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AfD Proposes Paying Seasonal Farm Workers Living Abroad 80% of a New Sector Minimum Wage

The Bundestag plan would create a separate agricultural wage floor, with vineyards and hop farms specifically mentioned.

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The Alternative for Germany party, or AfD, has put forward a proposal in the Bundestag to create a separate sector minimum wage for seasonal agricultural workers, including people employed in vineyards and hop cultivation, with a lower rate for workers whose

main residence is outside Germany.

According to information published Monday through the German Bundestag's RSS service, the proposal would set a branch-specific wage floor for seasonal jobs in agriculture. Under the plan, workers who have their main place of residence abroad would receive 80% of that minimum wage.

The Bundestag summary says the proposal is based on the idea that minimum pay for seasonal work should reflect the specific conditions of different agricultural branches and the personal situation of temporary workers. The text highlighted by the parliamentary feed points in particular to labor used in crops such as grapes and hops.

If adopted, the measure would introduce a different pay structure within the same area of farm work by linking part of the wage rule to where a worker normally lives. In practical terms, that would mean one wage standard for seasonal workers based in Germany and a reduced standard for those coming from abroad, as described in the proposal summary.

The Bundestag item does not provide further details on how the sector wage would be set, whether it would cover only some harvest activities or a wider range of farm work, or how compliance would be monitored. The brief summary also does not say when the proposal could be debated in parliament or whether it has backing from other political groups.

Even so, the issue reaches beyond farm labor policy. Vineyards and hop farms depend on seasonal workers during labor-intensive parts of the growing and harvest cycle, and any change in wage rules could affect labor costs in those segments. That means the proposal could have implications for producers tied to wine and beer, since grapes and hops are key raw materials and changes at the farm level can feed into the broader supply chain. At this stage, however, any effect remains hypothetical because the measure is only a proposal listed by the Bundestag.

The proposal also draws attention to the broader question of how Germany regulates temporary agricultural labor. Seasonal work often follows crop-specific rhythms and short employment periods, and the AfD is framing its plan as an adjustment to those

conditions. Based on the Bundestag summary, the party is arguing for a system tailored to particular agricultural branches rather than a single wage approach applied in the same way to all seasonal workers.

No response from other parties, labor groups, or farm industry representatives was included in the Bundestag material cited in the parliamentary feed. The published summary likewise does not address whether the proposed 80% level for workers living abroad would apply only to foreign-based seasonal laborers in certain high-demand crops or across a broader part of the agricultural sector.

What is clear from the parliamentary notice is the central feature of the proposal: a sector-specific minimum wage for seasonal agricultural work, combined with a lower threshold for workers whose center of life is outside Germany. Because vineyards and hop-growing operations were specifically referenced, the debate may be watched closely by businesses connected to wine and brewing as well as by employers who rely on short-term harvest labor.