



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2009/2219(INI)

15.9.2010

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

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

Rapporteur: Filip Kaczmarek

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. Notes that Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU states that ‘The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries’; points out that, as a result, prior to signing up to any trade agreements, the EU is bound to consider seriously the full range of development impacts, and primarily the eradication of poverty;
2. Recalls that the 1986 UN Declaration of the Right to Development confirms that ‘the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social and cultural development’; considers, therefore, that the EU has an obligation not to undermine this right and, indeed, to contribute to it through its international agreements;
3. Welcomes free-trade agreements and all efforts to encourage trade with and between developing countries as a reliable route towards solid, sustainable development; particularly encourages regional free-trade areas as a means to promote, through tariff reductions, trade between developing countries, whilst respecting WTO rules;
4. Notes that in many developing countries fisheries, particularly small-scale fishing, and related industries play a vital role in ensuring food security, creating jobs, generating government revenues and exports and maintaining local communities; is concerned that overfishing and illegal fishing can contribute to migration and seriously undermine sustainable development; calls therefore for EU fisheries agreements with developing countries to help foster domestic fishing industries, monitor fish stocks, combat overfishing and illegal fishing, protect biodiversity and upgrade hygiene and health standards;
5. Calls on the EU actively to promote corporate social responsibility through its trade agreements, with a view to a more ethical global trading environment in social and environmental terms;
6. Urges the Commission to insist on respect for ILO core labour standards as a pre-condition for entering into trade agreements and to encourage widespread adherence to schemes which protect workers’ rights and the environment, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative or the Kimberly process in the diamond industry;
7. Calls for EU trade agreements effectively to provide for the highest levels of transparency, stringent public procurement standards and country-by-country reporting by businesses in both developed and developing countries, with a view to combating illicit capital flight;
8. Notes that, whilst the effects of climate change are felt primarily in developing countries, industrialised nations should bear the main brunt of the responsibility for this phenomenon; considers therefore that the EU’s trading relationships must not only avoid causing environmental damage but should actively contribute to sustainable development

worldwide;

9. Highlights the vast disparities between developed economies and the poorest nations in terms of capacity and potential; calls therefore for the Commission to adopt a respectful, pragmatic and sensitive approach to Economic Partnership Agreements, allowing for adequate transitional periods and support for adaptation, and ensuring that countries preferring not to sign EPAs are not penalised as a result;
10. Asks the Commission to ensure that partner countries' parliaments are involved in trade negotiations, with a view to enhancing governance and democratic scrutiny in developing countries.