

More EU action needed for secure food supply

- Establish food corridors to and from Ukraine
- EU must diversify the sources of its food imports
- Need for EU to boost domestic agricultural production
- Help needed for affected EU farmers



MEPs call for food aid to Ukraine and more independent EU food production © AdobeStock/Kirill Gorlov

Parliament calls for immediate and substantial food aid to Ukraine and for the EU to make its food production more independent.

A resolution on the need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security in and outside the EU following the Russian invasion of Ukraine was adopted on Thursday with 413 votes in favour, 120 against and 49 abstentions. In the text, MEPs call for immediate help in the form of food supplies for Ukraine, and for a reboot of the EU's food production strategy.

Food aid for Ukrainian people

Given the severe impact the Russian attack on Ukraine will have on food security for Ukrainians, Parliament calls for robust long-term humanitarian food aid for Ukraine from both the EU and at the international level. The EU should also open food corridors to and from Ukraine, serving as an alternative to closed Black Sea ports. Ukrainian farmers should also be provided with scarce seeds, fuels and fertilisers.

A more independent EU

MEPs say the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have made it apparent that the EU needs to reduce its dependence on imports from too few suppliers. They call for a diversification of supply from third countries, and demand in the short term that the Commission assess how to cushion the impact of high fertiliser prices on farmers. To reduce the dependence on fertiliser imports in the long term, Parliament proposes a switch to alternative organic sources of nutrients for agriculture and support for agricultural innovation.

Increasing EU production and help for farmers

Given the disruption to agricultural imports, MEPs demand domestic food production be increased. Agricultural land should be used only for the production of food and feed. To address immediate needs, MEPs want it to be possible for farmers to use fallow land for the production of protein crops in 2022. The Commission should also provide support for worst-affected sectors and should mobilise the crisis reserve of €479 million. Member states should also, according to MEPs, be allowed to grant broad, rapid and flexible state aid to operators on the agricultural market.

Further information

The adopted text will be available here (24.03.2022)

Plenary debate

EP Research Service briefing on EU-Ukraine trade in agri-food products


EP Research Service briefing on EU-Russia trade in agri-food products


Free photos, video and audio material (food security)

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