



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2014/2228(INI)

1.4.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the
Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
(2014/2228(INI))

Rapporteur: Francisco José Millán Mon

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that the EU and the US are key strategic partners; stresses that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is the most significant recent EU-US project and should reinvigorate the transatlantic partnership as a whole, beyond its trade aspects; emphasises that its successful conclusion is of high geopolitical importance at a moment when the US is pivoting to Asia and concluding the Trans-Pacific Partnership; underlines that the TTIP is predicted to have a positive impact on jobs, growth and competitiveness for the two economies, which have both been hit by the crisis; underlines that these negotiations should be carried out in the most transparent and open way possible;
2. Stresses that trade policy is an essential part of the EU's external action and as such must be formulated in a way that is in line with other foreign policies and policy instruments; encourages therefore a close interaction between relevant commissioners, Directorates-General, the European External Action Service and the Member States;
3. Notes the TTIP's strategic importance in strengthening and shaping rules-based global trade and economic governance founded on the values shared by the EU and the US, particularly in an increasingly multipolar world; notes that its impact would go beyond the bilateral implications by facilitating the establishment of common regulations, rules and standards that could later be adopted at global level; stresses in this regard that bilateral negotiations that the EU conducts must not be a substitute but rather a springboard for further trade liberalisation within the WTO;
4. Emphasises that the TTIP must not lower standards, especially on important issues like consumer protection, health, labour rights or the environment, but rather take into account the differences between the EU's and the US' regulatory systems and seek to achieve higher common standards as a model for the world, as this would strengthen the EU's global economic position, while furthering our values; stresses that no provision in the chapter on investment protection should be understood to undermine the right of the EU and the Member States to regulate, in accordance with their respective competences, in the pursuit of legitimate public policy objectives;
5. Stresses that both parties to the TTIP must make an engagement to encourage companies to respect the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises (MNEs); notes that parties should work with unions to monitor MNEs' adherence to these guidelines;
6. Asks the Commission, regarding public procurement, to be aware of the sensitive nature of the fields of defence and security and to take into account the objectives set by the Heads of States and Governments during the 2013 Defence Council to promote the establishment of a European security and defence market and of a European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB);
7. Highlights that the conclusion of the TTIP creates the prospect of a broad economic space, which would include third countries with which the EU and the US have close trade and

economic relations; asks the Commission to ensure that any final agreement could be expanded to allow for close cooperation with countries with which the EU and the US have free trade agreements, and to consult in the process in particular with those that would be impacted by the TTIP, such as Mexico and Canada, because of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Turkey, because of its Customs Union with the EU, and the EEA countries; notes that studies indicate that the TTIP would have a positive impact on third country economies, including new opportunities for developing countries;

8. Stresses that the EU's energy supply largely depends on foreign sources and hence asks the Commission to ensure that a strong energy chapter be included in the TTIP; emphasises the TTIP's potential for diversifying the EU's hydrocarbons supply and contributing to its energy security; urges the Commission to explore ways in which this potential could be exploited in line with high environmental standards, the transition to low-emission economies and ambitious EU goals on tackling climate change; underlines that the agreement should not have an impact on the rights of each party to control the exploration and exploitation of its energy resources;
9. Believes that this agreement should be accompanied by a deepening of transatlantic parliamentary cooperation, and that the strengthening of trade and investment links through the TTIP should lead in the future to a broader and enhanced political framework to develop common approaches, to reinforce the strategic partnership, and to improve global cooperation between the EU and the US; stresses that any instruments created to strengthen regulatory cooperation should not affect the European or US legislative procedures and that legislators must always be involved in an appropriate manner, respecting their corresponding parliamentary rights, in any body that may be created for the purpose of regulatory cooperation; underlines the need to also involve all relevant stakeholders;
10. Reminds the Commission that abolition by the US of the visa regime for five EU Member States is still pending;
11. Takes note of the fact that the Commission is taking steps to improve the transparency of the negotiations; acknowledges that progress has already been made; asks the Commission to continue making efforts, also vis-à-vis the US authorities, in favour of greater parliamentary transparency of the negotiations, including timely access to more negotiating documents; stresses that proper communication with civil society is essential to ensure the success of the agreement and calls on the Commission and Member States to increase their outreach activities; hopes that the more transparent approach of the Commission will also apply to other trade negotiations.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	31.3.2015
Result of final vote	+: 35 -: 20 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Lars Adaktusson, Michèle Alliot-Marie, Nikos Androulakis, Francisco Assis, Amjad Bashir, Mario Borghezio, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Lorenzo Cesa, Aymeric Chauprade, Andi Cristea, Arnaud Danjean, Mark Demesmaeker, Knut Fleckenstein, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Eugen Freund, Sandra Kalniete, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Tunne Kelam, Afzal Khan, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, David McAllister, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, Francisco José Millán Mon, Javier Nart, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Vincent Peillon, Alojz Peterle, Kati Piri, Andrej Plenković, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Alyn Smith, Jaromír Štětina, Charles Tannock, Ivo Vajgl, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Geoffrey Van Orden, Hilde Vautmans
Substitutes present for the final vote	Reinhard Bütikofer, Angel Dzhambazki, Neena Gill, Marek Jurek, Antonio López-Istúriz White, György Schöpflin, Igor Šoltes, Janusz Zemke
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Dieter-Lebrecht Koch