



5.9.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on harnessing globalisation: trade aspects
(2018/2005(INI))

Rapporteur: Gilles Lebreton

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the reflection paper entitled ‘Harnessing globalisation’ and its focus on easing access to the positive effects of globalisation while pointing out the need to counter the negative effects;
2. Believes that globalisation implies many advantages for businesses and citizens; acknowledges at the same time that globalisation also gives rise to concerns, which need to be addressed by the European Union;
3. Notes that strengthening the EU’s internal market, as well as fairly and cohesively consolidating economic union, is vital, since a solid internal market is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of international strategies; points out in this context that, in order to ensure that the EU’s trade policy is geared towards the achievement of its overall economic and political objectives, in particular sustainable development, all EU institutions should ensure greater consistency between trade policy and other EU internal and external policies;
4. Stresses that international trade plays an important role in how globalisation develops; points out that the legislator, in this context, should pay special attention to the following areas of jurisdiction among others, which are subject to international trade agreements: intellectual property rights, including copyright, trademarks and patents, data protection and enhanced transparency obligations, food safety requirements and environmental standards;
5. Recalls and welcomes the European Union’s commitment to pursuing a transparent and responsible trade policy that exploits the positive aspects of globalisation, guarantees a fair distribution of the benefits of trade in accordance with its principles of solidarity and sustainability, and offers modern solutions for the realities of today’s economy in an increasingly technological world, enabling all individuals and businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to benefit from its advantages;
6. Recognises data protection as a fundamental right in the European Union; calls for high standards of data protection in trade agreements to be guaranteed through a so-called mutual adequacy decision between the European Union and non-EU countries;
7. Stresses that, in order to shield citizens more effectively from large-scale globalisation, the EU institutions must provide an effective and ongoing response to challenges in respect of privacy, data protection and cybersecurity;
8. Stresses the importance of further promoting the European Union’s schemes of geographical indications and traditional specialities and to continue concluding the relevant bilateral agreements with third countries;
9. Recalls Opinion 2/15 of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the allocation of competences between the European Union and the Member States as regards the Free

Trade Agreement between the European Union and Singapore, which concludes that the European Union enjoys exclusive competences on all trade-related matters except for non-direct foreign investment, investor-state dispute resolution, covering all types of investments, and ancillary provisions regarding non-direct foreign investment; welcomes the Court's opinion as it creates legal clarity for all future EU agreements with third countries, including with the United Kingdom after its departure from the Union;

10. Welcomes Council's recent mandate given to the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the European Union, a Convention establishing a multilateral court for the settlement of investment disputes (MIC) in order to address the limitations of the existing Investor State Dispute Settlement system; notes that the MIC will serve as a permanent body to settle investment disputes and will represent a more transparent, coherent and fair system, which will be extremely beneficial for investors; further welcomes, in this context, the fact that the Council has also decided to make the negotiation directives publicly available, which was a longstanding request by Parliament in its efforts to push for more transparency in the field of international negotiations;
11. Welcomes the Union's initiatives to strike a fair balance between undistorted competition and protection measures, such as anti-dumping measures in relation to third country imports;
12. Emphasises that high European standards in relation to social protection, working conditions, the environment, consumers and fundamental rights as the basis for the prosperity of the Union must be promoted through trade policy instruments deployed in accordance with sustainable development objectives; notes, in this context, the need for the European Union to ensure that international agreements are based on the above standards, so as to ensure that globalisation benefits all Europeans, and that its economic, social and environmental effects are beneficial for individuals and businesses both inside and outside of Europe;
13. Stresses, in light of the above, the need to strengthen global governance and global rules in order to avoid trade wars;
14. Calls on the Commission to pay closer attention to the internal policy measures adopted by certain EU partners that are likely to undermine the rule-based multilateral trading system, and to take the necessary countermeasures;
15. Calls on the Commission, given that 45 % of Europeans consider globalisation to be a threat, to launch a campaign to promote its positive aspects, particularly in the regions where it is having a predominantly negative effect; calls, furthermore, on the Commission to identify and implement the most effective measures to support SMEs that are still suffering the effects of both the economic crisis and globalisation;
16. Notes that free, fair and sustainable trade is economically desirable and has vital political implications; further notes that it is important for Europe to use trade as an instrument for the promotion of democratic and sustainable development across the world.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	3.9.2018
Result of final vote	+: 11 -: 6 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Marie-Christine Boutonnet, Jean-Marie Cavada, Mady Delvaux, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Laura Ferrara, Gilles Lebreton, Emil Radev, Julia Reda, Evelyn Regner, Pavel Svoboda, Francis Zammit Dimech, Tadeusz Zwiefka
Substitutes present for the final vote	Luis de Grandes Pascual, Pascal Durand, Angel Dzhambazki, Jytte Guteland, Jiří Maštálka, Angelika Niebler, Răzvan Popa

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

11	+
ECR	Angel Dzhabazki
EFDD	Laura Ferrara
ENF	Marie-Christine Boutonnet, Gilles Lebreton
PPE	Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Angelika Niebler, Emil Radev, Pavel Svoboda, Francis Zammit Dimech, Tadeusz Zwiefka

6	-
GUE/NGL	Jiří Maštálka
S&D	Mady Delvaux, Jytte Guteland, Răzvan Popa, Evelyn Regner
VERTS/ALE	Julia Reda

2	0
ALDE	Jean-Marie Cavada
VERTS/ALE	Pascal Durand

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention