



2015/2105(INI)

18.4.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on a new forward-looking and innovative future strategy on trade and
investment
(2015/2105(INI))

Rapporteur: Tokia Saïfi

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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. Takes note of the EU's new strategy on trade and investment entitled 'Trade for All - Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy' and stresses the fundamental role of trade in the areas of peace, sustainable growth, development and employment; recognises therefore the EU's growing responsibility to contribute to achieving these goals in its global trade and external relations;
2. Recalls the need for consistency in the EU's external policies and with other policies with an external dimension, such as trade, development, human rights, agricultural, environmental, energy and migration policy, and to pursue the objectives set out in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU); stresses that EU trade policy, and trade and investment agreements are an integral part of the EU's external policy and calls in this connection on the European Union and its Member States to adopt an EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy; underlines in this context the central coordinating role of the Vice-President/High Representative, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and EU delegations in third countries which can play an important facilitation role on the ground, in order to promote respect for EU fundamental values and rights; calls on the Member States to speak with one voice;
3. Recalls that trade policy contributes to protecting and promoting the values upheld by the EU, as defined in Article 2 of the TEU, such as democracy, the rule of law, respect of human rights, fundamental rights and freedoms, solidarity, equality, the respect of human dignity and the protection of the environment and social rights; considers that upholding these values would make it possible to end bad practices, and that trade policy will be effective if all the major players in world trade abide by the same rules, including on public procurement; underlines the need for the EU trade policy to be consistent with and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; welcomes the Commission's announcement regarding the incorporation in trade agreements of tools aimed at fighting corruption and will remain attentive to the measures proposed;
4. Stresses that all EU trade agreements should contain binding human rights clauses, which allow the EU to enforce and promote universal values in third countries; notes that political will is needed to be able to actually use these clauses and hold third countries to commitments made; calls for improved consultation with Parliament in the early stages of the negotiation process for trade and investment agreements, for effective implementation of human rights clauses and for reporting back to Parliament on the human rights aspects of the agreements;
5. Stresses that the GSP, GSP+ and EBA systems can be essential tools which enable these values to be upheld and insists on the importance of their effective implementation and monitoring; welcomes the publication of the Commission's first biennial status report on the implementation of the GSP+ and the previous dialogue on this report with Parliament before its publication;

6. Stresses that EU trade policy is an instrument of economic diplomacy that could also make a contribution to tackling the root causes of terrorism;
7. Emphasises the need for trade to be sustainable and responsible; underlines the importance of implementing chapters on sustainable development in trade agreements which will enable tough social and environmental standards to be put in place throughout the supply chain, in accordance with existing international conventions and, notably in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO); calls on the Commission to take greater account of these issues when carrying out ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of such agreements;
8. Welcomes the Commission's announcements of several initiatives supporting fair trade and encourages the Commission to continue to propose such measures in the framework of the common trade policy;
9. Points out that trade negotiations should not lead to the watering down of European standards and must protect European citizens and safeguard our social choices and the right to regulate; stresses that trade agreements and EU trade policy are a key tool to strengthen the global rules-based trading system, which is increasingly coming under pressure; notes that this is especially crucial for the EU, given its heavily trade-dependent economy; underlines that the EU needs to aim towards setting high global standards through its trade policy;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure the proper implementation of trade agreements by increasing the involvement of Parliament, stakeholders and civil society in a transparent way and making sure that the benefits of concluded agreements are actually felt by all sides; stresses the importance of placing greater emphasis on mutual compliance with and implementation of the agreements; calls in particular on the Commission to ensure commitments on human rights and core labour rights;
11. Recalls that multilateral trade negotiations, the strengthening of the multilateral trade architecture, and engagement with the WTO, remain a priority for the EU, which is also conducting bilateral negotiations in an ambitious spirit of reciprocity and mutual benefit; welcomes the achievement of an agreement during the WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi under the Doha Round; regrets its lack of scope and ambition but underlines the chance to move beyond the Doha Development Agenda, and the possibility to finally make the WTO more reflective of the current global economic situation, and the respective economic weight of its member countries; also asks the Commission to develop specific trade strategies tailored to certain regions, particularly Asia, in the light of the recent conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership;
12. Reiterates the importance of respecting European and international rules on the arms trade, notably the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports;
13. Underlines that effective export control legislation is also a key aspect of EU trade policy; calls in this regard on the Commission to update the EU dual-use export control legislation, in order to pursue the EU's strategic goals and universal values;
14. Recalls the need for the EU to ensure stability in its neighbourhood and calls for greater

economic integration between its eastern and Mediterranean neighbours, particularly by fostering trade relations;

15. Encourages the Commission to continue and to step up its efforts in the fields of communication, transparency and access to negotiation documents and to improve coordination and information exchange between the Commissioners and the Directorates-General, the EEAS, the Council, Parliament, as well as the consultation with social partners and civil society; stresses that the improved access to documents related to the TTIP negotiations should be equally granted for documents related to all other ongoing negotiations of trade agreements.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	11.4.2016
Result of final vote	+: 46 -: 3 0: 7
Members present for the final vote	Lars Adaktusson, Michèle Alliot-Marie, Nikos Androulakis, Francisco Assis, Petras Auštrevičius, Amjad Bashir, Bas Belder, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Lorenzo Cesa, Javier Couso Permuy, Andi Cristea, Arnaud Danjean, Georgios Epitideios, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Iveta Grigule, Richard Howitt, Sandra Kalniete, Tunne Kelam, Afzal Khan, Eduard Kukan, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, David McAllister, Demetris Papadakis, Alojz Peterle, Tonino Picula, Kati Piri, Andrej Plenković, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Jaromír Štětina, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Ivo Vajgl, Elena Valenciano, Geoffrey Van Orden, Hilde Vautmans, Boris Zala
Substitutes present for the final vote	Antonio López-Istúriz White, Tokia Saïfi, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Helmut Scholz, György Schöpflin, Igor Šoltes, Bodil Valero
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu