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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Development

on the EU-Africa Strategy: a boost for development
(2017/2083(INI))

Rapporteur: Maria Arena

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. having regard to the situation in Africa, with infrastructure requirements estimated at EUR 75 billion annually, a consumer market whose value is likely to reach USD 1 000 billion in 2020, foreign direct investment which are set to increase steadily to an estimated USD 144 billion in 2020 and a current population of 1 billion;
- B. whereas 33 of the 49 least-developed countries are in Africa;
- C. whereas exports from Africa are dominated by unprocessed products, and whereas a high proportion of these exports are covered by trade preference arrangements and have done nothing to boost industrialisation in the countries concerned;
- D. having regard to the failure of the Washington Consensus, which has not made Africa a player in global trade or eradicated poverty;
 - 1. Calls on the European Union to focus on supporting projects which will have an immediate impact on the creation of decent jobs, the fight against poverty, protection of the environment, improving the business climate, the management of public finances, transparency in the management of natural resources (in particular in mining and energy production), and the fight against corruption and illegal capital flows away from the continent;
 - 2. Urges the EU always to take account of the different levels of development among African countries and to support measures which enhance production and processing capacity, particularly in agriculture;
 - 3. Calls on the EU to support Africa's ambitions of creating a genuine intra-African market and avoid taking steps which might hinder these ambitions;
 - 4. Calls for transparency in trade agreements and for the full participation of the civil societies and parliaments of the countries concerned in future negotiations and the implementation of agreements currently under negotiation.