



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

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**2009/2219(INI)**

18.3.2010

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on human rights and social and environmental standards in international trade agreements  
(2009/2219(INI))

Rapporteur: David Martin

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Calls for all EU trade negotiations and arrangements with third countries to include a human rights impact assessment measuring the consequences of specific trade advantages granted by or to the EU;
2. Calls on the Commission to develop a more consistent benchmarking system for all countries that are assisted under the GSP+ system in order to monitor in a clear and transparent fashion achievements as well as setbacks in the development of human rights;
3. Considers, in this context, that in future legislation Parliament should insist on an arrangement whereby trade advantages, including those stemming from free trade agreements, can be suspended temporarily by the Commission alone if sufficient evidence of human rights or labour rights violations is found, either on its own initiative or at the request of a Member State or the European Parliament;
4. Underlines that ways should be found to monitor more closely allegations of serious and systematic violations of human and labour rights; in this context, suggests that consideration might be given to involving EU representatives (as things stand from the Commission, or in future from the EEAS) in investigation missions carried out under UN special procedures where there are implications for EU trade agreements;
5. Calls on the Commission to table a proposal for a regulation banning the import into the EU of goods produced using slave or forced labour in violation of basic human rights standards; emphasises that such a regulation would have to enable the EU to investigate specific claims;
6. Calls on the Commission to review EU export regulations in the light of the scope for the transfer of technology, including sophisticated Internet scanning and censorship software, to oppressive regimes; asks the Commission to table a proposal for a regulation on a new licensing system if this review suggests that legislative action is needed.