Basic information

2023/2015(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
European Protein Strategy **Subject** 3.10.09 Plant health legislation, organic farming, agro-genetics in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	YTTERELL Emma (Renew)	09/02/2023
	Shadow rapporteur VANDENKENDELAERE Tom (EPP) NOICHL Maria (S&D) METZ Tilly (Greens/EFA) RUISSEN Bert-Jan (ECR) MACMANUS Chris (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	GONZÁLEZ CASARES Nicolás (S&D)	07/02/2023

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Agriculture and Rural Development	WOJCIECHOWSKI Janusz

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/02/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/09/2023	Vote in committee		
03/10/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0281/2023	Summary
19/10/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0375/2023	Summary

19/10/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/10/2023	Debate in Parliament		
19/10/2023	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2015(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/9/11278

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE742.624	07/03/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE746.842	03/05/2023	
Committee opinion	PECH	PE745.279	26/05/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0281/2023	03/10/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0375/2023	19/10/2023	Summary

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	28/11/2023	Protealis
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	22/09/2023	InFamily Foods Holding
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	07/06/2023	International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF)
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	01/06/2023	Copa Cogeca
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	16/05/2023	Re-Meat
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	16/05/2023	Corbion
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	27/04/2023	European Alliance for Plant-based Foods

YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	19/04/2023	FEIDOL
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	18/04/2023	European Institute of Innovation & Technology Food
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	12/04/2023	Vereniging Vlaamse Provincies
RUISSEN Bert-Jan	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	12/04/2023	Copa Cogeca
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	11/04/2023	International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF)
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	24/03/2023	Instituut voor Landbouw en Visserijonderzoek
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	24/03/2023	Protealis
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	20/03/2023	FlandersFood
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	09/03/2023	The Good Food Institute Europe (Belgium)
NOICHL Maria	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	01/03/2023	The Good Food Institute Europe ASBL
VANDENKENDELAERE Tom	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	28/02/2023	The Good Food Institute Europe (Belgium)
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	22/02/2023	Naturbruksgymnasiet Sötåsen
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	22/02/2023	lantmännen
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	21/02/2023	Marine Taste
YTTERELL Emma	Rapporteur	AGRI	20/02/2023	Mycorena

European Protein Strategy

2023/2015(INI) - 19/10/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 305 votes to 129, with 69 abstentions, a resolution on a European protein strategy.

Proteins are essential and indispensable components for balanced and healthy diets, human nutrition and animal feed.

Protein is essential for both humans and animals and is, therefore, an indispensable component in food and feed consumed on a daily basis. Although protein-crop production in the EU has improved over the last 10 years, there continues to be a significant shortfall in domestic production as livestock production has also increased, consolidating the EU's heavy dependence on imports of protein-rich crops from non-EU countries.

A clear need for a comprehensive EU protein strategy to enhance protein potential

The Commission is called on to urgently present a **comprehensive and ambitious EU protein strategy** covering the sustainable production and consumption of all types of protein in the EU, especially plant- and animal-based protein, and introducing effective measures to boost open European protein autonomy in the short, medium and long term. The resolution underlined that the production of protein crops and plant-based protein should be prioritised.

A vision for increased EU protein production

The resolution noted that European resilience levels need to be significantly strengthened in crucial sectors such as food and feed supply by reducing, as far as possible, dependencies on agricultural products and resources from just one or a few suppliers through stronger domestic production, while encouraging the EU's competitiveness to avoid the concentration of markets in the hands of just a few key players. Therefore, the EU needs to step up the production of plant protein.

Parliament considered that imported products should meet comparable sustainability standards to provide greater competitiveness for EU producers and prevent the relocation of EU production abroad.

Better conditions for protein production in the EU

Parliament called on the Commission to explore opportunities to enable a profitable business model for farmers to help them convert their crops to attractive food and feed products by increasing crop resilience, protein yields and protein quality.

Members called for a swift adoption of a framework tailored to **new breeding techniques** to allow for faster development of new and robust plant varieties, including protein crops.

In addition, the resolution recalled that the production of **biomethane, biogas, biofuels or other bio-based chemicals** that use biowaste streams is one of the factors contributing to more sustainable production and is a significant revenue source that enhances the value of protein-rich crops. The growth in the production of plant protein for food and feed could lead to by-products being used in more ways for bioenergy and hence higher economic value from protein-crop production.

Developing plant-based and alternative protein for food and feed

Members:

- encourage the production of **soya beans** in the European Union as a source of plant-based protein by incentivising investment in research and development to improve crop quality and yield;

- recognise the strong potential of **hemp** as a sustainable protein crop and stresses the need to harmonise its regulation at EU level to facilitate its cultivation and processing into food and feed;

- highlight the role of sustainable **fishery and aquaculture** sectors in ensuring food security and in diets based on healthy and high-quality protein. Therefore, the Commission should ensure that the upcoming European protein strategy recognises the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Algae and microalgae can be an important complementary source of protein as part of a sustainable food-production system according to the resolution. Members called on the Commission to include this in the European protein strategy.

Parliament stressed that **insects**, provided they meet high safety standards, could be regarded a useful circular alternative source of protein, particularly for organic and conventional animal nutrition, contributing to reducing the EU protein deficit and increasing the circularity of agriculture.

Concrete policy actions

Parliament called on the Commission to put forward a series of policy actions including:

- legislative measures such as: (i) a feed additive regulation that enables stability and innovations in feed additives; (ii) a novel food legislation that simplifies and speeds up authorisation processes; (iii) a directive on waste that enlarges the types of biodegradable waste to be considered as feed; (iv) a renewable energy directive that allows for long-term stable regulation for biofuel production; (v) an energy taxation directive; (vi) a regulation on new genomic techniques; (vii) a combination of CAP rules that provide incentives for production of protein-rich crops, grassland and legumes;

- other policy measures such as: (i) a food protein balance sheet; (ii) a clear long-term funding strategy for research and development; (iii) a framework to connect the production of plant-based proteins to the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD); (iv) more research into nutritional life cycle assessments (n-LCA) of foods.

European Protein Strategy

2023/2015(INI) - 03/10/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted an own-initiative report by Emma WIESNER (Renew, SE) on a European protein strategy.

Proteins are essential and indispensable components for balanced and healthy diets, human nutrition and animal feed. Plant proteins are also crucial for the transition towards sustainable food systems, while an increased cultivation of legumes and grasslands contributes to a more sustainable and diversified agriculture and reduces the need for fertiliser inputs.

Demand for protein is expected to continuously grow both globally and within the EU. The EU has a major production of proteins; for instance, the EU produces 77 % of protein used for feed. However, it has a deficit in protein-rich plants, so that only 29 % of the high-protein feed needed to balance livestock feed rations originates from the EU.

A clear need for a comprehensive EU protein strategy to enhance protein potential

The Commission is called on to urgently present a **comprehensive and ambitious EU protein strategy** covering the sustainable production and consumption of all types of protein in the EU, especially plant- and animal-based protein, and introducing effective measures to boost open European protein autonomy in the short, medium and long term. The report underlined that the production of protein crops and plant-based protein should be prioritised.

A vision for increased EU protein production

The report noted that European resilience levels need to be significantly strengthened in crucial sectors such as food and feed supply by reducing, as far as possible, dependencies on agricultural products and resources from just one or a few suppliers through stronger domestic production, while encouraging the EU's competitiveness to avoid the concentration of markets in the hands of just a few key players. Therefore, the EU needs to step up the production of plant protein.

Better conditions for protein production in the EU

The report stressed that farmers should be in the centre of the protein strategy. European agriculture and businesses must become more competitive in the area of proteins for food and feed and that the agriculture sector is dependent on sustainable and affordable inputs such as energy, feed, feed additives, good plant material, fertilisers and soils of good quality.

Members called for a swift adoption of a framework tailored to **new breeding techniques** to allow for faster development of new and robust plant varieties, including protein crops.

In addition, the report recalled that the production of **biomethane, biogas, biofuels or other bio-based chemicals** that use biowaste streams is one of the factors contributing to more sustainable production and is a significant revenue source that enhances the value of protein-rich crops and strengthens the business case for farmers to adopt them, while at the same time offering sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels and contributing to a significant reduction in greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

Developing plant-based and alternative protein for food and feed

The development of the plant-based protein sector will benefit European farmers, soil quality, biodiversity, climate and human health. The protein strategy's policies must create a level playing field between actors and products. It is crucial to enhance research and development in plant-based and alternative proteins.

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- recognise the strong potential of **hemp** as a sustainable protein crop and stresses the need to harmonise its regulation at EU level to facilitate its cultivation and processing into food and feed;

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Algae and microalgae can be an important complementary source of protein as part of a sustainable food-production system according to the report. Members called on the Commission to include this in the European protein strategy.

The report stressed that **insects**, provided they meet high safety standards, could be regarded a useful circular alternative source of protein, particularly for organic and conventional animal nutrition, contributing to reducing the EU protein deficit and increasing the circularity of agriculture.

A holistic approach that includes the entire food value chain

Members stressed that improved coordination and collaboration between the supply chain's stakeholders, along the entire value chain, is needed to bridge the current gaps between farmers, processors and retailers. Stronger collective collaborations between the actors, notably through farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives, should be actively promoted with a view to shaping higher added value chains.

Furthermore, increased market transparency can improve the functioning of the market, reduce waste and bring about a more circular food sector. In this regard, policy strategies and legislative frameworks should incentivise these markets.

Concrete policy actions

The report called on the Commission to put forward a series of policy actions including:

- legislative measures such as: (i) a feed additive regulation that enables stability and innovations in feed additives; (ii) a novel food legislation that simplifies and speeds up authorisation processes; (iii) a directive on waste that enlarges the types of biodegradable waste to be considered as feed; (iv) a renewable energy directive that allows for long-term stable regulation for biofuel production; (v) an energy taxation directive; (vi) a regulation on new genomic techniques; (vii) a combination of CAP rules that provide incentives for production of protein-rich crops, grassland and legumes;

- other policy measures such as: (i) a food protein balance sheet; (ii) a clear long-term funding strategy for research and development; (iii) a framework to connect the production of plant-based proteins to the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD); (iv) more research into nutritional life cycle assessments (n-LCA) of foods.