



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2011/2286(INI)

28.3.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on defining a new development cooperation with Latin America
(2011/2286(INI))

Rapporteur: Laima Liucija Andrikienė

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses the importance of close relationships with Latin American countries and the need to develop new forms of cooperation with emerging and middle-income countries in Latin America through the Development Cooperation Instrument and the new Partnership Instrument, with mutual respect, as equal to equal;
2. Regrets that the Commission's proposal for a regulation on a scheme of generalised tariff preferences ignores the strategic nature of relations with Latin America in that it deprives a large number of countries in the region of this instrument, essential though it is for the region's development;
3. Underlines the fact that a clear and decisive commitment from the EU to greater cooperation with Latin America (LA) is needed in order to fight poverty in middle-income countries with significant social differences;
4. Believes that the EU's cooperation and development policy should be defined in close consultation with Latin America in order to achieve a sustainable, fair and well-balanced development policy towards the region;
5. Takes the view, given the need to balance the development policy between Latin America and the EU, that Latin America must make a special effort to promote its regional political, economic and trade integration;
6. Underscores the fact that social cohesion should remain a key principle of the development cooperation strategy towards Latin America, on account not only of its socio-economic implications, but also of its importance in terms of consolidating the democratic institutions in the region and the rule of law; stresses the importance of expanding EU's regional cooperation programmes in support of social cohesion, including through poverty reduction;
7. Underlines that education and investment in human capital constitute the basis for social cohesion, generation of employment and socio-economic development; stresses also the importance of developing new infrastructures in order to reduce absolute and relative poverty and differences among regions and social groups, and of supporting SMEs as an important pillar for sustainable economic development;
8. Stresses the need to enhance coordination between the European Union and Latin America in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the actions aiming at combating poverty, at job creation and at the social inclusion of marginalised groups; stresses that the MDG aiming at a global partnership for development (MDG 8) should be at the centre of the EU's cooperation policy with Latin America, with areas being selected in which to implement the new strategy of 'inclusive growth' in these countries; emphasises that the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Foundation can play a significant role in achieving these objectives;

9. Stresses the positive regional integration synergies deriving from comprehensive Association Agreements between the EU and the various sub-regional groups; calls for new visions for bi-regional cooperation with a view to the 7th EU-LAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Chile in January 2013;
10. Welcomes the significant progress in the relations between the EU and Peru and Colombia, and expects that the Trade Agreement concluded under the Spanish presidency in 2010 will be ratified by the European Parliament in the near future, given that this agreement will contribute to the development of these two countries;
11. Asks the EEAS and the Commission to consolidate their efforts to pave the way towards a future, fully-fledged Association Agreement with the Andean Community, in the interest of the economic growth and social development of its constituent member states, and in line with the values, principles and objectives of the EU, which have always promoted Latin American integration;
12. Stresses that the European Union must do everything possible to conclude the Association Agreement with Mercosur, underlining that it would significantly foster and increase cooperation and development between Latin America and the European Union;
13. Notes that experts and international organisations, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), estimate – on the basis of current trends – that by 2015, China's trade with Latin America will surpass that of Europe;
14. Underlines the importance of EU support for integration within Latin America; emphasises the absence of a comprehensive EU policy and a regional approach to Latin America in support of South-South cooperation (SSC), and the lack of clear EU policy guidelines in regard to SSC and interregional association aiming at the creation of autonomous spaces for coordination and political cooperation among Latin American countries, without European or North American involvement;
15. Stresses the need to widen the EU-LA political dialogue at different levels, such as the Summits of Heads of States and the EUROLAT Parliamentary Assembly, as important tools for the development of political consensus; calls for measures to ensure that the political commitments undertaken at EU-Latin America Summits are accompanied by the allocation of the necessary financial resources;
16. Urges the Vice-President / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to consult with and debrief the European Parliament on the existing human rights dialogues, and to cooperate, in the context of the bi-regional partnership, in the search for remedies to eliminate femicide and other forms of violence against women;
17. Calls on the Vice-President / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service to ensure the unity, consistency and effectiveness of the EU's external action vis-à-vis Latin America, as stated in the Treaty of Lisbon;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| Date adopted | 27.3.2012 |
| Result of final vote | +: 38 -: 3 0: 1 |
| Members present for the final vote | Franziska Katharina Brantner, Jerzy Buzek, Tarja Cronberg, Michael Gahler, Ana Gomes, Richard Howitt, Anna Ibrisagic, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Tunne Kelam, Eduard Kukan, Vytautas Landsbergis, Krzysztof Lisek, Barry Madlener, Mario Mauro, Willy Meyer, Francisco José Millán Mon, Alexander Mirsky, María Muñiz De Urquiza, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Alojz Peterle, Bernd Posselt, Cristian Dan Preda, Fiorello Provera, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, Werner Schulz, Marek Siwiec, Charles Tannock, Kristian Vigenin, Sir Graham Watson |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Elena Băsescu, Reimer Böge, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Nadezhda Neynsky, László Tőkés, Renate Weber |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote | Peter Jahr |