



2015/2067(INI)

3.6.2015

AMENDMENTS

1 - 12

Draft opinion
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică
(PE557.064v01-00)

Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (Trade facilitation Agreement)
(2015/2067(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1

Maria Heubuch

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Recognises the wide gap that still remains between developed and developing countries' border procedures, and that poor infrastructure, inefficient customs management and excessive red tape *create considerable obstacles to the ability of businesses in developing countries to trade; acknowledges that the Trade Facilitation Agreement will give a new impetus to reforms;*

Amendment

1. Recognises the wide gap that still remains between developed and developing countries' border procedures, and that poor infrastructure, inefficient customs management and excessive red tape *slow down trade; acknowledges that the Trade Facilitation Agreement and trade liberalisation process share the same objective of reducing trading costs to boost exports and economic activity;*

Or. en

Amendment 2

Eleftherios Synadinos

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Recognises the wide gap that still remains between developed and developing countries' border procedures, and that poor infrastructure, inefficient customs management and excessive red tape create considerable obstacles to the ability of businesses in developing countries to trade; acknowledges that the Trade Facilitation Agreement will give a new impetus to reforms;

Amendment

1. Recognises the wide gap that still remains between developed and developing countries' border procedures, and that poor infrastructure, inefficient customs management, *widespread government corruption, distortion of competition* and excessive red tape create considerable obstacles to the ability of businesses in developing countries to trade *or invest for this purpose*; acknowledges that the Trade Facilitation Agreement will give a new impetus to reforms;

Or. el

Amendment 3
Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. ***Recalls that for many*** developing countries ***trade facilitation will be the main source of gains*** in the Doha Development Agenda; welcomes the extensive provisions on special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries; suggests that the novel approach of making commitments and their scheduling commensurate with countries' capacities should serve as a benchmark for future agreements;

Amendment

2. ***Acknowledges that trade facilitation has been a long-lasting request made by developed countries in the Doha negotiations; recalls that*** developing countries ***have continuously insisted that food security and assistance to LDCs must advance in tandem with trade facilitation*** in the ***remit of the*** Doha Development Agenda; ***stresses that developing countries, including LDCs, should have flexibility to implement trade facilitation obligations at their own pace and subject to available resources; in this context,*** welcomes the extensive provisions on special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries; suggests that the novel approach of making commitments and their scheduling commensurate with countries' capacities should serve as a benchmark for future agreements;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Ádám Kósa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Recalls that for many developing countries trade facilitation ***will be*** the main ***source*** of gains in the Doha Development Agenda; welcomes the extensive provisions on special and differential treatment for developing and least-

Amendment

2. Recalls that for many developing countries trade facilitation ***may represent one of*** the main ***sources*** of gains in the Doha Development Agenda; welcomes the extensive provisions on special and differential treatment for developing and

developed countries; *suggests that the novel approach of making commitments and their scheduling commensurate with countries' capacities should serve as a benchmark for future agreements;*

least-developed countries;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Maria Heubuch

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Acknowledges that *expeditious and comprehensive implementation of the Agreement is in the interest of all members of the World Trade Organization, given the tangible gains and, in particular, the estimated reduction in trade costs; underlines that the degree of implementation of the Agreement will be decisive for the benefits derived therefrom;*

Amendment

3. Acknowledges that *the Trade Facilitation Agreement will mostly benefit developed countries, while a possible significant increase of imports in developing countries may cause a deterioration of their trade balance; in reverse, notes that the potential gains from that agreement in terms of export of developing countries are overestimated, as most of the obligations under the Trade Facilitation Agreement correspond to those rules that are already in place in advanced economies; accordingly, deems that the implementation of the Agreement can only be in the interest of all members of the WTO if priorities and concerns of developing countries in the remit of the Doha Development Agenda are equally duly reflected;*

Or. en

Amendment 6
Eleftherios Synadinos

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Acknowledges that expeditious and comprehensive implementation of the Agreement is in the interest of all members of the World Trade Organization, given the tangible gains and, in particular, the estimated reduction in trade costs; underlines that the degree of implementation of the Agreement will be decisive for the benefits derived therefrom;

Amendment

3. Acknowledges that expeditious and comprehensive implementation of the Agreement is in the interest of all members of the World Trade Organization, given the tangible gains and, in particular, the estimated reduction in trade costs ***and protection of the health, safety and economic interests of consumers***; underlines that the degree of implementation of the Agreement will be decisive for the benefits derived therefrom;

Or. el

Amendment 7
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment 8
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Amendment

3a. Is convinced that the Agreement is a development opportunity that by helping to create a more favourable business environment enhances export competitiveness and brings expanded trade opportunities, in particular to small and medium-sized enterprises and land-locked developing countries, and can attract more private sector investment;

Or. en

4a. Acknowledges that the implementation of the Agreement will improve the conditions for the deepening of regional economic integration, enhance the efficiency of cross-border trade flows and thus increase regional trade exchanges, notably in Africa; notes that regional initiatives should be pursued in line with the WTO Agreement;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Maria Heubuch

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the numerous commitments, including by the EU, to provide assistance and support for capacity building in order to help developing and least-developed countries to implement the Agreement; stresses that funding for capacity building should be recipient-driven, based on proper needs assessments; considers it indispensable that aid is properly managed and coordinated, given the number of donors and pledges; underlines the need for appropriate monitoring of, and reporting on, aid flows.

Amendment

5. Underlines that many obligations under the Trade Facilitation Agreement necessitate substantial investments in developing countries due to limited financial resources; notes equally that such Trade Facilitation Agreement may lead to irreplaceable losses of tariff revenue, in a context where the share of customs revenue in the total tax collection is much higher in developing countries and LDCs than in developed countries; acknowledges that the implementation of new trade facilitation obligations should not come at the expense of other development priorities of the host country; welcomes the numerous commitments, including by the EU, to provide assistance and support for capacity building in order to help developing and least-developed countries to implement the Agreement; stresses that funding for capacity building should be recipient-driven, based on proper needs assessments; considers it

indispensable that aid is properly managed and coordinated, given the number of donors and pledges; underlines the need for appropriate monitoring of, and reporting on, aid flows.

Or. en

Amendment 10
Eleftherios Synadinos

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the numerous commitments, including by the EU, to provide assistance and support for capacity building in order to help developing and least-developed countries to implement the Agreement; stresses that funding for capacity building should be recipient-driven, based on proper needs assessments; considers it indispensable that aid is properly managed and coordinated, given the number of donors and pledges; underlines the need for appropriate monitoring of, and reporting on, aid flows.

Amendment

5. Welcomes the numerous commitments, including by the EU, to provide assistance and support for capacity building in order to help developing and least-developed countries to implement the Agreement; stresses that funding for capacity building should be recipient-driven, based on proper needs assessments; considers it indispensable that aid is properly managed and coordinated ***in line with Articles 210 and 211 TFEU***, given the number of donors and pledges; underlines the need for appropriate monitoring of, and reporting on, aid flows.

Or. el

Amendment 11
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Recognises that private sector expertise can play a central role in promoting trade facilitation measures and in providing assistance and support for

TFA implementation in developing countries; takes note of a planned USAID initiative for a public-private alliance towards this end; calls on the Commission to encourage private sector involvement and to explore possibilities for partnerships with European industries in support of implementing the TFA;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Acknowledges that the implementation of trade facilitation reforms has broader development benefits; notes in this context the key role that customs can play in facilitating the expeditious movement of consignments of disaster relief items; stresses that emergency humanitarian assistance should benefit from simplified customs clearance procedures to speed up aid deliveries, and, moreover, be exempt from duties and taxes.

Or. en