

DRAFT COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS

The EU Action Plan for the Organic Agriculture (INI) 2021/2239

Draft CA1 on Paragraph 1 - Role of the organic sector

Amendments included in the draft CA: 50(EPP), 51(Greens), 52(SD), 54(SD), 55(ECR), 56(EPP), 57(EPP), 60 (SD), 63 (EPP), 68 (Left)

1. Welcomes **the communication from the Commission on an action plan for the development of organic production (51)**, the **objective** of increasing the EU's agricultural area under organic farming by 2030 **through the development of supply and demand (55)** and the Commission's recognition of organic farming as one of the **main (52)** components on the EU's path towards more sustainable food systems, **using more sustainable agricultural practices, more efficient use of renewable sources, ensuring higher standards for animal welfare and helping to ensure higher revenues for European farmers (50)**; calls on the European Commission to carry out an impact assessment with regard to the share of the EU's agricultural area under organic farming (63); **considers that the development of organic farming (52), which delivers many positive externalities and benefits for climate change mitigation, biodiversity and soil protection (60), will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies (52, 68)**; recognises, at the same time, the potential for other **sustainable production models and farming (57)** methods, **such as integrated production and biological control (54, 56)**, to contribute to the Green Deal's objectives;

CA1a on Paragraph 1a (new) - Member States' starting points

Amendments included in the draft CA: 66 (Greens), 92 (RE), 128 (RE), 130 (RE), 247 (EPP)

Underlines that the share of agricultural land under organic farming, varies significantly among the Member States; stresses that this must be taken into account when developing policies and instruments aimed at enhancing organic production (130, 247) and urges the Commission to pay particular attention to supporting those Member States lagging behind (247); insists that all measures and instruments, proposed in this regard, should be based on thorough analyses and impact assessments (130); is of the opinion, that legislation and the OAPs must provide sufficient room for flexibility to take into account the differences in the nature and conditions of organic agriculture in the Member States (128 adapted); points out that, with the introduction of the new Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production in 2022, the Commission must ensure an orderly and measured transition from the old EU organic legislation so that the organic sector can familiarise itself with the new rules quickly and reliably (66); calls on the European Commission to carry out an impact assessment of the new regulation five years after its implementation, with a view to making any necessary adjustments (92 adapted);

Draft CA2 on Paragraph 2 - Development and growth of the organic sector

Amendments included in the draft CA: 67(Left), 69(SD), 71(Greens), 72(ECR), 73(RE), 74(RE), 75 (EPP), 214 (EPP), 216 (Left)

2. Underlines that the development and growth of the organic sector **and organic areas, as foreseen in the Farm to Fork strategy (71), with a key role in re-vitalising and maintaining vibrant rural areas (67)**, must be market-driven and **accompanied by (73, 74)** holistic supply chain developments, **including processing (71)**, as well as **policy (69)** measures to stimulate further **supply and (69)** demand for organic food and **to ensure consumer trust; emphasises that the combination of these approaches should allow balanced development (69), in line with the market's ability to absorb organic production (75, 214 adapted)**, in order to safeguard the future profitability of the organic market and organic farming in the EU; **underlines the need, in this context, to remove excessive administrative burdens (72); stresses that the environmental benefits of organic farming should not only be supported by consumers of organic products willing to pay a higher price, but the CAP budget should also properly reward organic farmers for the specific public goods that they deliver, through the protection of the environment and of natural resources, through the reduction of inputs and supporting higher animal welfare standards; (69, 216)**

CA2a on Paragraph 2a (new) - EU food systems and environmental aspects of organic agriculture

Amendments included in the draft CA: 62 (Greens), 64 (SD), 76 (RE), 78 (ECR), 106 (ECR)

Highlights that stimulating agricultural sustainability and resilience of the EU food system should be a priority (76), and that organic farming is a key element for achieving environmental and climate objectives (62); considers that sustainable innovation in practices such as organic farming and, more broadly, agroecology can lead to greater diversity within farming systems; (64); underlines that co-existence of different farming systems is important as diversity is key to food system security and resilience and benefits sustainable development; points out that there is no single farming model that fits all countries and regions and stresses that the benefits of the different sustainable farming models should be recognised (76); points out the importance of continuing to increase organic yields in order to prevent an increased ecological footprint from food production in non-EU countries while more conversion to the organic farming model takes place in EU regions; (78, 106 adapted)

Draft CA3 on Paragraph 3 - Development of the national OAPs

Amendments included in the draft CA: 80(Greens), 81(SD), 82(RE), 83(EPP), 84(EPP), 85(Left), 86(SD), 87(EPP), 88(RE), 89(ECR), 90(EPP),

3. Points out that for an EU action plan to succeed, it must stimulate and mobilise the Member States, **as well as regional and local authorities (80), taking into account their specificities and different starting points (82, 84); believes that regional and local OAPs, where relevant, should also play a role in the development of the organic sector (84, 85);** expresses the view, therefore, that Member States should be encouraged **to establish their own national strategies for organic farming and (83)** to develop their own national **and/or regional OAPs, in coordination with the National Strategic Plan (81, 86, 87), which should have a high level of ambition for the development of organic farming (81), with realistic and (90) concrete objectives, actions, time-frames and budgets (88), including incentives for farmers (83, 88), that facilitate choice and support bottom-up initiatives (89); calls on the Commission to ensure that these conditions are fully respected when approving the National Strategic Plans submitted by the Member States and to ensure that sufficient financial resources, together with the most effective tools, are made**

available to achieve the relevant objectives in terms of the development of the sector (81 adapted); highlights the need to exchange know-how and best practices, as some Member States have more experience in designing and implementing ambitious national plans; calls on the Commission to include such exchanges in the framework of the planned public follow-up meetings (80); highlights that the national OAPs should create predictability and clarity for farmers and industry, thus encouraging the development of the organic sector and the commercialisation of organic products (82);

Draft CA4 on Paragraph 4 - Involvement of the main actors in the process of adoption of the OAPs

Amendments included in the draft CA: 98(SD), 99(EPP), 100(SD), 101(EPP), 102(Greens), 103(RE), 104(Left), 105(RE)

4. Stresses that Member States should engage all stakeholders, especially organic farmers and associations, *cooperatives (100)*, local and regional authorities, *the agri-food industry along the value chain (99, 105)*, *agri-food wholesalers (101)*, consumer and private sector representatives and the hospitality industry, *including large-scale caterers (99) and food education associations (102)*, *as well as citizens (104)*, in a consultative process when *designing (103)*, adopting, *reviewing (98) and implementing (103)* their national *and/or regional (100)* OAPs to achieve the best possible synergies *and to reach the objective of increased area under organic farming as determined in their National Strategic Plan (98)*;

Draft CA5 on Paragraph 5 - Production costs for organic farmers

Amendments included in the draft CA: 107(SD), 108(Greens), 109(EPP), 111(EPP), 112(EPP), 113(EPP), 114(ECR)

5. Acknowledges that organic production *offers better economic returns for farmers (108)*, but often involves higher production costs and, therefore, *requires market prices and direct support to be sufficient* to recover those costs *in order to allow fair earnings for farmers (107, 113)*; points out that higher *consumer (107, 111)* prices may represent a barrier to expansion, but that they *are currently (114 adapted) needed to sustain the organic sector (109)*; recalls that in some cases there is no market for organic agricultural products, forcing farmers to sell them as conventional agricultural products at a lower price; *reminds that organic farming involves very high production standards (111)*; *stresses the need to address the affordability and thus accessibility of organic products (109)*; strongly emphasizes *that producers must be supported in the process of conversion to organic production (109) and must benefit from the added value of organic farming (112)*; notes that, *as is the case for conventional products, a better repartition of the value between the actors in the organic food chain would benefit both farmers and consumers (108)*; *recognizes that the development of the organic sector will allow economies of scale in processing and logistics that will increase efficiency and lead to lower costs (107)*; *stresses the importance of the Unfair Trading Practices Directive for the development of the sector and to ensure that retailers do not have excessively high margins on organic products (107)*; *considers also that organic products could be included in the programmes within the Fund for European Aid for the Most Deprived, (107) as long as there is a sufficient supply*;

CA5a on Paragraph 5a (new) - Animal husbandry

Amendments included in the draft CA: 271 (Greens), 306 (EPP), 308 (Left)

Welcomes that the Commission is working on improving overall animal welfare and points out that the 2020 Eurobarometer survey on agriculture and the CAP found that 80% of EU citizens associate organic farming with higher respect for animal welfare (271, 308 adapted); underlines, in this context, the importance of supporting organic livestock farming (306);

Draft CA6 on Paragraph 6 - Development of organic aquaculture

Amendments included in the draft CA: 120(SD), 122(Greens), 124(Left), 125(ECR)

6. ***Underlines (124) the importance of speeding up the development of organic aquaculture and its market (125) in the EU, as well as strengthening consumers' demand and trust in these products (122); highlights that one in four fishery products comes from aquaculture; points out, however, that as most of the consumption of these products is supplied by imports, representing 60% of total supply, there is huge growth potential that we must take advantage of to develop European aquaculture, especially organic (120);***

Stimulating demand and ensuring consumer trust

Draft CA7 on Paragraph 7 - The EU school schemes & organic logo

Amendments included in the draft CA: 134(Greens), 135(SD), 136(EPP), 137(SD), 138(EPP), 139(RE), 140(Left), 141 (Left)

7. Supports the Commission in further promoting ***and sharing information about (134)*** the EU organic logo among consumers, including through school schemes, ***which should give a larger share to organic products when the school schemes will be revised (137), and in other institutions such as nursing homes (136); supports the promotion of local organic logos that exist in several Member States and which offer at least the same guarantees as the EU organic logo and are used together with it (139); notes that school schemes should be the basis for a pedagogic discussion around nutrition and sustainable food and be accompanied by measures aimed at informing and educating children about better diets (134);*** emphasises that it is of paramount importance that consumer surveys on organics are followed by actions to further ***raise awareness of the benefits of organic farming for health, well-being and high quality of life (136, 137, 140), while ensuring that consumer trust in the safety and sustainability of conventional farming methods in the Union is not undermined (138 adapted); stresses the need to provide accurate information to ensure that the new initiatives, which are being developed on sustainable food labelling, do not weaken the EU organic logo or create confusion for the consumer regarding their respective scope and meaning(135, 141 adapted);***

CA7a on Paragraph 7a (new) - Importance of the EU logo / labelling / guiding consumer choices

Amendments included in the draft CA: 131 (Left), 142(SD), 143(Greens), 144(ECR), 168 (SD), 176 (Greens)

Expresses its concern about misleading labels, packaging and advertising that makes it difficult for consumers to distinguish conventional products from organic products (131); notes that the EU

organic regulation and frequent independent controls are the basis for consumers' trust in organic products and calls on Member States to communicate clearly on the EU organic logo (176); emphasises the role to be played by supermarkets and the various food supply chains in promoting and supporting the EU organic logo (142); awaits the Commission's future initiatives aimed at better guiding consumers in their choice of food through labelling (143), promotion and information campaigns (144), based on sound, independent and operational scientific foundations and complete and coherent methodologies (143); notes that mandatory labelling on the origin of all EU food products has the potential to significantly increase transparency and traceability, thereby combatting fraud and illegal production methods, as well as improving consumer confidence (168);

Draft CA8 on Paragraph 8 - Green Public Procurement (GPP)

Amendments included in the draft CA: 147(Greens), 148(SD), 149(RE), 150(EPP), 152(SD), 153(ECR)

8. Believes that ***the green public procurement (GPP) review of 2019 should be better publicised in the Member States in order to improve awareness and (152)*** serve as a strong stimulus for action towards the ***promotion of (153 adapted) organic production and to support a healthier, more environmentally-friendly diet in institutions such as schools, hospitals, retirement homes and prisons (147), and can also reduce waste of organic products (150) in the Member States with surpluses;*** believes that the EU institutions should lead by example in their own facilities; considers ***that in order to increase the use of GPP, it is essential to coordinate with the sector, through its representative organisations, with a view to ensuring that the procurement runs smoothly (148);*** calls on the Commission to ***continue investigations on (152)*** current structural and logistical barriers and to promote the use of GPP criteria in the Member States ***as well as actions to improve information, education and the promotion of organics in order to make this measure more effective (148);*** points out that ***the increase in the use of GPP should be decided at national level in accordance with the national demand and targets set in national OAPs (149);*** believes that ***GPP must put a strong emphasis on EU organic products, which would stimulate production and would help the EU in reaching its climate targets; stresses that, organic production and processing must be developed in an appropriate way at the regional and local levels, involving local organic farmers; supports the development of regional sustainable food systems based on cooperation involving all food stakeholders; regrets the lack of verified data about the uptake of organic products in public canteens and restaurants (147);***

Draft CA9 on Paragraph 9 - The role of the local and regional authorities

Amendments included in the draft CA: 154(EPP), 155(Greens), 156(RE), 157(SD), 158(EPP), 159(RE), 160(EPP), 161 (EPP)

9. Points out that local, regional ***and national (156)*** authorities, ***together with farmers' associations and agrifood wholesalers (154, 158)*** play an important role in supporting the structuring of the organic sector in terms of production, ***collective processing (155),*** logistics and trade, ***easing access to land for organic farmers (157),*** facilitating cooperation between producers ***themselves (160),*** between producers and consumers ***and with food services;*** highlights, furthermore the role to be played by local, regional and national authorities in raising ***public awareness on all types of sustainable farming methods (159), in supplying organic products in canteens (157) and when*** developing educational programmes for preschools and schools; ***points out, in this context, that farmers' markets at local and regional level are an effective tool in bridging the gap between producers and consumers and should be promoted (154);*** reminds also

that highly valuable *technical assistance is provided by local and regional authorities and farmers' associations to organic farmers and those in the process of converting, which is crucial for the implementation of these practices (154, 155), and which require adequate funding from the CAP and other sources (155); highlights that all authorities must ensure that the regulatory framework continues to enable and stimulate the sector's development while keeping administrative burdens at a minimum (156 adapted); reminds that local and regional authorities in many Member States have long been involved in supporting the development of organic farming, in particular through the management and implementation of rural development programmes (161);*

Draft CA10 on Paragraph 10 - Involvement of the private sector

Amendments included in the draft CA: 163(EPP), 166(RE), 167(EPP), 168 (SD), 207 (RE)

10. Highlights that the success of the OAP will depend on stronger involvement of the private sector to stimulate demand **and deliver fair incomes for farmers (167)**, especially in countries with less developed organic markets and production; **calls on the Commission to identify a set of instruments to enable the Member States to encourage retail chains to actively help to promote and provide information on the importance of organic consumption, and to create local organic supply chains (163); underlines that an increase in organic production must primarily come from higher private demand and not exclusively from political incentives (166); highlights the importance of improving transparency in the organic food supply chain and of better traceability of all production and distribution processes in line with the demands of European consumers to have more information on the origin and production methods of the foodstuffs they consume (168); welcomes voluntary initiatives by retailers to buy conversion products at a higher price and believes such initiatives should be promoted; takes due note of the difficulties they are facing in marketing these conversion products to consumers due to the lack of harmonised marketing rules and calls on the Commission to assess measures to facilitate their marketing, such as through harmonised labelling; (207)**

Draft CA11 on Paragraph 11 - Certification, control and trade

Amendments included in the draft CA: 170(RE), 171(EPP), 172(EPP), 173 (SD), 175(Left), 177 (SD), 179 (EPP), 277 (EPP), 292 (SD)

11. Underlines that it is essential for the Commission, the Member States and stakeholders to engage actively in identifying ways in which the existing certification and control mechanisms can be made more robust to prevent fraud in organic production and trade **(277); believes that the certification and control mechanisms must be more suited to the reality on the ground for organic farmers (172) and the process must be simplified (170, 175), including through IT solutions; emphasizes that special attention must be paid to the procedures for authorizing certification bodies (171); stresses that the certification process in the conversion to organic farming continues to be cumbersome and difficult to implement and should be facilitated, especially for small farmers (170), considers that farmers should be supported in covering certification costs (173 adapted);**

Highlights the need for harmonised European systems for the certification of inputs for organic farming in order to prevent the proliferation of private certifications with different requirements and control systems; calls on the Commission to accelerate its EU-wide harmonisation through the OAP; (292)

Urges the Commission to strengthen customs checks by means of direct, unified control mechanisms in coordination with the Member States and in full compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in order to prevent food fraud, adulteration and imports of products not complying with EU organic production standards, as well as to avoid the risk of putting the EU organic sector at a competitive disadvantage owing to a lack of global convergence of standards and increased costs for consumers (177); highlights, in this context, the need for a greater involvement of the relevant customs authorities in order to guarantee the quality and safety of organic products and ensure fair competition between intra and extra EU producers (179);

Draft CA12 on Paragraph 12 - International trade in EU organic products & promotion policy

Amendments included in the draft CA: 126 (ECR), 132 (RE), 174 (Greens), 183(RE), 184(SD), 185(ECR), 186(EPP), 188 (Left), 254 (EPP), 276 (EPP)

12. ***Stresses that agricultural products of EU origin are internationally recognised for their high quality (185); considers that positive and trade-promoting (186) actions are needed to further promote EU organic products internationally (186); acknowledges, in this regard, the potential role to be played by the EU's promotion policy for organic production (183); underlines that it should recognise the wide range of sustainable production methods, practises and products in the EU (183); points out that geographical indications, which are supported by EU's promotion policy, strongly contribute to economic growth in many rural areas and are a flagship of European agriculture; (132, 254, 276 adapted) requests that the Commission inform Parliament about the potential for expansion of the organic market and that it speeds up the ongoing negotiations to achieve the shift from equivalence to compliance with EU standards for imports of organic products (174, 184); supports the global transition to sustainable food systems (188); takes the view that action at EU level, including in particular the Green Deal strategy, should aim at regularly raising environmental awareness on a global scale; regrets that free trade agreements sometimes do not pay sufficient attention to major differences in agricultural production standards between the EU and third countries with regard to environmental protection and animal welfare, which discourages EU farmers from further environmental investments, including in organic production; (126)***

Stimulating conversion and reinforcing the entire value chain

Draft CA13 on Paragraph 13 - CAP budget

Amendments included in the draft CA: 97 (EPP), 196(Greens), 197(SD), 198(RE), 199(EPP), 200(SD), 202(EPP), 203(SD), 210(SD), 217 (Left)

13. ***Considers that, in order to fulfil the ambitions of the National Strategic Plans (197 adapted, 198 adapted), an adequate CAP budget, as well as compatibility with other European funds or programs (203), is essential to create incentives to encourage (199) farmers to convert to and maintain organic farming practices, through adequately resourced (210) rural development measures or financially attractive (210) eco-schemes, or a combination of the two; calls for eco-schemes to be accessible for both conventional and organic farmers (200) and to be designed in a manner that renders them compatible with and complementary to agri-environment-climate measures (AECMs) (97, 217); recalls the importance of supporting organic farmers beyond the conversion phase (196); calls on the Member States to support generational renewal in organic farming through the relevant public policies, (202) to promote farming entrepreneurship among women (199) and to support the development of viable, small and medium-sized organic farms (196); regrets the decline in the CAP's budget over the past two decades at the same time as***

requirements imposed on the agricultural sector have grown (197); notes that, under the current CAP, only 1.8% of the budget is being spent on measures to support organic farming and welcomes the fact that the new CAP, notably through eco-schemes and rural development measures, allows the Member States more flexibility to increase the amounts devoted to the organic sector;

Draft CA14 on Paragraph 14 - The food supply chain and direct marketing

Amendments included in the draft CA: 219(EPP), 221(SD), 222(EPP), 223(EPP), 224(EPP), 226(SD), 227(ECR)

14. Notes the potential of short, local, seasonal and **smart (227)** food supply chains and direct marketing opportunities, **including farmers' markets (226, 219)**, for organic producers and rural economies to deliver environmental and animal welfare benefits **together with** securing incomes, **preserving (224) and** creating employment, **ensuring the vitality of rural areas (222) and bridging the gap between EU producers and consumers (226); points out that market development is essential for the sustainable development of the organic sector (224); calls on the Member States to allocate sufficient resources for investments easing the development of short food chains, such as through increasing the number of mobile slaughterhouses or on-farm processing facilities (221); considers that the use of local supply chains should be promoted in public procurement procedures (222); emphasises that the focus on local production and short chains should not lead to additional barriers in the EU internal market (223);**

CA14a on Paragraph 14a (new) - Producer organisations and capacity building

Amendments included in the draft CA: 95(EPP), 169(Left), 228(ECR), 229 (EPP), 231 (SD)

Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to play an active role in improving the structure of organic supply chains and building the capacity of organic producers' organisations (95, 169); urges the Member State to use "sectorial interventions" and all available measures to improve the organisation of organic producers in all relevant sectors and to assist them in case of temporary overproduction (231); points out that organic farms, whose production is smaller in terms of volume and thus more costly, may have less bargaining power in commercial contracts and may therefore be particularly vulnerable to unfair commercial practices, especially in the form of delayed payment for perishable goods, last minute cancellations or forcing suppliers to pay for unsold and wasted products (228); underlines the need for clear contractual conditions and fair recognition of the work of organic agricultural producers and believes that tools such as supply chain contracts should be promoted (229);

Draft CA15 on Paragraph 15 - The bio-districts

Amendments included in the draft CA: 232(EPP), 233(Greens), 234(EPP), 235(Left), 236(EPP), 237(EPP)

15. Welcomes the Commission's support for the development of bio-districts, **also referred to as eco-regions (236)**, within Member States, as they are multifunctional in nature, **promote short supply chains (235)** and create synergies **inter alia (235)** between farmers, consumers, **processing companies, retailers (236)**, the hospitality industry **and catering (237)** and cultural enterprises; **calls on the Commission to provide the Member States with information on the instruments they could use to promote the development of bio-districts (232), paying special attention to urbanised areas (234); notes that their success depends upon a strong regional integration and the involvement of**

local and regional authorities (233);

Draft CA16 on Paragraph 16 - Exchange of best practices on organic farming

Amendments included in the draft CA: 239(EPP), 240(SD), 241(EPP), 242(SD), 244(EPP)

16. Stresses the fundamental importance of expanding the structured exchange of knowledge and best practices on organic farming among Member States and farmers; **highlights** the benefits of **intensifying** collaboration between scientists, **agricultural science universities (239)** and the wider education sector, advisory services **or consultants (241)**, farmers **and their associations and organisations (242, 244)** and society; highlights the important role to be played **in the development of organic production by independent (240)** farm advisory services that Member States must include in their CAP strategic plans **and emphasizes the need to allocate sufficient financial resources to them (240);**

Draft CA17 on Paragraph 17 - Use of digital technologies

Amendments included in the draft CA: 168 (SD), 249(Greens), 250(EPP), 251(Left)

17. **Notes** that the *Joint Research Centre's report on "Modelling environmental and climate ambition in the agricultural sector with the CAPRI model"^{1a}* **has indicated that there is a need for productivity gains with respect to organic farming and nutrient management which can be enhanced inter alia with precision farming, new digital technologies and other innovative techniques (250); notes that innovative digital tools have the potential to significantly increase transparency and traceability, thereby combatting fraud and illegal production methods, as well as improving consumer confidence (168); therefore encourages the Commission, including through the CAP Strategic Plans, to ensure greater deployment (250)** of digital technologies, such as precision farming and blockchain in organic farming; **stresses however that these technologies complement the systemic sustainability approach of organic farming (251)** and that privacy, profitability and independence of farmers when it comes to data must be ensured **(249 adapted);**

1a Barreiro Hurlé, J., Bogonos, M., Himics, M., Hristov, J., Perez Dominguez, I., Sahoo, A., Salputra, G., Weiss, F., Baldoni, E. and Elleby, C., *Modelling environmental and climate ambition in the agricultural sector with the CAPRI model*, EUR 30317 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, ISBN 978-92-76-20889-1 (online), doi:10.2760/98160 (online), JRC121368 (250)

Improving the contribution of organic farming to sustainability

Draft CA18 on Paragraph 18 - Research and innovation

Amendments included in the draft CA: 262(EPP), 263(Greens), 265(EPP), 266(ECR), 267(EPP), 268(SD), 269(EPP),

18. **Reiterates the importance of research and innovation for the sustainability of the organic farming sector (262)** and in meeting societal expectations **on biodiversity, climate change and climate adaptation (265)**, animal welfare and efficient resource use **and welcomes the Commission's intention to earmark Horizon Europe funding to support these aims;** stresses, **in this context (262)**, the need for research and innovation to **encourage the conversion to (267)** organic agriculture, including **livestock production (268)**, to find alternatives for certain **inputs both in farming and processing (263)** so as to **increase yields (266)** and to **ensure (267)** the availability of

the necessary protein feed, vitamins, plant protection products, **notably biocontrol solutions (263, 269)**, fertilisers and genetic resources **to further develop robust farming systems (265) and increase tolerance to drought, pests and disease (266)**; calls on the Commission to stimulate and foster cooperation between research communities working on organic and conventional food and farming, **notably through the EIP AGRI (263)**;

Draft CA18a (new paragraph) - Nutrients

Amendments included in the draft CA: 264(RE), 274 (EPP), 275 (RE), 278 (SD), 281 (EPP), 283 (EPP), 284(EPP), 285 (EPP)

Encourages a science-based approach regarding soil fertility and the need to develop, accept (284) and incentivise innovations on (275) novel plant nutrient sources in organic farming (284, 285 adapted), including increased nutrient recycling (284) through adequate processing and nutrient separation (281) and, where suitable and appropriate, fertilising products produced from renewable sources ^{1a}(284), such as biomass waste and animal manure (275) to avoid long-term nutrient deficits (274); reminds of the importance of livestock manure as an organic fertilizer and encourages its sustainable use in the cultivation cycle (264); calls the Commission to assess new recycled materials, containing essential plant nutrients (phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen), for future addition to the EU organic farming Regulation's list of input materials, in line with the principles of organic farming and ensuring quality, safety and consumer confidence (274); calls for more research and information on the potential benefits of using plant biostimulants (278) and bio-based soil improvers (275) in organic farming systems, and how they contribute to nutrient absorption and better performance in this production model (278) in order to allow their wider uptake and help reduce the gap between organic and conventional yields; (285) points out that the promotion of the use of an adequate farm-specific combination of different external nutrients, on top of biological nitrogen fixation, could address the challenge of imbalances in nutrient budgets in organic farming systems (283 adapted);

Draft CA18b (new paragraph) - Plant protection

Amendments included in the draft CA: 255 (Left), 256(EPP), 272 (SD), 273 (EPP), 282 (RE), 293 (EPP), 294 (EPP), 296 (EPP)

Welcomes the contribution of organic farming to the reduction of the use of synthetic pesticides and calls on the Commission, when drafting the new legislation on the sustainable use of pesticides to define biocontrol products (272) and to increase the availability of biocontrol solutions and natural substances, which have scope for much wider use, by improving and speeding up the evaluation and authorisation process (255); reminds the Commission and the Member States of the European Parliament resolution of 15 February 2017 on low-risk pesticides of biological origin (273) and stresses the need to support the development of safe, effective and affordable alternative plant protection products, and encourage their wider use, notably by easing both the authorisation procedure for basic substances and the extension of their use (293), as an important element for the development of organic production (282); highlights the need to create the conditions for equal access to organic plant protection products and fertilisers in the Member States (256); stresses that pesticide residues, which are present in the environment, may potentially affect organic products as well; points out that organic farmers, who guarantee high environmental standards in production, must not be held responsible for risks outside of their control (294) and calls on the Commission to further promote harmonisation in the handling of pesticide residue findings; (296)

Draft CA19 on Paragraph 19 - Organic seeds

Amendments included in the draft CA: 129 (RE), 252 (SD), 286(Greens), 287(EPP), 289(RE), 290(EPP), 295 (Left)

19. Highlights the importance of sufficiently available, high-quality organic seeds, heterogeneous material, high-yielding plant varieties, **autochthonous varieties (290) and locally adapted varieties (289)**; points out their potential in strengthening resilience against plant diseases and the impact of climate change; encourages the Commission and the Member States to step up efforts, **including through specific actions (287)**, to improve the functioning of the organic seed market and believes that transitional periods would be helpful in achieving this; **calls on the Commission to ensure that sufficient financial resources are allocated to research into organic seeds and animal breeding; highlights the importance of supporting programmes for the preservation and selection of local breeds, which, given their robustness, are particularly suited to organic farming (286 adapted); stresses the need to support traditional crop breeding for the development of healthy and resilient varieties (295) and also the need for modern, sustainable and innovative methods when developing new organic seeds and agricultural practices, maintaining a high level of protection of human health and the environment; (129) highlights, in this context, the role that scientific innovations in plant breeding can play, notably in improving the resistance of varieties, in fostering the diversity of genetic resources and in strengthening food production systems (252 adapted), whilst recalling that use of genetically modified (GMO) seeds is not permitted in organic agriculture;**

Draft CA20 on Paragraph 20 - Collection and improving data on the organic sector

Amendments included in the draft CA: 147 (Greens), 209 (EPP), 213 (Greens), 257 (RE), 279 (EPP), 299(Greens), 301(S&D), 302(EPP)

20. Supports the Commission's intention to extend the EU Market Observatories' analysis to organic products; stresses the importance of intensifying **the** collection and improving **the** availability of accurate and timely data, **including at the regional level (302)**, on the organic sector **so as to better appreciate its** environmental, economic and social effects; **believes that this should include data on the sector's contribution to environmental sustainability, together with data on production, processing, consumption, including in the hospitality sector (299) and in public canteens (147), on trade within the EU and with non-EU countries and on farm gate and retail prices, consumer preferences, supply chain structures, added value and farmers' share in supply chains; is convinced that this data is essential** in order to shape and monitor EU policy on organic production **and take action to remedy supply and demand imbalances (299, 301)**, evaluate consumption and production trends and increase transparency and confidence in the sector; **recognises the potential of a common European agriculture data space to increase consumer knowledge and trust as well as to improve traceability in the organic supply chain; (257) emphasises that in order to stimulate demand, it is essential to identify consumer needs through relevant assessments (209); calls on Member States to better communicate on the organic sector's economic results (213); calls on the Commission to conduct comprehensive studies and analyses of the impact that an increase in organic farming would have in terms of both climate change and food security in the European Union; (279)**

Recitals

Draft CA A on Recital A

Amendments included in the draft CA: 2 (EPP), 3(Left), 4(Greens)

A. whereas the Commission communication on an action plan for the development of organic production (organic action plan, OAP) emphasises that the Green Deal, **and the Farm to Fork strategy and biodiversity strategy under its umbrella (4)**, is the key to managing the transition towards a more sustainable food system, **in particular strengthening farmers' efforts to protect the environment, preserve biodiversity and tackle climate change (3); whereas a key role in attaining this objective is played by agriculture in general, and organic agriculture in particular (2);**

Draft CA B on Recital B

Amendments included in the draft CA: 7(EPP), 8(Left), 9(Greens), 10(ECR), 11(ECR), 33 (EPP)

B. whereas Europe's food system **must (11)** deliver **sustainably-produced (9)** and nutritious food, **at affordable prices (7)**, and ensure food security in a way that **ensures a healthy society and a healthy planet (8)**, contributes to social **and economic (11)** well-being, **protects** ecosystem health **and that of European citizens (7, 9)** and ensures **the profitability of agricultural production (7, 10)** and therefore a fair living for farmers; **whereas it is essential to ensure that the increase in the amount of land used for organic farming matches the market's ability to absorb organic products; (33)**

Draft CA C on Recital C

Amendments included in the draft CA: 13(Greens), 14(EPP), 15(EPP), 16(EPP), 21 (Left)

C. whereas organic agriculture **offers (17)** various environmental benefits, **including reduced greenhouse gas emissions (13 adapted)**, and has the potential to help the agricultural sector to play its part in the fight against climate change and **in adaptation to climate change (16)** and, addressing key challenges such as **the loss of jobs in rural areas (15)**, soil fertility and biodiversity loss, **as well as resilience in the face of economic challenges (14); whereas agricultural diversity and shorter chains between farmer and consumer are important elements for a healthy and sustainable food system (21)**

Draft CA Ca (new) on Recital Ca (new) - Role of organic farming from economic, social and environmental perspectives

Amendments included in the draft CA: 19 (SD), 20 (Greens), 35 (EPP), 37 (RE), 39 (ECR), 44 (Left)

Ca. **whereas organic farming can contribute to striking an ambitious balance in terms of sustainability from the economic, social and environmental perspectives (19, 35 adapted), fostering soil, water and biodiversity protection and animal welfare (35), and offers young people opportunities to enter the farming profession (20); whereas environmental and animal welfare standards in the EU are among the highest in the world (39); whereas organic farmland has 30% more biodiversity, is beneficial to pollinators and limits the use of artificial fertilisers and plant protection products (44); whereas organic farming can also contribute to the revitalisation of rural areas, the creation of employment, the sustainability of small farms, bringing consumers and producers closer, enhancing the connections with the local economy and stimulating positive**

economic multipliers (37); whereas the new common agricultural policy (CAP) introduces new ambitious measures to encourage sustainable production, including organic farming; (39)

Draft CA D on Recital D

Amendments included in the draft CA: 22(EPP), 23 (Left) 24(Greens), 25(RE), 26(EPP)

D. whereas it is essential to ensure that consumers, ***who place an increasing importance on the quality of what they eat (24), and the catering sector (25 adapted)***, are in a position to make informed ***and conscious (26)*** choices when purchasing food; ***whereas it is necessary to ensure that consumers are properly informed about the benefits of consuming organic products (22 adapted) and that they are protected against deliberately misleading labels, packaging and advertising (23)***;

Draft CA E on Recital E

Amendments included in the draft CA: 29(Greens), 30(EPP), 31 (EPP), 40 (Left), 42 (Left)

E. whereas in 2019, the EU's total agricultural area under organic farming grew to 13.8 million hectares; whereas it currently accounts for 8.5 % of the EU's total utilised agricultural area; whereas between 2010 and 2019 the value of the EU's organic market has more than doubled; whereas the ***retail sales of organic products increased from €18 billion to €41 billion in the period 2009-2019 (42)***; whereas the increase of organic production outpaces the development of the organic market in parts of the EU, ***with significant differences in organic consumption across the Member States (31 adapted)***; whereas the ***production of organic products is very low or non-existent in certain parts of the EU (29), with great disparities between the Member States (30), varying from 0.5% to 26.5% (31, 40 adapted)*** of area devoted to the sector;

Draft CA F on Recital F

Amendments included in the draft CA: 6 (EPP), 133 (RE)

F. whereas the OAP includes 23 actions, providing a solid basis for developing the organic sector in a sustainable manner; whereas a mid-term review of the OAP in 2024 is envisaged and an annual 'EU Organic Day' has been established, ***which represents an opportunity to improve the visibility and the recognition of organic farming and raise awareness of the benefits of organic production (133) as organic farmers are considered 'pioneers of sustainable agriculture'; (6)***