



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2014/2228(INI)

25.3.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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: Jerzy Buzek

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Underlines the importance of a transatlantic market for EU and US citizens and industries; stresses that the main outcome of the negotiations should lead to a deep, comprehensive, ambitious, high-standard free-trade and investment agreement that respects and promotes European values, stimulates sustainable growth, scientific cooperation, innovation and the creation of high-quality jobs and contributes to the wellbeing of European citizens by placing their interests at the heart of the TTIP trade deal; notes that TTIP aims at eliminating tariffs, duties and quotas, but also at regulatory cooperation and high joint standard setting on the global market; notes that efforts on tariff elimination and regulatory harmonisation must be balanced; calls on the Commission to strengthen the process of engaging with citizens and all relevant stakeholders with the aim of accommodating their opinions where possible, of conducting the negotiations as transparently as possible and of publishing all possible negotiating texts and documents, including documents relating to any possible energy and SME chapter, thereby providing maximum levels of transparency for European citizens;
2. Calls on the Commission to retain the objective of dedicating a specific chapter to energy, including industrial raw materials, in the TTIP with the aim of creating a competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory market which could significantly increase the EU's energy security, improve diversification of energy sources and lead to lower energy prices; highlights in this regard the importance of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in increasing energy security; emphasises that this specific chapter must integrate clear guarantees that the EU's environmental standards and climate action goals must not be undermined and that the EU must retain the freedom to act independently in setting future standards and goals;
3. Recalls that the European Parliament has to give its consent to this TTIP agreement, without which it cannot enter into force;
4. Emphasises the need for the EU to establish diverse and reliable energy supply sources; requests in this regard that the Commission ensure a policy of free trade and promote investment with respect to fuels, including LNG and crude oil, while retaining the EU's right to categorise fuels according to their lifecycle CO₂ impact and keeping in mind the EU's own climate goals;
5. Calls on the Commission to look beyond export limitations and to work where appropriate on transatlantic harmonisation and convergence of high mutual standards and regulations that define the principles of public support for different energy sources, so as to contain the risk of any distortion of competition, such as for example the definition of co-generation with the use of biomass; encourages the Commission to explore ways to enhance cooperation on energy research, development and innovations and on promotion of cleaner technology;
6. Points to the current differentials between the USA and the EU not only in energy prices

and access to raw materials, but also in per capita CO₂ emissions, which result in an unequal playing field in terms of competitiveness and environmental protection; calls on the Commission, therefore, to include a bilateral safeguard clause to provide energy-intensive and carbon-leakage sectors in the EU, including the chemicals, raw materials and steel industries, with appropriate measures for maintaining current customs tariff rates over an adequate fixed transition period after the entry into force of the TTIP with a mandatory review clause; believes that both US and EU companies should be encouraged to increase their resource and energy efficiency; calls on the Commission to take due account of the need to promote the manufacturing industry as a driving force for the reindustrialisation of Europe;

7. Calls on the Commission to include so-called ‘green services,’ such as the construction, installation, repair and management of environmental goods, in the ongoing negotiations with our transatlantic partners; notes that the European Union is a world leader in the import and export of green goods and services, despite which many barriers remain for European green service providers; notes that the sector has considerable economic potential for the European Union;
8. Highlights the processes and standards set out under the EU energy labelling and eco-design directives, which should not be compromised on;
9. Stresses the considerable potential benefits of the TTIP for SMEs; calls on the Commission to ensure that the priorities and concerns of SMEs are taken fully into account in the TTIP negotiations in accordance with the ‘Think Small First’ principle e.g. by means of comprehensive impact assessments, targeted public consultations and involvement of the European SME representatives; recommends that the Commission seek the establishment of a one-stop information system for SMEs and dedicate a specific chapter to SMEs, in which the reduction of administrative burdens should be considered in compliance with the relevant regulatory frameworks; calls on the Commission to provide for the protection and enhancement of pro-SME policies and support schemes;
10. Calls on the Commission to provide for user-friendly rules of origin (RoO) that can be easily applied by EU exporters and to minimise unnecessary obstacles to trade and red-tape created by ROO, especially for SMEs;
11. Recalls that in comparison with the EU public procurement market, the US market remains extremely closed to foreign companies; requests that the Commission facilitate reciprocity and more active participation of EU firms, including SMEs, in US public procurement at all government levels, as this can contribute to stimulating private-sector innovation and to the emergence of new, high-growth, innovative companies and sectors; stresses that this possibility must not undermine the capacity of EU governments to maintain their public services;
12. Notes that different regulatory approaches in the European Union and the US are costly for industries on both sides of the Atlantic; believes that there are significant efficiency gains to be tapped by aligning these approaches while still allowing authorities in the European Union and in the United States to maintain and achieve high quality standards and safety for their citizens;
13. Expects the Commission to address in the negotiations the issue of the ‘Buy American’,

'Jones' and 'Domestic Content' Acts, which in practice significantly handicap EU companies in their access to the US market, especially in the dredging and engineering sector;

14. Reminds the Commission about the importance of maintaining the current high levels of safety, security, personal data protection and internet openness, neutrality and independence, while welcoming the potential benefits of market access and regulatory alignment and mutual recognition, including the establishment of common global principles in standards and technical specifications in the area of ICT;
15. Calls for open competition in and development of the digital economy, which is by nature global but has its main bases in the EU and the USA; emphasises that the digital economy must be central to the transatlantic market, with leverage in the global economy and in opening up global markets further;
16. Reminds the Commission, regarding information society services and telecommunications services, that it is of particular importance that the TTIP ensure a level playing field with equal and transparent access based on reciprocity for EU service companies to the US market and with an obligation on US service providers to respect and comply with all relevant industry and product safety standards and consumer rights when providing services in Europe or to European customers;
17. Calls on the Commission, with a view to preventing the wholesale relocation of EU manufacturing sectors and mass job losses in the Member States, to conduct a comparative analysis of the competitiveness of EU manufacturing sectors and their counterparts in the United States;
18. Requests that the chapter on intellectual property rights also provide for enhanced protection and recognition of European Geographical Indications;
19. Calls on the Commission to guarantee the validity of all Geographic Indicators (GIs) as part of the TTIP agreement, including for non-agrarian products; reminds the Commission of the economically vital higher value that GI status brings.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.3.2015
Result of final vote	+: 49 -: 14 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Bendt Bendtsen, Reinhard Bütikofer, Jerzy Buzek, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Christian Ehler, Fredrick Federley, Ashley Fox, Adam Gierek, Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal, Theresa Griffin, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk, András Gyürk, Roger Helmer, Eva Kaili, Barbara Kappel, Krišjānis Kariņš, Seán Kelly, Jeppe Kofod, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Janusz Lewandowski, Ernest Maragall, Edouard Martin, Nadine Morano, Dan Nica, Angelika Niebler, Miroslav Poche, Miloslav Ransdorf, Michel Reimon, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Algirdas Saudargas, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Neoklis Sylikiotis, Dario Tamburrano, Patrizia Toia, Evžen Tošenovský, Claude Turmes, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Kathleen Van Brempt, Henna Virkkunen, Martina Werner, Hermann Winkler, Flavio Zanonato, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes present for the final vote	Pervenche Berès, Simona Bonafè, Cornelia Ernst, Yannick Jadot, Werner Langen, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Morten Messerschmidt, Dominique Riquet, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Anne Sander, Paul Tang, Pavel Telička, Anneleen Van Bossuyt, Cora van Nieuwenhuizen
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Isabella Adinolfi, Ignazio Corrao, Antanas Guoga