



Plenary sitting

08.7.2015

B8-0000/2015

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the accession of Ecuador to the Trade Agreement concluded between the
EU and its Member States and Colombia and Peru
(2015/2656(RSP))

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of the Committee on International Trade

European Parliament resolution on accession of Ecuador to the Trade Agreement concluded between the EU and its Member States and Colombia and Peru (2015/2656(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusion of negotiations between the EU and Ecuador for its accession to the Trade Agreement concluded between the EU and Colombia/Peru on 17 July 2014
 - having regard to the initialling of the protocol that will allow Ecuador to join its neighbours, Colombia and Peru, in a preferential trade relationship with the EU on 12 December 2014,
 - having regard to the report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the tariff treatment for goods originating from Ecuador on 8 December 2014¹,
 - having regard to the European Parliament legislative resolution of 11 December 2012 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part,²
 - having regard to the Report of 19 July 2012 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing the bilateral safeguard clause and the stabilisation mechanism for bananas of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru,³
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 June 2012 on the EU trade agreement with Colombia and Peru,⁴
 - having regard to its resolutions of 5 May 2010 on the EU strategy for relations with Latin America and of 21 October 2010 on EU's trade relations with Latin-America,⁵
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the accession of Ecuador to the Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru is another decisive step forward in the alliance with important, like-minded, and fast-growing countries and regions;
1. Recalls that before giving its consent to the Trade Agreement on 11 December 2012, the European Parliament called in its resolution on 13 June 2012 on the Andean Countries

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2014)0087

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0481

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0347, P7_TA(2012)0480

⁴ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0249

⁵ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2010)0387

to ensure the establishment of a transparent and binding road map on human, environmental and labour rights and that the Colombian and Peruvian governments submitted action plans on sustainable development prior to the consent given by the European Parliament. Urges all partners to work towards the effective implementation of the submitted action plans on human, environmental and labour rights;

2. Points out that that the measures taken by the European Commission and the European External Action Service to contribute to a successful implementation of the action plans are insufficient. Regrets that the European Parliament is not briefed in an appropriated manner about the measures taken by the European Commission and the European External Action Service;
3. Asks the Commission to present to the European Parliament a comprehensive report focussing on the implementation of the action plans and the accompanying measures taken by the European Commission through cooperation programmes in education, training and regulatory cooperation;
4. Urges the government of Ecuador to take note of the action plans submitted by Colombia and Peru and to take similar measures as this is an opportunity to improve the general condition of their citizens' lives, including human and labour rights and the environment;
5. Stresses that human rights and democracy are essential elements of the overall relationship between the EU and the Andean Countries; calls, therefore, on all partners to ensure that all social and political rights are guaranteed;
6. Recognizes that economic growth in Ecuador has been inclusive, which has directly reduced poverty and inequality levels and increased the middle class. Welcomes that following the latest figures of the World Bank between 2006 and 2014, poverty in Ecuador decreased from 37.6% to 22.5%, whilst extreme poverty was reduced from 16.9% to 7.7%;
7. Calls on the parties to implement the FTA with Ecuador so that it will contribute to reinforce the social development model of the country, to ensure the necessary respective safeguard structures, the elimination of inequalities and the protection of workers, peasants and the environment;
8. Underlines the importance of the binding and enforceable sustainable development chapter reflecting the EU's and Ecuador's common commitment to promote respect for, compliance with, and enforcement of international human rights agreements, the ILO conventions, and key Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
9. Regrets that the scope of the dispute settlement chapter in the FreeTrade Agreement does not include the provisions foreseen under the sustainable development chapter;
10. Welcomes the fact that Ecuador has ratified all eight fundamental ILO conventions;, insists on the importance of swift ratification and effective implementation of all ILO conventions. Regrets that Ecuador has not yet ratified ILO Convention 129 , calls on the Ecuadorian Government to effectively implement ILO Convention 87 and 98 and

emphasizes the importance of the possibility for workers to be able to change or establish new trade unions, for reasons of independence, effectiveness and also ideological affinity, and recalls that the ILO requested the Ecuadorian Government to amend article 326.9 of the Constitution in such a way as to comply with the provisions of Article 2 of the Convention;

11. Welcomes that the Parties confirm their commitment to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity in accordance with the legally binding Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant international agreements to which the Parties are party;
12. Notes that Ecuador is one of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries and is home to the greatest concentration of species (between 5% and 10% of the world's biodiversity);
13. Welcomes the fact that Ecuador is the first country to recognize Rights of Nature in its Constitution;
14. Is concerned that Ecuador and its neighbouring countries under the pressure of national and international investors face intensive deforestation; a significant loss of biodiversity, soil and water pollution and erosion;
15. Calls on the EEAS and the European Commission to pay high attention to environmental sustainability in the design and implementation of all EC-funded cooperation activities and calls on all the parties to promote best business practices related to CSR in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines on CSR and the Commission Communication of 25 October 2011 on 'a renewed EU strategy 2011-14 for Corporate Social Responsibility' COM (2011)0681;
16. Welcomes and supports the decision of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to establish an Inter-Governmental Working Group (IGWG) on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights, as proposed by Ecuador, South Africa and many other countries;
17. Calls on the EEAS and the European Commission to support the Ecuadorian Government in its efforts to develop and sustain effective environmental management, both generally and in sensitive areas such as the Amazon and the Galápagos Islands as the safeguarding of the future of our planet is a common responsibility;
18. Recalls that Yasuni, part of the Amazon, is home to several indigenous tribes, hundreds of native tree species and dozens of endangered fauna; reminds about its significance for the mankind and the World Heritage of nature also for future generations;
19. Regrets that the concept of supporting environmental protection by compensating for the loss in potential trade revenues and to co-finance the creation of the Yasuni-ITT Trust Fund under the auspices of the UNDP, as proposed by the Ecuadorian Government, which was intended to compensate the Ecuadorian people for refraining from extracting oil from the fields located in the Yasuni National Park failed as economic results were insufficient;

20. Is concerned that the mining strategy of the Ecuadorian Government includes projects that might affect the indigenous communities;
21. Highlights the importance to preserve and maintain indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles and stresses their relevance for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Andean Countries;
22. Regrets that the Trade Agreement does not make any reference to ILO Convention No 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples;
23. Calls on the Ecuadorian government to set up, as soon as possible, the legal framework for the domestic mechanisms and dialogue with civil society if these do not exist, including a substantial information and advertising campaign to maximise participation of the interested groups or persons in the monitoring framework of the Civil Society Mechanism; suggests that these procedures be set up within six months of the entry into force of the Agreement, instead of one year as set out in the Trade Agreement;
24. Calls on the parties involved to take measures in order to improve the work of the domestic advisory groups as two years after the entry into force of the agreement with Colombia and Peru the functioning and cooperation between the domestic advisory groups are not satisfactory; is of the opinion that all domestic advisory groups must be fully independent;
25. Asks the EU domestic advisory group to produce a regular report to be presented to the European Parliament and assessed by the European Parliament;
26. Calls on the governments of the Andean Countries and the European Commission to take all necessary and technical measures to ensure that a sufficient participation of civil society organisations at the annual session with civil society organisations and the public at large as foreseen in the agreement is guaranteed in future; taking into consideration that various civil society organisations were not able to participate in the first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development in Lima on 6 February 2014 as no funding could be provided for their participation at the meeting;
27. Underlines the importance of the joint Subcommittee on Trade and Sustainable Development as it is the only mechanism foreseen in the Trade Agreement to monitor the implementation of the sustainable development obligations both, for the state parties and the companies;
28. Asks the Commission to submit to the European Parliament in future all the agendas of the sub-committee meetings and the minutes of each single sub-committee meeting;
29. Notes that beside Colombia and Peru, Ecuador is one of the world's top producers of bananas; calls therefore on the Andean countries and the Commission to ensure that the import quotas as laid down in the agreement are fairly respected;
30. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.