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Committee on International Trade

PROVISIONAL
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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Development

on fair trade and development
(2005/2245(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Calls on the Commission to take action, in accordance with GATT Article XXXVIII, paragraph 2, letter (a), to devise measures designed to stabilize and improve market conditions for primary products of particular interest to less-developed countries "including measures designed to attain stable, equitable and remunerative prices for exports of such products";
2. Recalls that European trade policies must improve market access for small producers in the South whilst guaranteeing them remunerative prices;
3. Calls on the Commission to support mechanisms that allow producers, where feasible, to be involved and participatory in price determination;
4. Reminds that, while international trade agreements fail to deliver for the poor countries, the Fair Trade system has proved to be effective for poverty reduction and sustainable development and believes that, in the long term, it could allow developing countries to fully participate in the multilateral trading system;
5. Calls on the Commission to undertake a study to examine how Fair Trade could develop into a model for a sustainable trade policy;
6. Calls on the Commission to organise exploratory research to establish clear and widely-applicable criteria against which consumer assurance schemes can be assessed, underpinning consumer confidence in such schemes;
7. Calls on the Commission to present a proposal to create a specific budget line for Fair Trade;
8. Calls on the Commission to establish a contact point within its structure that shall ensure regular coordination on Fair Trade issues between its different services;
9. Calls on the Commission to launch specific "calls for proposals" with objectives targeted to Fair Trade, in order to support consumer awareness, assurance schemes and labelling, as well as systematic data collection and assessment of effects;
10. Calls on the Commission to promote educational programmes to raise awareness of the merits of Fair Trade.