Basic information

2016/2583(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods **Subject** 3.10.05.01 Meat 3.10.05.02 Milk and dairy products 4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling 4.60.04.04 Food safety	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety	WILLMOTT Dame Glenis (S&D)	11/01/2016
	GIRLING Julie (ECR)	11/01/2016
	JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli (ALDE)	11/01/2016
	BOYLAN Lynn (GUE/NGL)	11/01/2016
	RIVASI Michèle (Verts/ALE)	11/01/2016
	PEDICINI Piernicola (EFDD)	11/01/2016
	SALVINI Matteo (ENF)	11/01/2016

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Agriculture and Rural Development	HOGAN Phil

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/05/2016	Debate in Parliament		
12/05/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0225/2016	Summary
12/05/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/05/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/2583(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/05683

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE578.538	04/03/2016	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0545/2016	10/05/2016	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0225/2016	12/05/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2016)486	23/09/2016	

Resolution on mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods

2016/2583(RSP) - 12/05/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 422 votes to 159 with 68 abstentions, a resolution tabled by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods.

Members recalled that in its resolution of 11 February 2015, Parliament urged the Commission to present legislative proposals **making the indication of the origin of meat in processed foods mandatory** in order to ensure greater transparency throughout the food chain and to better inform European consumers.

The resolution emphasises that, according to the Eurobarometer survey 2013:

- **84% of EU citizens** consider it necessary to indicate the origin of milk, whether sold as such or used as an ingredient in dairy products; this is one of several factors that may influence consumer behaviour;
- **88% of EU citizens** consider it necessary to indicate the origin of meat other than beef, swine, sheep, goat and poultry meat.

Furthermore, the Commission's report of 17 December 2013 regarding the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for meat used as an ingredient recognises that **more than 90% of consumer** respondents consider it important that meat origin be labelled on processed food products.

Parliament considered that consumers, like many professionals, are **in favour of the mandatory labelling of meat in processed products.**

Accordingly, Parliament asked the Commission to:

- **implement the mandatory indication of country of origin or place of provenance for all kinds of drinking milk, dairy products and meat products**, and to consider extending the mandatory indication of country of origin or place of provenance to other single-ingredient foods or those with one main ingredient, by making legislative proposals in these areas;
- **submit legislative proposals making the indication of the origin of meat in processed foods mandatory** in order to ensure greater transparency throughout the food chain and to better inform European consumers in the wake of the horsemeat scandal and other cases of food fraud. Mandatory labelling requirements should take into account the principle of proportionality and the administrative burden for food business operators and enforcement authorities;

- support labelling schemes relating to **animal welfare** during cultivation, transport and slaughter;
- take the necessary action to **combat fraud in relation to rules on the voluntary labelling** of origin for foodstuffs;
- promote the **development of products** with 'protected designation of origin' (PDO), 'protected geographical indication' (PGI), or 'traditional speciality guaranteed' (TSG) pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 and ensure European promotion campaigns on those products are stepped up.

Members also took the view that the **mandatory labelling of egg products and foods containing eggs** to indicate origin and rearing method could improve transparency and protection, and called on the Commission to submit a market analysis and, if necessary, to draw up appropriate legislative proposals.

They believed that country of origin labelling for drinking milk, lightly processed dairy products (such as cheese and cream) and lightly processed meat products (such as bacon and sausages) would have significantly reduced associated costs, and that this labelling should be explored as a priority.

Lastly, considering that origin labelling as such does not prevent fraud, Parliament advocated that a resolute course should be taken to **step up monitoring**, improve enforcement of existing legislation and impose more stringent penalties.