



2016/2018(INI)

18.12.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making
(2016/2018(INI))

Rapporteur: Bendt Bendtsen

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the IIA BLM has started to lead to tangible improvements in some priorities, and whereas paragraph 40 thereof commits to negotiating improved practical arrangements for cooperation and information-sharing on international agreements;
 - 1. Believes it is essential to respect horizontally the longstanding practice to await for Parliament's consent before provisionally applying the trade and investment provisions of politically important agreements; calls on the Council, Commission and the EEAS to continue to extend this practice to all international agreements;
 - 2. Calls for the other institutions to comply with the Treaties and regulations and to observe jurisprudence in order to ensure that Parliament:
 - a. is immediately, fully and accurately informed during the whole life-cycle of international agreements in a pro-active, structured and streamlined way, without undermining the EU's negotiation position, and is given sufficient time to express its views at all stages and have them taken into account as far as possible;
 - b. is accurately informed and involved in the implementation stage of the agreements and, especially in regard to the decisions taken by the bodies set up by agreements, and is allowed to fully exercise its rights as a co-legislator when they impact EU legislation;
 - 3. Welcomes the Commission Working Programme on trade-related priority files, although it could provide more information on the scheduling of international trade negotiations; calls for greater transparency of the legislative process, e.g. by using a shared database;
 - 4. Welcomes the more systematic approach to impact assessments although the methodology used is not always optimal;
 - 5. Calls on the Commission to provide additional justification for its choice of legal basis for proposals;
 - 6. Welcomes the improvements in how delegated acts and implementing acts are employed, but believes that further convergence in line with Parliament's views is needed; encourages the Inter-Institutional Register for Delegated Acts and participation in experts' meetings.