

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2006/2236(INI)

7.11.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the EU's Aid for Trade
(2006/2236(INI))

Draftsman: Margrietus van den Berg

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the essential role that Aid for Trade measures can play in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 by promoting the active participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system; points out, however, that Official Development Assistance will need to increase substantially between now and 2015 if this shared ambition is to be realised;
2. Recalls that Aid for Trade must improve market access for small and disadvantaged producers in developing countries; in this respect calls for 10% of the Aid for Trade budget to be earmarked for Aid for Fair Trade, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution of 6 July 2006 on Fair Trade and Development¹;
3. Considers that the Aid for Trade package should include a wide range of capacity-building measures and technical assistance to improve the ability of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States to identify needs and strategies and develop their competence and efficiency in trade negotiations, their capacity to formulate regional trade policy, in particular as regards South-South inter-regional trade, and their capacity to establish local markets;
4. Recognises the growing concerns in ACP States over the methods of delivery, the effectiveness and quality of EC-administered Aid for Trade in support of economic adjustment programmes;
5. Recognises that Aid for Trade is essential to maximising the potential benefits for developing countries of multilateral trade liberalisation; underlines the importance of ensuring expanded Aid for Trade instruments to enhance the production and trade capacity of developing countries and particularly ACP States facing significant erosion of the value of traditional preferences;
6. Calls for Aid for Trade measures to follow a more recipient-driven approach taking into account the demands of the developing countries and improving the ownership of the aid; stresses that Aid for Trade should be untied, comprehensive, sufficient and incremental to existing programmes, predictable and available in the long term; suggests that existing trade rules should also be simplified and made more user-friendly;
7. Stresses that, on the view that the Aid for Trade package should be additional to existing development aid, new Aid for Trade pledges should not lead to the shifting of resources already earmarked for other development initiatives, such as health and education projects, which are extremely important for building a strong economy;
8. Calls for more coordination and coherence among various aid donors, based on the proven competence of the agencies involved in delivering effective high-quality assistance in various Aid for Trade areas, as well as for more transparency regarding the aid allocated through trade-related assistance; insists therefore on the involvement of fully-fledged representatives of civil society and the private sector in the Integrated Framework;

¹ *Texts Adopted* of that date (P6_TA(2006)0320).

9. Urges the EU to fulfil all the commitments that it made in the Doha Round to the least developed countries by frontloading the development package as well as eliminating its agricultural export subsidies by 2013; stresses that the EU must urge the other members of the WTO to do the same in relation to their commitments to the least developed countries;
10. Notes that women benefit less from the opportunities presented by trade liberalisation and globalisation, while at the same time they are harder hit by the adverse effects of those phenomena, and urges the EU therefore, in its trade-related assistance programmes, to devote specific attention to increasing opportunities for women to participate in trade, with particular emphasis on international trade;
11. Insists that the additional needs of ACP States that will result from Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) must be financed through additional resources; questions, furthermore, the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for disbursing Aid for Trade via such EPAs.
12. Calls on the Commission not to use Aid for Trade to force developing countries to accept an outcome of trade negotiations that is incompatible with their developmental needs and priorities;
13. Calls for a review of the existing Aid for Trade programmes of the EC Member States insofar as they concern EPA-related adjustments so as to identify the most efficient mechanism for delivering effective support in the processing of EPA-related adjustments;
14. Stresses the urgency of getting to grips with the challenge of efficiently delivering effective Aid for Trade to ACP countries already engaged in the implementation of a free trade area agreement with the EU (namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, which are half way through eliminating tariffs on trade with the EU).

PROCEDURE

Title	The EU's Aid for Trade	
Procedure number	2006/2236(INI)]	
Committee responsible	INTA	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 28.09.2006	
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary		
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Margrietus van den Berg 28.08.2006	
Previous drafts(wo)man		
Discussed in committee	2.10.2006	6.11.2006
Date adopted	6.11.2006	
Result of final vote	+: 15 -: 0 0: 1	
Members present for the final vote	Margrietus van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, H��l��ne Goudin, Maria Martens, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, Feleknas Uca, Elena Valenciano Mart��nez-Orozco, Anna Z��borsk��	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	John Bowis, Fiona Hall, Alain Hutchinson, Jan Jerzy Ku��kowski, Manolis Mavrommatis, Csaba ��ry	
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote		
Comments (available in one language only)		