



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on International Trade

2010/2110(INI)

13.10.2010

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on EU-Agriculture and International Trade
(2010/2110(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl

(*): Associated committee - Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Calls upon the Commission to comply strictly with its negotiating mandate in the WTO, which sets the already completed CAP reform as the limit of its action, provided that equivalent concessions are obtained from its trading partners; recalls the EU commitment to an elimination of export subsidies upon the strict condition that there is a parallel move by its trading partners regarding export subsidies, as well as all export measures with equivalent effect;
2. Recalls that the 2003 CAP reform and the 2008 'Health Check' have demonstrated the seriousness of the EU's reform commitments by anticipating the likely results of the Doha round, while equivalent concessions are still expected from the EU's trading partners;
3. Welcomes the agreement on trade in bananas, which settles twenty years of WTO disputes and constitutes an important step towards the consolidation of a rule-based multilateral trading system; notes that the agreement on trade in bananas makes a decisive contribution to the resolution of issues relating to tropical products and preferences in WTO negotiations; believes that this agreement further consolidates the EU's position on agriculture in the Doha round; calls upon the EU to build upon this important breakthrough to push WTO negotiations forward;
4. Calls upon the Commission to continue to seek, as one of its major priorities, more effective protection of geographical indications (GI) in the WTO by extending the higher level of protection currently available for wines and spirits (Article 23 of the TRIPS agreement) to all GIs, and by establishing a system of notification and registration of geographical indications;
5. Calls upon the Commission to maintain a strong stance on the inclusion of GIs within the scope of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement and in bilateral trade negotiations;
6. Believes that bilateral trade agreements can helpfully complement multilateral processes by making it possible to achieve progress on specific issues such as geographical indications and social and environmental norms; underlines the importance of a coherent approach to these issues in the different bilateral agreements;
7. Emphasises that, in the WTO negotiations and in other international trade agreements, the Commission must seek to ensure that imported agricultural products meet the same EU requirements and standards, in the areas of food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection, that are imposed on agricultural products produced inside the Union;
8. Emphasises the importance of strict implementation of the preferential rules of origin; calls for a review of all trade preferences given to emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil by the European Union;

9. Reaffirms the importance of agricultural trade for economic development and poverty alleviation in developing countries; calls upon the EU to help ACP countries to adapt to the increasing competition from Latin American countries (South-South trade);
10. Underlines the need for trade policy to play a role in tackling food security challenges; calls for reinforced surveillance and coordination of export restriction measures to prevent the aggravation of any future food crisis.