

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2008/2135(INI)

9.12.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on an EU-India free trade agreement
(2008/2135(INI))

Rapporteur Charles Tannock

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Reiterates the importance of a strategic partnership between the EU and India, a partnership firmly based not only on close economic relations but also on shared values of democracy and human rights, fundamental freedoms, pluralism, the rule of law and multilateralism; welcomes India's commitment, shared by the EU, to combating terrorism and promoting international peace and security; condemns the horrendous attacks perpetrated on 26 November in Mumbai, the commercial capital of India; calls on India to introduce immediately measures to improve the security of all its citizens and foreign visitors and to bring to justice all those involved in this atrocity; calls on the EU and Member States to cooperate with India in the investigation into the attacks;
2. Believes that, over the longer term, India will only grow in attractiveness as a trading partner and will increase its geopolitical importance; welcomes, therefore, the commitment, expressed during the ninth European Union-India Summit held in Marseille on 29 September 2008, to further develop political exchanges and cooperation between the EU and India;
3. Notes the rapid rise in inflation in India; recognises that, in order for India to remain competitive as a growing trading partner with the EU, it will require substantial investment in infrastructure and a vast increase in power generation capacity; welcomes the government's plan to spend USD 500 billion in this area over the next five years, and calls on private and public bodies to cooperate fully in this huge project;
4. Notes the India-US civil nuclear partnership agreement and the Nuclear Suppliers Group waiver, which enables other nations to cooperate with India on nuclear issues and opens the way for EU firms to compete in India's nuclear energy market; stresses that this waiver reaffirms India's commitment to non-proliferation;
5. Welcomes the opening by the Indian Prime Minister of the new Srinagar railway line between Baramulla and Qazigund, which provides many thousands of new jobs for local people; believes that economic initiatives such as this will enhance the prospects of a more prosperous and peaceful future for the Kashmiri people;
6. Welcomes India's progress in becoming a donor as well as a beneficiary of development aid;
7. Welcomes the existence of an annual EU-India human rights dialogue but is concerned about the slow pace at which India is implementing ILO labour standards, particularly in connection with child labour and bonded labour; calls on India to do more to improve the treatment of women, and to deal with the issue of the death penalty and the persecution of, and discrimination against, religious minorities, for example the treatment of Christians in Orissa and elsewhere;
8. Values progress in cooperation on research and development, including through the EU-

funded Framework Programme; welcomes the large numbers of Indian students studying at European universities through the Erasmus Mundus programme;

9. Calls on the Commission to give due weight in its FTA negotiations to human rights considerations, to non-tariff barriers, to ongoing restrictions on foreign direct investment in important sectors and to intellectual property rights;
10. Points out that, if economic cooperation between the EU and India is based on the Union's system of universal values, it may set a standard for cooperation with other countries.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+: 43 -: 2 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Angelika Beer, Bastiaan Belder, Elmar Brok, Colm Burke, Marco Cappato, Philip Claeys, Véronique De Keyser, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Michael Gahler, Jas Gawronski, Klaus Hänsch, Jana Hybášková, Anna Ibrisagic, Ioannis Kasoulides, Maria Eleni Koppa, Joost Lagendijk, Vytautas Landsbergis, Johannes Lebech, Francisco José Millán Mon, Pasqualina Napoletano, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Vural Öger, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Alojz Peterle, Tobias Pflüger, Samuli Pohjamo, Bernd Posselt, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Christian Rovsing, Flaviu Călin Rus, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Ari Vatanen, Marcello Vernola, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Zbigniew Zaleski, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Martí Grau i Segú, David Hammerstein, Pierre Jonckheer, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Erik Meijer