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<Commission>{INTA}Committee on International Trade</Commission>

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<TitreType>DRAFT OPINION</TitreType>

<CommissionResp>of the Committee on International Trade</CommissionResp>

<CommissionInt>for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</CommissionInt>

<Titre>on a Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system</Titre>

<DocRef>(2020/2260(INI))</DocRef>

Rapporteur for opinion: <Depute>Paolo De Castro </Depute>

(\*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that EU trade policy has a major role to play in the transition towards more sustainable agri-food systems, in line with the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal;

2. Notes that the EU internal market is the world’s biggest importer and exporter of agri-food products; is convinced that the EU should use this position to set the benchmark in terms of standards for sustainable food systems, based on the respect of human and labour rights, the precautionary principle, environmental protection and animal welfare;

3. Believes that sustainable production should be a key characteristic of EU agri-food products, expanding the concept of quality to social and environmental aspects, on top of their worldwide reputation for being safe and healthy; stresses, in this regard, that EU quality production and Geographical Indications, combined with an ambitious EU promotion policy, should be considered as an asset with regard to the objective to promote sustainable trade;

4. Calls on the Commission to ensure consistency and coherence between the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Common Commercial Policy, and to pursue these objectives through the development of Green Alliances in all relevant forums, including the UN Food Systems Summit 2021;

4a. Highlights the importance of transparency in the food supply-chain and of traceability of all production and distribution processes; notes that innovative digital tools and mandatory origin labelling of food products have the potential to significantly increase transparency and traceability, thus improving consumer confidence;

5. Emphasises the importance of enforceable Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in trade agreements to promote biodiversity, foster more sustainable agri-food production, stop EU-driven global deforestation and raise labour standards, in line with the eight ILO core Conventions; urges particular support for developing countries to promote food security and provide assistance on aligning with European standards for sustainable agri-food systems;

6. Stresses the risk of putting the EU agri-food sector at a competitive disadvantage in the absence of global convergence of standards, and of leading to increased costs for consumers; calls on the Commission to present a comprehensive and cumulative impact assessment of the targets envisaged in the Strategy, as well as proportionate measures, adequate time-frame for adaptation and compensation mechanisms to maintain the competitiveness of the EU agri-food sector, in particular by ensuring reciprocity of standards for all agri-food and forestry products imported into the EU;

6a. Urges the Commission to strengthen border checks in order to prevent food frauds, enhance protection of IPRs, notably Geographical Indications, and avoid the possible entry of plant and animal pests into the EU thus ensuring the highest level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection;

6b. Emphasises the importance of granting access to technological and scientific innovations, including sustainable bio-technologies; stresses that building strong relationships with trading partners in terms of research and development of these innovations could be a key factor in fostering more sustainable agri-food production while safeguarding agricultural productivity;

7. Welcomes the proposed new initiative on climate and trade at the WTO and urges the Commission to continue to develop an ambitious, WTO-compatible sustainable trade policy.