as cardiovascular disease; expresses its concern, therefore, at the decline in fish consumption in the EU; calls on the Member States to increase the role of fishery and aquaculture products, in particular from local producers, in their nutritional policies and programmes, in particular by promoting the consumption of aquatic food among specific groups, such as young people, and even by introducing or improving consumption of these products in schools and through programmes aimed at tackling specific nutritional deficiencies; recalls, furthermore, that Directive 2006/112/EC⁴ allows Member States to apply reduced VAT rates to foodstuffs and related services; calls on the Member States to make use of this possibility for fish products, given the benefits of fish consumption;
34. Is of the opinion that sustainable aquaculture is an important method of producing protein and that algae provides a good source of protein for feed; points out the potential for innovation and the creation of new businesses by creating new fish feeds with a minimised impact on biodiversity and that there is a need to further reduce the water pollution caused by aquaculture; stresses that further development and sustainable innovation in the production of plant proteins and complementary sources of protein is a way of effectively addressing many of the environmental challenges that the EU's fishery and aquaculture sectors are facing;
35. Stresses that EU aquaculture and mariculture can contribute much more than they currently do to sustainable food production and provide healthier, fairer and more sustainable protein that is less dependent on fish-based feed and that does not use feed derived from fishmeal and fish oil production using catches from illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
36. Considers that all potential sources of protein for animal nutrition should be considered with due respect to natural food chains, provided they meet high safety standards; is

⁴ Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax (OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1).

concerned by the high energy requirements of the large-scale breeding of insects and stresses that the environmental, health, animal welfare, social and economic effects of this practice need to be analysed;

37. Rejects the use of insects for human consumption, as well as the notion that insects could be a viable source of protein; warns against the unlabelled use of insects or insect by-products as a source of protein for human consumption, especially in processed food; invites the Member States to implement a mandatory labelling system for food that includes insects or insect by-products in order to meet the legitimate transparency expectations of European consumers;
38. Calls on the Commission to present a comprehensive impact assessment of the risks of novel foods to the European agricultural model, society, human health, the environment and the economy; stresses that the precautionary principle should be taken into account;
39. Is concerned about the ethical, social, environmental and economic aspects of cell-based food, which is produced by culturing cells isolated from plants and animals; recalls that the Novel Food Regulation⁵ is not fit for purpose; considers, therefore, that cell-based food must not be allowed on the European market;

A holistic approach that covers the entire food value chain

40. Underlines that improved coordination and collaboration between supply chain stakeholders along the entire value chain is needed to bridge the current gaps between farmers, processors and retailers; stresses that stronger collective cooperation between all actors, in particular through farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives, should be actively promoted with a view to shaping higher added value chains;
41. Calls, in this regard, on the Member States and stakeholders to use all the available rules provided for in the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets Regulation⁶ in order to promote efficient and innovative chains; invites stakeholders to develop contracting in order to plan production in the long term; believes that producer organisations, particularly cooperatives, as well as inter-branch organisations, have a key role to play in structuring and strengthening protein value chains;
42. Emphasises the importance of consumer acceptance and consumer information; stresses that the production of plant-based proteins needs to meet consumer expectations, which entails the further improvement of these proteins in terms of taste, texture, nutritional value and price;
43. Considers that in order to meet consumers' expectations and to ensure transparency, the terms used to designate and market meat in Europe must never allow for the possibility

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (OJ L 327 11.12.2015, p. 1).

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347 20.12.2013, p. 671).

of labelling or advertising food as meat if it is not animal protein-based, bearing in mind that for humans insects are not meat;

44. Considers that consumers are becoming more knowledgeable about the food that they consume and how it has been produced; reiterates its call for more information to be made available to consumers on the production and slaughtering methods used in the production of meat in order to contribute to a fair, local, healthy and animal welfare-friendly food system; welcomes the Commission's specific intention to extend the requirement for mandatory origin or provenance indications to other products; invites the Member States to develop and implement a mandatory labelling system indicating the slaughtering methods used for meat products;
45. Highlights that the volume of plant protein produced sustainably in the EU will not increase in the absence of market demand or adequate profits for farmers; believes that targeted public support, such as eco-schemes, could boost the profitability of crop cultivation; urges market actors to develop techniques for determining protein content and quality in cereals, protein plants and feed in order to better reflect the value of the protein content; stresses that increased market transparency can improve the functioning of the market, reduce waste and bring about a more circular food sector; believes that policy strategies and legislative frameworks should provide incentives in these markets; stresses that the production of plant proteins with a lower protein content, along with the production of high protein crops, remains essential and that the development of these sources should be guided by the principle of a positive mass balance of dry matter and proteins;
46. Considers that the food processing industry is an integral part of the circular protein value chain, as it allows more value to be obtained from protein crops; emphasises the need to increase plant-based protein processing capacity; considers it important for the processing industry to map its waste streams so that they can be quantified;
47. Stresses that action at all levels is needed in order to increase sustainable protein production, particularly domestic production of plant-based protein, by supporting farmers, especially small and medium-sized farms and family farms; calls, therefore, on the Member States to generate and increase investment and research support at system, business and production levels;
48. Believes that public procurement should incentivise local protein production;

Concrete policy actions

49. Calls on the Commission to present a report on food security and to put forward the following policy actions:
 - (a) a scientific and technical guidance document that complements the administrative guidance document on the preparation and submission of novel food applications in order to clarify the authorisation process, while ensuring the highest food safety guarantees and standards and the proper evaluation of the potential risks for human consumption, in line with the precautionary principle;
 - (b) a combination of CAP guidelines that provide a stable framework, flexible

management practices and incentives for the production of protein-rich crops and a more protein-rich harvest of grassland crops and legumes in general; the production of protein-rich crops should be incentivised under the current CAP and through eco-schemes; the Commission should consider the possibility of allowing protein-rich food crops to be grown on set-aside land, provided this complies with strict environmental rules;

- (c) a study on the occurrence, development and spread of pests and pathogens that jeopardise successful protein crop harvests;
- (d) a clear research and development funding strategy to promote and stimulate the development of complementary preventative and curative measures for plant protection using technical innovations such as precision farming, robotics, beneficial insects and efficient and safe pesticides;
- (e) a combination of public procurement guidelines that makes it easier to consume locally produced proteins and to draw up local requirements;
- (f) in the short term, a temporary derogation with sufficient legal certainty to ensure that RENURE can be used and, in the long term, the legal application of the criteria on RENURE developed by the Joint Research Centre based on scientific criteria, classifying them as chemical fertilisers under the Nitrates Directive⁷;
- (g) the amendment of Annex III to the Nitrates Directive to facilitate the use of digestate from organic waste obtained from the anaerobic digestion of livestock manure;
- (h) policies ensuring that protein imports meet EU production and quality standards on health and environmental impacts in order to enhance the competitiveness of EU producers relative to producers outside the EU; policies to promote improved standards globally;
- (i) an analytical study on the space available on the market for proteins;

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50. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

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⁷ Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (OJ L 375, 31.12.1991, p. 1).