



7th Annual Assembly of
the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
**MOVING REFORMS
FORWARD
IN TESTING TIMES**
19 – 21 November 2015, Kyiv city, Ukraine

Resolution No. 1/AA/2015

November 21, 2015
Kyiv, Ukraine

Resolution of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

On Reforms in Food Safety Regulation Field in the Eastern Partnership Countries

The participants of the EaP Civil Society Forum

note the importance of effective national food control systems, which protect the health and safety of domestic consumers and facilitate the global food trade;
bear in mind the need to balance the interests of food consumers with those of food producers;
underscore the role of the EU sanitary and phytol-sanitary (SPS) standards in ensuring consumer protection and international trade;
recall the obligations taken on by EaP governments under the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreements (DCFTAs) and acknowledge the steps taken by them towards improving food safety and consumer protection through the approximation of EU SPS standards and practices;
stress the importance of international cooperation for improving SPS regulations;
express appreciation to the European Union institutions and EU member states for the support they have rendered to the EaP states in this area.

The participants of the EaP Civil Society Forum call on the EaP governments

to move steadfastly toward modernising their respective food safety systems, following European and international best practices, including

- establishment of effective science-based risk assessment systems in the SPS field;
- better communication of food safety related information to customers and entrepreneurs;
- enhanced control mechanisms over the implementation of SPS standards;
- establishment and broadening of special schemes, which would encourage young people to study food safety related fields at the universities;
- establishment of viable mechanisms of civic participation in the SPS reform process.

The participants of the EaP Civil Society Forum call on the civil society organizations

to contribute to the SPS reforms in their respective countries by

- mobilizing citizens to demand improvements of food safety and consumer protection systems;
- engaging in evidence-based monitoring of the reforms in order to advocate better compliance with the obligations taken on by their governments;
- seeking opportunities to cooperate with civil society actors working in the food safety and consumer protection field in both the EaP and the EU member states.

The participants of the EaP Civil Society Forum call on the European Union institutions and the EU member states

to continue and increase support for EaP governments and civil society in their efforts to implement viable reforms in the SPS field.



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Civil Society Forum