



**2015/2038(INI)**

24.9.2015

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on International Trade

on implementation of the 2010 recommendations of Parliament on social and environmental standards, human rights and corporate responsibility  
(2015/2038(INI))

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas trade agreements affect women and men differently owing to gender inequalities in access to education, job opportunities, services, resources and decision making;
- B. whereas the current EU Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015) provides that the EU will integrate gender equality into its trade policy as part of a wider framework of sustainable development;
- C. whereas any measure improving workers' skills, employment stability, working conditions, unemployment insurance and benefits – such as paid leave, including parental leave, and healthcare – is likely to benefit women workers greatly, especially those in the most precarious conditions;
  - 1. Calls for the effective application of the International Labour Organisation's core labour standards and its Decent Work Agenda in EU preferential trade agreements;
  - 2. Notes the inclusion of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the list of conventions of the GSP+ scheme, and calls for thorough monitoring of the beneficiaries' compliance with the obligations;
  - 3. Reiterates its strong support for the practice of including legally binding human rights clauses, with particular emphasis on women's rights, in the EU's international trade agreements;
  - 4. Considers it regrettable that trade agreements are often negotiated without reference to their impact on women's and girls' rights – the rights to health, education, food, work and water – and calls on the Commission and the Member States to increase coherence among different but interlinked policies, such as trade, development, employment, migration and gender equality;
  - 5. Calls on the Commission, in parallel or prior to the negotiation of trade agreements, to conduct gender assessments, as part of a broader human development impact assessment;
  - 6. Stresses that EU trade policy must ensure that states' capacity to regulate and protect women's rights, the environment, consumer rights and workers' rights is not undermined, and make sure that corporations and investors are held accountable to people and governments for their human rights, gender equality, social, environmental and development impacts.