

Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development

Resolution on the question how the EU can help to establish a worldwide network of institutions and knowledge sources in order to advance sustainable agriculture

The Model European Parliament,

- A. Concerned that the practice of unsustainable agriculture¹ is harming our environment,
- B. Alarmed that if unsustainable methods of agriculture continue primarily to be used there will not be sufficient food supplies to meet the needs of the increasing global population in years to come,
- C. Realizing that the conditions under which agricultural subsidies are distributed do not promote the practice of sustainable agriculture to the extent they should,
- D. Noting with deep regret that some farmers globally are restrained in their ability to practice sustainable agriculture due to
 - a) insufficient access to knowledge sources in industry, business and technology,
 - b) the political and social situations in certain countries,
- E. Noting with deep concern that due to unfair competition, farmers in certain non-EU countries have difficulties competing on the global market which can prohibit them from practicing sustainable agriculture due to factors such as lack of funding,
- F. Recognising the need for widespread international action in the set-up of this Anetwork²,
- G. Realizing that the institutions³ and sources of knowledge already set up need to communicate, collaborate and co-operate better in order to increase their efficiency,
- H. Noting with approval the steps already taken by the EU to promote global sustainable agriculture, such as co-operation of the EU with the WTO, FAO⁴ and other international agencies,
- I. Approving the continuous work being done in areas including but not limited to those in the field of legislation and by existing institutions devoted to advancing sustainable agriculture,
- J. Realizing that the format followed by proposed centers of knowledge is not necessarily compatible with all the countries involved in the programme,
- K. Noting with approval the creation of indicators in the EU to monitor and evaluate the state of sustainable agriculture worldwide,

1. Proposes the creation of a reference level⁴, set by a committee of global representatives who collaborate, improve and integrate the various reference levels which are already in place worldwide;
2. Proposes to set-up the database, ISAD⁵, calling upon the institutions and sources of knowledge that are already in place to collaborate, communicate and integrate with this aforementioned database in order to compile a vast and thorough global knowledge source;
3. Suggests that an organization be created which periodically monitors and evaluates the efficiency of measures and actions on a national level, using the reference level as a guide line⁶;
4. Strongly recommends the European Union to partially remove trade barriers on imports from those countries trying or are already practising sustainable agricultural methods, as a means of promoting sustainability in agriculture;
5. Endorses the creation of an optional Sustainable Agriculture Label which coincides with the existing label organisations, such as Fair-trade, to increase consumer awareness as to the extent that those products are produced sustainably by means of a comparison to the reference level as mentioned above;
6. Reaffirms the need to establish and develop regional institutions, the functions of which include
 - a) increasing the knowledge and skills of individuals for example by facilitating the exchange of scientific studies by means of the internet, radio, television etc. and organising panel discussions on sustainable agriculture open to the public
 - b) collecting data and information in this area on a regional level in order to source it to an international level
 - c) acknowledging, researching and addressing the concerns of farmers in these areas;
7. Calls upon the governments of the world to increase funding in the following sectors,
 - a) Communications, especially in developing and rural areas, in order to make these mentioned sources of knowledge and institutions more accessible to all parties concerned
 - b) the education of farmers in industry, sustainability, business and technology in order to increase the practice and knowledge of sustainable agriculture;
8. Encourages countries worldwide to develop efficient national policies by periodically evaluating their progress by referring to the reference level;
9. Further invites governments of the world to adopt an agricultural policy which discourages the practice of unsustainable industrial agriculture⁷;
10. Strongly calls upon the relevant international institutions to simplify the bureaucratic procedures of existing financial mechanisms to support sustainable agriculture;
11. Instructs the President to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European commission and the Council of Ministers.

Appendix:

- 1 Recognising the definition of sustainable agriculture to be agriculture which encompasses production alongside conservation of finite resources and protection of the natural environment so that the needs of the global population, the environment and global economy can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,
- 2 Network is a group of people who interact together
- 3 Institution is an important organization or public body including but not limited to banks, churches and universities
- 4 Food and Agricultural Organization, organization of the UN
- 5 This reference level would respond to the regional diversity of environmental conditions
- 6 ISAD: International Sustainable Agriculture Database, which exchanges information and evaluations in the area of sustainable agriculture between all parties concerned
- 7 Recognizes the fact that vast portions of the earth's land (40%) for agricultural production is degraded due to unsustainable farming,
- 8 Referring to the dumping of food surpluses, and overproduction

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Resolution on the question "How can the EU promote and coordinate research programmes in order to protect the member states and other countries worldwide against animal epidemics and pandemics?"

The Model European Parliament,

- A. Observing the lack of coordination and cooperation among existing R&D¹ institutions,
 - B. Recognizing that the potential of researchers is not fully realised,
 - C. Noting the differences between standards of universities and research centres, causing a deficiency in coherent research,
 - D. Recognising the lack of students studying epidemiology,
 - E. Alarmed by the lack appropriate and coherent information on diseases within the EU which indirectly aids their spread,
 - F. Taking into account the global nature of this issue and the need for trans-continental cooperation,
 - G. Despite the fact that TRACES² could play a vital part in the battle against animal diseases the plan has not been instigated,
 - H. Realising that a lack of information can cause confusion and panic,
 - I. Aware that the official EU websites on epidemic and pandemic diseases are neither sufficiently informative nor well known,
 - J. Fully aware of the need to provide fairly distributed vaccinations throughout European countries,
 - K. Observing that despite existing policy, epidemics and pandemics are still spreading throughout Europe,
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- 1. Calls upon the formation of a new European R&D organisation with two objectives:
 - a) encapsulate and coordinate the existing EU R&D institutions
 - b) galvanise the research of international experts by employing them at the new European R&D organisation;
 - 2. Calls for the financial and technological enhancement of universities and research centres throughout the EU in order to improve facilities;
 - 3. Highlights the necessity of providing a given number of scholarships for students who want to study epidemiology;

4. Urges the creation of an EU-wide database that contains information and statistics about epidemic and pandemic diseases that is available to respective member states and medical institutions in the EU;
5. Emphasizes the need for cooperation between the European research centre and global organisations such as the WHO³, FAO⁴ and OIE⁵;
6. Strongly recommends that the EU initiates the TRACES programme as hastily as possible;
7. Urges the governments of all EU member states to inform their inhabitants about epidemics and pandemics using appropriate media, before a given deadline and to be subsidised by the EU;
8. Proclaims the need to promote, improve and expand the EU websites about epidemics and pandemics;
9. Recommends the authorization of an European organisation that buys vaccines and coordinates the distribution among member states;
10. Requests the review of the existing protocol by a judicial body made up of field experts;
11. Instructs the President to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

Appendix:

¹ Research and Development

² Trade Control and Expert System aims to improve the accuracy, availability and timeliness of the provision of data on live animals, food from animal origin and feed. It allows for traceability across Member State borders.

³ World Health Organisation

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization

⁵ World Organisation for Animal Health

Committee on the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Resolution on the question "To what extent should the EU and its member states be allowed to interfere with civil rights in order to fight more effectively organized international crime?"

The Model European Parliament,

- A. Concerned by the ongoing violations of civil liberties in stations and ports, but aware of the necessity of these procedures as a way of ensuring the security of all EU citizens,
- B. Conscious of the possibility that compulsory identification systems may interfere with the civil rights of the people, but also aware of its importance in the fight against organised international crime,
- C. Aware of the recurring threat to civil rights, in particular privacy, that governments pose in the fight against organised international crime,
- D. Acknowledging both the importance and the possible danger of governmental misuse while handling the personal data of the EU's citizens,
- E. Taking into consideration the power of governments to gain access to banking account details of suspected criminals, and the issue of the violation of banking confidentiality that this implies,
- F. Alarmed by the violation of the civil right to privacy by governments who monitor internet and telephone activity in an attempt to deal with the issue of organised international crime,
- G. Deeply concerned that the data protection legislation in the E.U. is not up to date with the advancing technologies,
- H. Bearing in mind that in order to fight international organised crime more effectively, exchange of information and of suspects is indispensable,
- I. Noting with regret that there is an existing treaty based on the exchange of information which has not been signed by all E.U. members,
- J. Deeply disturbed by the illegal use of torture as a means of investigation into organised international crime in the European Union by member states and foreign bodies,

1. Strongly recommends that a common security protocol for stations and ports be adopted by the member states which would:
 - a) ensure that invasive and degrading methods of security clearance are not practiced
 - b) be formulated by the Security Council of the European Union;
2. Emphasises the need to implement common identification documents within all the member states to enable the authorities to identify any citizen acting in a suspicious manner;
3. Supports the instalment of police-controlled cameras in particularly conflictive urban areas, with the purpose of recording and preventing acts, provided that no misuse or abuse of information by those authorities occurs;
4. Reminds the EU Member States of the binding Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the right of protection of personal data¹;
5. Tolerates the request of bank data by governments from banks of suspected persons involved in organised international crime, however suggests that this may only be obtained if due cause is proven by the judicial systems of the respective countries;
6. Furthermore urges the banks of the international community to cooperate with the EU in this financial data exchange;
7. Declares that the tracking of correspondence² in the fight against organised crime should be prohibited in all member states, unless the permission of an elected judge from the member state has been obtained;
8. In addition, empowers an elected European Union "Inspector" to supervise the processes mentioned in OC 5 and OC 7 to ensure that the tracking of correspondence and the obtaining of bank information is not misused by the respective governments for personal benefit, undermining our civil rights;
9. Emphasises the importance of article four³ of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU;
10. Proclaims the need to implement stricter sentences and punishments of those tried and found guilty of torture;

11. Further recommends the increase of medical and psychological support and supervision in all prisons of the Member States so as to detect any signs of mental or physical torture on prisoners convicted of organised international crime;
12. Endorses the work of existing bodies in the support of the fight against terrorism;
13. Calls upon the EU to regularly update legislation of the Data Protection act;
14. Urges all EU member states that have yet not done so to sign the treaty/;
15. Further proclaims the necessity of including the signing of the Exchange Treaty in the Copenhagen Criteria;
16. Instructs the President to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

Appendix:

¹ Article 8 from the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states that everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her.

² This includes phone use, emails, internet activity, post etc.

³ Article 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

⁴ The exchange treaty has been signed by all member states except: Hungary, Malta, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Romania.