



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2014/2228(INI)

3.2.2015

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on International Trade

Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the
Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
(2014/2228(INI))

Rapporteurs: Paolo De Castro, James Nicholson

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the EU agricultural sector is a very sensitive and essential part of the TTIP negotiations and one in which the EU, which already enjoys a significant trade surplus with the US, stands to benefit greatly from new or increased market access opportunities;
 - B. whereas it is important for European agriculture to secure a mutually beneficial trade deal with the US in order to advance Europe's position as a key player on the global market;
 - C. whereas respect for food safety and human and animal health standards will be a fundamental tenet of the negotiations for European agriculture;
1. Calls on the Commission to:
 - a. prioritise an ambitious and balanced result of the negotiations for agriculture, the three main components of which (market access, geographical indications and sanitary and phytosanitary measures) should be tackled early and in parallel in the negotiation process, in order to give Parliament enough time to discuss and evaluate this chapter with stakeholders and European citizens;
 - b. firmly commit to the strict preservation of standards on food safety and human and animal health, as defined under EU legislation, and ensure that fundamental values of the EU such as the precautionary principle are not undermined;
 - c. ensure a positive final outcome of the negotiations for agriculture reflecting both the offensive and defensive interests of the EU agricultural sector concerning the abolition or reduction of both tariff and non-tariff barriers, including in particular sanitary and phytosanitary standards and procedures, so that EU producers make genuine gains in terms of access to the US market;
 - d. secure a level playing field, treating as sensitive those products for which direct competition would expose EU agricultural producers to excessive pressure, for example in cases where regulatory conditions and related costs of production in the EU diverge from those in the US;
 - e. secure significantly improved protection of EU geographical indications and better consumer information as an essential element of a balanced agreement, taking the relevant chapter of the CETA with Canada as a good example;
 - f. engage in a fully transparent, timely and comprehensive manner with all agricultural stakeholders on all aspects of the negotiations.