



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on International Trade

2010/2233(INI)

8.12.2010

AMENDMENTS

01 - 36

Draft opinion
Mário David
(PE452.619v01-00)

Relations of the European Union with the Gulf Cooperation Council
(2010/2233(INI))

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PE454.537v01-00

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Strongly insists that the European Union's trade policy must be guided by the active promotion and defence of democratic and human rights; recalls that women in particular suffer from structural discrimination and in many cases are subjected to the use of violence which is backed by the law in the countries that compose the Gulf Cooperation Council; therefore rejects any further negotiations on the conclusion of a possible EU-GCC FTA;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Deeply regrets that negotiations on the EU-GCC FTA have been repeatedly delayed, and deplores the GCC decision to suspend these negotiations in 2008; believes that it is high time that a definitive solution to these negotiations be found, in order to unblock benefits for societies and the business communities on both sides;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 3
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Regrets that the region has been neglected by the EU despite its strategic importance in terms of oil supplies, trade possibilities and regional stability;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Takes note that after 20 years of negotiations the Free Trade Agreement is not yet concluded. Is aware that the human rights and illegal migration clauses are rejected by some states of the Gulf Cooperation Council; believes however that the main reason for the rejection is their reluctance to seriously commit to move to market oriented reforms;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. Considers that given the region's strategic importance, the FTA should be

seen not only as an instrument to enhance welfare through trade but also as a tool to foster geopolitical stability;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that the GCC is currently the EU's sixth largest export market and that the EU is currently the GCC's second trading partner; *notes that, notwithstanding this already intensive level of trade, there is still scope for deepening it, as well as room for more diversification between the two parties; is of the opinion that the conclusion of the EU-GCC FTA would greatly favour closer ties and further diversification;*

Amendment

3. Notes that the GCC is currently the EU's sixth largest export market and that the EU is currently the GCC's second trading partner;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Mário David, Dominique Baudis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that the GCC is currently the EU's sixth largest export market and that the EU is currently the GCC's *second* trading partner; notes that, notwithstanding this already intensive level of trade, there is still scope for deepening it, as well as room for more diversification between the two parties; is of the opinion that the conclusion of the EU-GCC FTA would greatly favour closer ties and further

Amendment

3. Notes that the GCC is currently the EU's sixth largest export market and that the EU is currently the GCC's *main* trading partner; notes that, notwithstanding this already intensive level of trade, there is still scope for deepening it, as well as room for more diversification between the two parties; is of the opinion that the conclusion of the EU-GCC FTA would greatly favour closer ties and further

diversification;

diversification;

Or. pt

Amendment 8
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Points out that given that the GCC countries are advancing towards economic diversification aimed at reducing their oil dependency, an increase in services trade and investment would be a supportive factor for the development of the GCC's economies;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. *Welcomes* the fact that over the past two decades EU-GCC economic relations have been intensifying and that trade between the two sides has increased significantly, ***despite the failure to conclude an FTA; takes this as a sign that an FTA would further enhance this natural growth and embed it in a more open, predictable and secure environment;***

4. *Notes* the fact that over the past two decades EU-GCC economic relations have been intensifying and that trade between the two sides has increased significantly;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Notes that the bulk of the work on the FTA has already been done, and is of the opinion that the scope of the FTA as it stands promises great advantages to both parties; calls on both parties, therefore, to look upon this FTA as a major and important endeavour for both regions and their peoples;

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 11
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Notes that the bulk of the work on the FTA has already been done, and is of the opinion that the scope of the FTA as it stands promises great advantages to both parties; calls on both parties, therefore, to look upon this FTA as a major and important endeavour for both regions and their peoples;

Amendment

5. Notes that the bulk of the work on the FTA has already been done, and is of the opinion that the scope of the FTA as it stands promises great advantages to both parties; calls on both parties, therefore, to look upon this FTA as a major and important endeavour for both regions and their peoples; ***considers that there is a mutual interest and need between the EU and the GCC and that the EU's experience in regional integration can be a source of inspiration for the Gulf; considers that in this respect, the EU can provide valuable technical assistance;***

Or. en

Amendment 12
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Draws attention to the fact that lack of transparency in public procurement procedures and barriers to entry for foreign investors in the service sector are important obstacles to conclude the agreement;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Is firmly of the opinion that an EU-GCC FTA would be substantially advantageous ***to both parties; believes that an FTA with the EU would benefit the internal integration of the GCC and that, following the establishment of the GCC Customs Union, it may also provide a greater impetus to important projects such as the GCC common market, and the completion of a GCC Monetary Union with a single currency;***

6. Is not convinced that an EU-GCC FTA would be substantially advantageous ***for workers and poor in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Europe;***

Or. en

Amendment 14
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Is firmly of the opinion that an EU-GCC FTA would be substantially advantageous to both parties; believes that an FTA with the EU would benefit the internal integration of the GCC and that, following the establishment of the GCC Customs Union, it may also provide a greater impetus to important projects such as the GCC common market, and the completion of a GCC Monetary Union with a single currency;

Amendment

6. Is firmly of the opinion that an EU-GCC FTA would be substantially advantageous to both parties; believes that an FTA with the EU would benefit the internal integration of the GCC and that, following the establishment of the GCC Customs Union, it may also provide a greater impetus to important projects such as the GCC common market, and the completion of a GCC Monetary Union with a single currency; ***considers that the GCC could benefit from lessons learned in the EU process of a Single Market formation and adoption of a single currency to prevent similar weaknesses in its own economic integration;***

Or. en

Amendment 15
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Strongly ***supports*** the message that the HR/VP Catherine Ashton sent during the EU-GCC Joint Ministerial in June 2010 and more recently on 22 September, during the EU-GCC meeting on the margins of the Ministerial of the UN General Assembly, indicating that the EU is ready to make a final effort to conclude these ***negotiations; also welcomes the reaction of the GCC, which also confirmed its wish to conclude the negotiations;***

Amendment

7. Strongly ***deplores*** the message that the HR/VP Catherine Ashton sent during the EU-GCC Joint Ministerial in June 2010 and more recently on 22 September, during the EU-GCC meeting on the margins of the Ministerial of the UN General Assembly, indicating that the EU is ready to make a final effort to conclude these negotiations;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8a. Recommends that the EU devote more resources to the GCC, i.e. through the instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high income countries (ICIHI) which should be made more visible and focus in trading programmes suitable for the training of local administrations, including trade matters;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

Amendment

9. Recalls that, following the Lisbon Treaty, international trade policy is one of the EU's foreign policy tools and that as such the Union ***is obliged to consider*** respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights, together with social and environmental dimensions, in all its international agreements;

9. Recalls that, following the Lisbon Treaty, international trade policy is one of the EU's foreign policy tools and that as such the Union ***takes into account*** respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights, together with social and environmental dimensions, in all its international agreements;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9a. Notes that there are 15 million migrant workers in the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council states and that those workers make up 40% of the total population; recalls the precarious situation of migrant workers in the Gulf States which were highlighted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and supports its call for a minimum wage in the region in order to not further deteriorate the position of domestic and migrant workers; also supports the right of all workers to form and join trade unions in order to defend their interests;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9a. Insists on the respect of democratic principles and fundamental rights established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; urges the GCC Member States to fight against discrimination against woman and child exploitation notably on the labour market and to effectively implement the UN conventions on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Woman and on the Rights of Child;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9b. Considers that the ratification and full implementation by the GCC Member States of the framework established by the UN Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime, the UN Convention against Corruption, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migration Workers and Members of their families should play an essential role in the FTA negotiation;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10

Draft opinion

Amendment

10. Believes that a concluded FTA would greatly enhance the current relations between the EU Member States and the GCC countries, particularly the recent Joint Action Programme, by providing increased capacity and institutional framework building; regrets that the diplomatic presence of the EU in the GCC countries remains minimal and hopes that under the new EEAS the EU will increase its diplomatic presence in the region, including a Union Delegation in each one of the six GCC countries; believes that a more significant diplomatic presence would greatly increase the chances of a speedy conclusion of the FTA and its subsequent implementation;

deleted

Amendment 22
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10

Draft opinion

10. Believes that a concluded FTA would greatly enhance the current relations between the EU Member States and the GCC countries, particularly the recent Joint Action Programme, by providing increased capacity and institutional framework building; regrets that the diplomatic presence of the EU in the GCC countries remains minimal and hopes that under the new EEAS the EU will increase its diplomatic presence in the region, ***including a Union Delegation in each one of the six GCC countries***; believes that a more significant diplomatic presence would greatly increase the chances of a speedy conclusion of the FTA and its subsequent implementation;

Amendment

10. Believes that a concluded FTA would greatly enhance the current relations between the EU Member States and the GCC countries, particularly the recent Joint Action Programme, by providing increased capacity and institutional framework building; regrets that the diplomatic presence of the EU in the GCC countries remains minimal and hopes that under the new EEAS the EU will increase its diplomatic presence in the region, ***in close cooperation with national diplomatic services of EU Member States present in the GCC countries to make the most of their aggregated expertise of the region***; believes that a more significant diplomatic presence would ***also*** greatly increase the chances of a speedy conclusion of the FTA and its subsequent implementation;

Amendment 23
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10

Draft opinion

10. Believes that a concluded FTA would greatly enhance the current relations between the EU Member States and the GCC countries, particularly the recent Joint Action Programme, by providing increased capacity and institutional framework

Amendment

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building; regrets that the diplomatic presence of the EU in the GCC countries remains minimal and *hopes* that under the new EEAS the EU will increase its diplomatic presence in the region, including a Union Delegation in each one of the six GCC countries; believes that a more significant diplomatic presence would greatly increase the chances of a speedy conclusion of the FTA and its subsequent implementation;

building; regrets that the diplomatic presence of the EU in the GCC countries remains minimal and *insists* that under the new EEAS the EU will increase its diplomatic presence in the region, including a Union Delegation in each one of the six GCC countries; believes that a more significant diplomatic presence would greatly increase the chances of a speedy conclusion of the FTA and its subsequent implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 24
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 11

Draft opinion

11. Proposes the establishment of a regular Heads of State and Government summit between the EU and the GCC; stresses that this summit could enhance the political, financial, economic, commercial and cultural ties between the EU and GCC immensely ; strongly encourages both the EU and the GCC top political decision-makers to *move towards this summit, regardless* of the FTA conclusion and signature.

Amendment

11. Proposes the establishment of a regular Heads of State and Government summit between the EU and the GCC; stresses that this summit could enhance the political, financial, economic, commercial and cultural ties between the EU and GCC immensely; strongly encourages both the EU and the GCC top political decision-makers to *meet on a regular basis in order to jointly define and promote common interests, thus enhancing the likelihood* of the FTA conclusion and signature *in the nearest possible future*;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 12

Draft opinion

12. ***Welcomes*** the fact that over the years the EU and the GCC have become major investment partners; ***is of the opinion*** that the conclusion of the FTA, or at least the official reopening of the negotiations, will ***surely*** open the way to further agreements which will ***encourage and*** facilitate mutual foreign direct investments (FDIs); recalls that following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, FDIs now fall within the competence of the EU, ***and therefore provide further scope for the desirable rapid conclusion of an EU-GCC FTA***;

Amendment

12. ***Notes*** the fact that over the years the EU and the GCC have become major investment partners; ***notes*** that the conclusion of the FTA, or at least the official reopening of the negotiations, will open the way to further agreements which will facilitate mutual foreign direct investments (FDIs); recalls that following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, FDIs now fall within the competence of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion

Paragraph 12 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

12a. Reminds that lowering the GCC tariffs as an outcome of the FTA would increase attractiveness for outward investment by transnational enterprises; is convinced that the FTA will imply an increase in service-related investments which will favour GCC states' development;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Joe Higgins

Draft opinion

Paragraph 13

Draft opinion

Amendment

13. Suggests the use of the euro in all types of trade between the EU and the GCC;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 28
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13

Draft opinion

Amendment

13. Suggests the use of the euro in all types of trade between the EU and the GCC;

13. Suggests the use of the euro ***and other national currencies of EU Member States*** in all types of trade between the EU and the GCC;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13

Draft opinion

Amendment

13. Suggests the use of the euro in all types of trade between the EU and the GCC;

13. Suggests the use of the euro in all types of trade between the EU and the GCC;
welcomes that since its inception the GCC has expressed its will to create a customs and monetary union; notes that while the former entered into force in 2009, negotiations on a common currency are currently taking place;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 14

Draft opinion

14. Notes that all six GCC countries currently benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP); ***is of the opinion that, given the level of economic progress in the region, the FTA would be a better tool to spread commercial benefits throughout the region;***

Amendment

14. Notes that all six GCC countries currently benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP);

Or. en

Amendment 31
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 14

Draft opinion

14. Notes that all six GCC countries currently benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP); is of the opinion that, given the level of economic progress in the region, the FTA would be a better tool to spread commercial benefits throughout the region;

Amendment

14. Notes that all six GCC countries currently benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP); ***stresses that all GCC States should, according to Article 15 (1) of the Council regulation of 22 July 2008, not only ratify but also effectively implement all 27 ILO and UN conventions listed in Annex III of the Regulation;*** is of the opinion that, given the level of economic progress in the region, the FTA would be a better tool to spread commercial benefits throughout the region;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 14

Draft opinion

14. Notes that all six GCC countries currently benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP); is of the opinion that, given the level of economic progress in the region, the FTA would be a better tool to spread commercial benefits throughout the region;

Amendment

14. Notes that all six GCC countries currently benefit from preferential access to the EU market under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP); is of the opinion that, given the level of economic progress in the region, the FTA would be a better tool to spread commercial benefits throughout the region; ***considers therefore that as part of the next review of the GSP, preferential access to the EU market for GCC countries should be reassessed;***

Or. en

Amendment 33
Joe Higgins

Draft opinion
Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Reaffirms that the primary objective of the EU in its relations with the GCC should be to conclude the FTA; but, until this happens, and following what some of the GCC major trade partners have already done, encourages the HR/VP and the Commissioner for Trade to assess alternative approaches to future commercial relations with the GCC countries, in the form of bilateral agreements between the EU and those of the Gulf States that already feel prepared to engage in a further commitment with the EU.

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 34
Emilio Menéndez del Valle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Reaffirms that ***the primary objective*** of the EU in its relations with the GCC ***should be*** to conclude the FTA; ***but, until this happens, and following what some of the GCC major trade partners have already done, encourages the HR/VP and the Commissioner for Trade to assess alternative approaches to future commercial relations with the GCC countries, in the form of bilateral agreements between the EU and those of the Gulf States that already feel prepared to engage in a further commitment with the EU.***

Amendment

15. Reaffirms that ***it is a goal*** of the EU in its relations with the GCC to conclude the FTA, ***which should include a binding sustainable development chapter; understands that because multilateral cooperation is so far limited, EU member states pursue state to state relations with individual GCC states; believes however that for the sake of integration - both of the GCC and the EU- an special effort should be made to foster and deepen relations between the EU and the GCC as such;***

Or. en

Amendment 35
Robert Sturdy

Draft opinion
Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Reaffirms that the primary objective of the EU in its relations with the GCC should be to conclude the FTA; but, until this happens, and following what some of the GCC major trade partners have already done, encourages the HR/VP and the Commissioner for Trade to assess alternative approaches to future commercial relations with the GCC countries, in the form of bilateral agreements between the EU and those of the Gulf States that already feel prepared to

Amendment

15. Reaffirms that the primary objective of the EU in its relations with the GCC should be to conclude the FTA; but, until this happens, and following what some of the GCC major trade partners have already done, encourages the HR/VP and the Commissioner for Trade to assess alternative approaches to future commercial relations with the GCC countries, in the form of bilateral agreements between the EU and those of the Gulf States that already feel prepared to

engage in *a further commitment* with the EU.

engage in further *commitments* with the EU *in view of a comprehensive FTA*.

Or. en

Amendment 36

Mário David, Dominique Baudis

Draft opinion

Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Reaffirms that the primary objective of the EU in its relations with the GCC should be to conclude the FTA; but, until this happens, and following what some of the GCC major trade partners have already done, encourages the HR/VP and the Commissioner for Trade to assess alternative approaches to future commercial relations with the GCC countries, in the form of bilateral agreements between the EU and those of the Gulf States that already feel prepared to engage in a further commitment with the EU.

Amendment

15. Reaffirms that the primary objective of the EU in its relations with the GCC should be to conclude the *region-to-region* FTA; but, until this happens, and following what some of the GCC major trade partners have already done, encourages the HR/VP and the Commissioner for Trade to assess alternative approaches to future commercial relations with the GCC countries, in the form of bilateral agreements between the EU and those of the Gulf States that already feel prepared to engage in a further commitment with the EU.

Or. pt