

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2007/2003(INI)

17.9.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on International Trade

on Trade and climate change
(2007/2003(INI))

Draftsman: András Gyürk

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Points out that, whilst trade can make a significant contribution to economic development and human prosperity, at the same time the transport sector (principally road transport), which enables trade in goods and raw materials to take place, is responsible for one third of global greenhouse gas emissions; considers that measures to drive modal shift to more environmentally friendly transport modes (such as rail and water-borne transport) and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from freight transport are imperative;
2. Recalls that the dismantling of administrative barriers to trade, and action to combat climate change, can only be realised through the broadest possible international collaboration, this being also in the essential interests of the European Union, which plays a leading role in both these fields, particularly with a view to retaining European competitiveness;
3. Emphasises the importance of European technological cooperation with developing countries in order for the latter to implement measures to reduce increasing levels of CO₂; notes that suitable investment is needed to promote such a reduction;
4. Stresses that efforts need to be made to internalise external influences linked to trade (such as harmful consequences for the environment), in other words to convert them into a price indication which the market can understand, and to promote fair competition by putting into practice the “polluter pays” principle (particularly in the areas of road and air traffic), ideally through the global extension of the Emissions Trading Scheme;
5. Apprehensive of the negative environmental and social effects of plantfuel production and trade in the absence of effective environmental regulation, calls for the urgent establishment of reliable, sustainability certification for the production and import of biofuels and their feedstocks, as well as the assessment of their lifecycle climate impact, including possible land use change;
6. Emphasises the stress that climatic changes are placing upon the world's fresh water reserves and the need for trade and investment agreements relating to water to take this stress into account and to promote innovative solutions;
7. Urges the Commission, with a view to achieving the Lisbon objectives, to give its support, in the international negotiations taking place in the fields of trade and climate change, to the dismantling of commercial barriers to environmentally friendly technologies and services, particularly since, thanks to efficient and technologically innovative European undertakings, the EU should be a market leader in the worldwide export of environmental goods and services (EGS), and since Galileo and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security System (GMES) could be used to monitor CO₂ emissions;
8. Notes that the transfer of energy efficiency and other environmentally friendly technologies from the EU to developing countries has a crucial role to play in decoupling

economic development from greenhouse gas emission;

9. Urges that aid to transport be calculated taking in to account the environmental impact of the different methods of transport, and that consideration be given to using market-compatible trade instruments (such as labelling and standards) which promote climate protection;
10. Notes the inseparable link between trade and the transport sector; urges that consideration be given to all means of transport and in particular those whose emissions have increased significantly in recent years, namely shipping, which produces double the carbon emissions of aviation; welcomes the Commission's proposal to include shipping in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme;
11. Considers that, given that the real carbon cost of road transport is not known, especially in the case of food and other daily consumables, support schemes to promote sustainable local production should be regarded as acceptable and promoted so as to discourage the excessive transport by road of food; also recommends the introduction of climate labelling standards to inform consumers of the ecological footprint of products;
12. Highlights the fact that, on the basis of the principle of free trade, emissions trading (the market in pollution rights) in the field of environmental legislation is capable of substantially improving the efficiency of pollution prevention;
13. Notes that the EU is already a world leader in alternative energy technologies, such as solar panels and wind turbines, and calls for a full commitment to green technologies through the introduction by the Member States of a 0% import tariff for green technologies and energy-saving equipment;
14. Considers it necessary to review international trade agreements so as to ensure their compatibility with and contribution towards climate policy goals including, inter alia, removing barriers to low carbon technology transfer, and the introduction after 2012 of carbon duties for countries that are not party to the Kyoto Protocol or global climate agreements;
15. Believes that WTO rules should not prevent Member States from encouraging the further development of low energy technologies by insisting on technical neutrality, which could undermine incentives for the development of renewable technology.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	13.9.2007
Result of final vote	+ : 41 - : 0 :
Members present for the final vote	Šarūnas Birutis, Jan Březina, Philippe Busquin, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Den Dover, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, András Gyürk, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Romano Maria La Russa, Eluned Morgan, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Atanas Papanizov, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Mechtild Rothe, Paul Rübig, Andres Tarand, Britta Thomsen, Radu Țîrle, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Dominique Vlasto
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Ivo Belet, Danutė Budreikaitė, Joan Calabuig Rull, Neena Gill, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Edit Herczog, Vittorio Prodi, Bernhard Rapkay, Esko Seppänen, Dirk Sterckx, Vladimir Urutchev
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Sepp Kusstatscher, Thomas Mann, Hans-Peter Mayer, Luisa Fernanda Rudi Ubeda