

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

18 September 2003

B5-0401/2003/rev.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by W.G. van Velzen, Concepció Ferrer, Arlindo Cunha, Ilkka Suominen, Paul Rübig, Konrad K. Schwaiger and John Alexander Corrie

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun

European Parliament resolution on the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 18 November 1999 on the communication of the Commission to the Council and the Parliament on the EU approach to the WTO Millennium Round,¹ 15 December 1999 on the 3rd WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle,² 13 March 2001 on the built-in-agenda negotiations³ and 3 July 2003 on the preparations for the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun,⁴
- whereas WTO members were unable to agree on a final declaration at the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun,
- A. whereas the EU demonstrated sufficient flexibility in the context of the negotiations and has demonstrated a clear determination to make this round a success by adjusting its offers and taking an initiative on cotton,
- B. whereas, in a mid-term perspective, the failure of the Conference will have a negative impact on the world economy, especially on developing countries, and might endanger the multilateral trading system,
- C. whereas partial and sometimes misleading or even false information given by some NGOs present at Cancun contributed to the failure of the Conference by poisoning the negotiating atmosphere and creating the impression of north-south antagonism,
- 1. Regrets that WTO members missed the opportunity to implement the Doha Development Agenda and establish a framework for its conclusion by 2004; stresses, however, that the Doha Development Round continues;
- 2. Underlines the fact that the EU offer remains on the table; urges WTO members to continue their efforts to conclude the round as quickly as possible; calls on the ambassadors of the EU and the Member States in Geneva to clarify the European Union's position more effectively to other members of the WTO; asks the Commission and Member States to instruct their ambassadors in Geneva to speed up the negotiating process;
- 3. Calls for the most urgent efforts to put the Doha Development Agenda back on track, notably through better preparation of ministerial meetings, the organisation of a mini-ministerial session in 2004 and a reform of the WTO procedures, particularly through establishing rules of procedure for negotiations at ministerial level;

¹ OJ C 189, 7.7.2000, p. 213.

² OJ C 296, 18.10.2000, p. 121.

³ OJ C

⁴ OJ C

4. Warns WTO members against the risks for developing countries, and especially less developed countries, inherent in unilateral trade policies; stresses, therefore, its commitment to the open and liberal multilateral trading system of the WTO; calls on the United States to rally to the EU and its efforts to save the multilateral approach in international trade politics;
5. Stresses the fact that trade negotiations require concessions from all sides, and underlines that trade barriers between developing countries constitute obstacles to sustainable development in the same way as trade barriers between developed and developing countries do;
6. Considers a reform of the WTO negotiation structure inevitable in order to preserve the efficiency of the organisation; asks the Commission to submit a proposal for further discussion;
7. Welcomes the fact that all three institutions acted with great unity in Cancun and expresses its satisfaction with the way the Commission handled the negotiations;
8. Considers that the CAP reform and mid-term review laid a solid foundation for a flexible EU negotiating position; nevertheless refuses a renegotiation of green book criteria, as this would undermine the European multifunctional agriculture model and would not contribute to sustainable environmental protection;
9. Stresses the importance of developing a WTO system geared towards better management of globalisation by the inclusion of rules on competition law, investment and transparency in public procurement; understands that many developing countries did not feel able to cope with these challenges at this stage, but stresses that the agreements envisaged would include opt-out options for developing countries;
10. Underlines the importance of trade facilitation for enhancing the exchange of goods and services among all countries, notably developing countries;
11. Welcomes the fact that agreement was at least reached on ratifying the amendment to the TRIPs agreement needed to allow access to medicines for developing countries without their own production capacities; stresses that access to medicines is only part of the solution to the difficulties faced by developing countries' health systems;
12. Criticises the role played by some NGOs before and during the WTO Ministerial Conference and asks these NGOs to readjust their strategy in order really to help developing countries towards better and more sustainable development;
13. Notes the final resolution adopted by the WTO Parliamentary Meeting in Cancun; welcomes the fact that parliamentarians from many WTO Members gathered to discuss the issues at stake and were able to reach consensus on difficult issues such as agriculture, access to medicines, and trade in services; affirms its intention to pursue this method of reinforcing parliamentary oversight over the WTO;
14. Asks the President of the European Parliament to set up a small reflection group inside the

European Parliament to consider WTO reforms necessary for maintaining the multilateral character of the world trading system;

15. Asks the President of the European Parliament to organise, at the beginning of 2004, a conference in the EP with parliamentarians from the USA, Canada, ACP, Latin America, Australia, Asia, and Japan to discuss further steps in both the WTO trade negotiations and reform of the WTO;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Parliaments of the Member States and Accession States, and the Director-General of the WTO.