



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on International Trade

2009/2002B(BUD)

6.8.2009

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010,
Section I - European Parliament
(C6-0000/2009 – 2009/2002B(BUD))

Rapporteur: Peter Šťastný

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that parliamentarians, as elected representatives of the citizens, have an important role to play in trade negotiations and, in particular, in World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations;
2. Stresses that, since 2002, Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a Geneva-based international organisation, have been jointly organising and co-financing the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of the WTO, whose activities could be stepped up;
3. Notes that the principal objective of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is to enhance the external transparency of the WTO and to make it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people; notes that it is a forum in which members of parliaments from all over the world exchange opinions, information and experience on international trade issues and provide a parliamentary dimension to the WTO by: i) overseeing WTO activities and promoting their effectiveness and fairness, ii) promoting the transparency of WTO procedures and improving dialogue between governments, parliaments and civil society, and iii) building capacity in parliaments in matters of international trade and exerting influence on the direction of discussions within the WTO;
4. Reiterates its declared aim to accompany WTO negotiations with a parliamentary process; stresses, therefore, that there will be a continual future need to finance this crucial activity; notes, in this regard, that in 2010 there will be at least an Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, either in parallel with the WTO Ministerial Conference - if it is organised - or otherwise in Brussels or Geneva and that there will be two sessions of its Steering Committee in Geneva;
5. Is determined, as co-organiser of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to ensure that sufficient appropriations are available to provide for the adequate participation, with the necessary infrastructure, of its delegations in all meetings and cover the defrayal of travel and subsistence expenses of six representatives of the ACP countries;
6. Points out that, should a WTO Ministerial Conference be organised in 2010, Parliament would guarantee the reinforcement of budget line 3 0 4 4 in order to cover the costs connected with the organisation, in parallel, of a session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.