

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2005/2061(INI)

4.10.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the Social Dimension of Globalisation (2005/2061(INI))

Draftsperson: Poul Nyrup Rasmussen

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Warmly welcomes the report by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation (WCSDG) and supports its conclusions; recognises the importance of competitiveness in securing jobs, stresses that guaranteeing decent work – including labour rights, social protection and equality between men and women – is indispensable in order to effectively eradicate poverty; however, that the aim is absent from the EU's foreign policy and the Union's international trade, financial and monetary policies; believes, accordingly, that 'Decent Work for All' and 'a Decent Pension for All' should be a unifying goal of the Union's internal and external policies;
2. Believes that the EU as a global actor should be a prime promoter of the agenda of 'Decent Work and a Decent Pension for All'; emphasises that a minimum of labour rights and social protection should be accepted and acknowledged as a socio-economic floor that would bring long-term welfare to any country in the world, and accentuates that jobs, employment and 'decent work' should, ideally be as a ninth MDG as soon as possible;
3. Stresses the indispensability of the ILO's Core Labour Standards and insists that the EU should use its extensive bilateral relations to advance these; believes that respect and implementation of the ILO's Core Labour Standards should be a prerequisite for membership of the WTO and that the ILO should have observer status in the WTO; believes, also, that the Union should use its bilateral relations to promote the recommendations of the WCSDG so that off-shored and de-located jobs from the EU do not end up in sweat shops in the third world but jobs of high quality are created that help to improve the lives of workers and their families in these countries; underlines, moreover, that good political governance, sound and effective states, strong civil societies, fundamental democratic freedoms and a productive social dialogue are fundamental for peoples, societies and nations to take advantage of globalisation, and that the Union should prioritise this in its bilateral relations;
4. Underlines that policy coherence between both the EU and its member states and between the global institutions involved in economic governance and development – e.g. the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO, the ILO, and the UNDP – is paramount in securing progress in the developing world as well as that globalisation becomes an opportunity for people all over the world; stresses that these organisations must work towards the same goals to be efficient; welcomes, therefore, the WCSDG's concrete proposals to achieve greater policy coherence; welcomes, also, the Commission's ambitions of ensuring coherence within the IFIs and of speaking with one voice in these institutions; emphasises that the EU is a much stronger global actor when it acts in unity in the multilateral institutions;
5. Emphasises that to underpin social progress in the third world a strengthened United Nations is indispensable to such a system; encourages, therefore, the member states to

support the ongoing work for reforms of the UN; highlights that a new and strengthened ECOSOC – ideally as a Council for Human Development with the power to coordinate the work of the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO, and the ILO, as well as the UNDP and the UNEP – is necessary to gain the policy coherence that is needed to obtain the MDGs and, more generally, make globalisation a leverage for social progress.

PROCEDURE

Title	The Social Dimension of Globalisation
Procedure number	2004/2061(INI)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	AFET 19.4.2005
Enhanced cooperation	
Draftsman Date appointed	Poul Nyrup Rasmussen 19.4.2005
Discussed in committee	14.9.2005 4.10.2005
Date suggestions adopted	4.10.2005
Result of final vote	for: 39 against: 1 abstentions: 3
Members present for the final vote	Panagiotis Beglitis, Bastiaan Belder, Monika Beňová, Elmar Brok, Philip Claeys, Simon Coveney, Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, Jas Gawronski, Ana Maria Gomes, Alfred Gomolka, Richard Howitt, Jana Hybášková, Anna Ibrisagic, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Ioannis Kasoulides, Helmut Kuhne, Joost Lagendijk, Vytautas Landsbergis, Francisco José Millán Mon, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Tobias Pflüger, João de Deus Pinheiro, Bernd Posselt, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Gitte Seeberg, Marek Maciej Siwiec, István Szent-Iványi, Paavo Väyrynen, Inese Vaidere, Ari Vatanen, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Karl von Wogau, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Josef Zieleniec
Substitutes present for the final vote	Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Jaromír Kohlíček, Rihards Pīks, Aloyzas Sakalas, Inger Segelström, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	