



5.7.2018

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the WTO: the way forward  
(2018/2084(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Lola Sánchez Caldentey



## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that trade liberalisation is not positive, per se, in terms of reducing poverty and inequalities, and that it can even have negative effects on sustainable development if it is not properly regulated; underlines, in this context, the potential of the WTO as an efficient rules-based multilateral negotiating forum which provides a platform for open discussion on global trade-related issues; insists that the EU should continue to promote the democratisation of the WTO;
2. Calls for a trade agenda based on fair trade for the benefit of all, which puts development and social, environmental and human rights at the centre of the process and has a special focus on the needs of low-income developing countries and least-developed countries;
3. Insists that the WTO should clearly recognise the role that trade can play in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and the fight against climate change, using the Paris Agreement commitments as a minimum benchmark;
4. Is concerned, in the above context, that bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements could lead to the fragmentation of international trade policy and thus undermine the role of the WTO; calls, therefore, for the EU and its Member States to make additional efforts to once again place the WTO at the centre of global trade governance;
5. Expresses its utmost concern that the US is blocking the appointment of several vacant posts on the Appellate Body of the WTO;
6. Calls for the EU to continue to make the case for increasing the importance of the parliamentary dimension of the WTO; calls on WTO members to ensure democratic legitimacy and transparency by strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the WTO; stresses, in this connection, the need to ensure that parliamentarians have better access to trade negotiations and are involved in the formulation and implementation of WTO decisions.