



EU Recommendations

The Commission recommended to the national authorities that drafting of strategies and legislation need to be accompanied by a proper stakeholders' consultation, by the allocation of resources adequate to the objectives of the strategy, to favour quality over speed, to improve data collection statistics and to ensure a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the strategy.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CH. 11)

1. The EU encourages BiH to continue to further ensuring compliance with all provisions of the **SAA related to trade**.
2. The EU encourages BiH to aim at further compliance of its **trade statistics** for agricultural, processed agricultural products, and fish and fishery products with the EU statistical regime, in order to allow a proper analysis and prevent discrepancies between BiH and EU figures on certain commodities.
3. The EU encourages BiH to take the next necessary steps as to advance in the preparation of the **agricultural census** whose absence severely hinders agricultural statistics and the design of an agricultural and rural development policy. To this end, the EU urges BiH to approve the Action Plan for the preparation, implementation and the dissemination of the results of the agricultural census, and to prepare and adopt a country-wide legal basis for an agriculture census to be conducted in 2023.
4. The EU calls on BiH to step up its efforts to improve **administrative capacities** and resources aiming at better preparedness and gradual approximation to the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in particular as regards the setting up of the central paying agency and the Integrated and Administration Control System (IACS).
5. The EU encourages BiH to speed-up the necessary economic reforms to increase the **competitiveness** of the sector.
6. The EU invites BiH to take the necessary measure and steps as to advance in establishing and improving various **agricultural information systems**, and ensuring their country-wide harmonisation.
7. The EU encourages BiH to ensure the implementation of the “**Strategic Plan for Rural Development** of BiH (2018-2021) – Framework document”, through a well-targeted use of the expected funds, in line with the main principles of CAP, as well as effective and regular monitoring at all governments' levels. State level authorities have a particular coordination role and responsibility to work towards a harmonised approach.

In this context, the EU encourages BiH to speed up the preparation and adopt its countrywide post 2021 strategy as early as possible in 2023, **with the support of the EU4Agri project**.

8. The EU calls on BiH to make progress in **harmonising support measures** across the country and to gradually align them with the *acquis*.
9. The EU encourages BiH to ensure that the state level laws on **wine** and on **organic production** are adopted and are compliant with the EU *acquis*. In this regard, BiH needs to harmonise the entity laws with the state level.
10. The EU encourages BiH to continue bringing the state level **Law on food** in line with the latest developments of the *acquis* and to make progress in the area of **wine and spirits**.

FOOD SAFETY, VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY POLICIES (CH. 12)

11. The EU encourages BiH to build up and maintain a reliable and sustainable system of animal registration and vaccination, wherever relevant, as a measure to improve the control of animal diseases.
12. The EU encourages BiH to intensify the monitoring and surveillance system in animal disease control. In particular, BiH needs to maintain the vaccination campaigns against rabies and brucellosis and intensify the disease control measures in the long-run.
13. The EU encourages BiH to continue its efforts to align with the EU *acquis* in the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary issues through adopting the legislation at state level without delay, and should continue aligning its legislation in these areas with the latest developments of the *acquis*.
14. The EU encourages BiH to strengthen and upgrade its institutional and administrative capacities, including inspections services and laboratories.
15. The EU encourages BiH to speed-up the preparations for national reference laboratories, through further alignment with the *acquis*, and notably by increasing the accreditation of laboratory methods used in hygiene, veterinary and phytosanitary, food and feedstuff controls.

FISHERIES (CH. 13)

16. The EU urges BiH to continue with the preparatory work and inform on the state of play of its countrywide fisheries and aquaculture strategy and on the Action Plan for sector *acquis* approximation (e.g. alignment of the Common Market Organisation Regulation, Data Collection Framework), which is of crucial importance to ensure alignment with the Common Fishery Policy and further assistance.
17. The EU encourages BiH to provide the Commission with the draft of the countrywide fisheries and aquaculture strategy once available.
18. The EU encourages BiH to strengthen its administrative and financial capacities necessary for implementing fisheries policy and control measures, and to address other outstanding issues such as establishing and managing a fleet register.
19. The EU encourages BiH to proceed with a countrywide harmonised collection of data and statistics on catches and landings per type of fishery, and provide updates on activities including workshops and sharing of relevant documentation on operation plans and agreed methodologies.