EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004   *2009*

20.12.2005   0083/2005

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Yannick Vaugrenard, Harlem Désir, Kader Arif, Françoise Castex and Jean Louis Cottigny

on the need to force through social clauses in the WTO negotiations

Lapse date: 20.3.2006

0083/2005

Written declaration on the need to force through social clauses in the WTO negotiations

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Doha development programme,

– having regard to the declaration by WTO members at the Singapore Ministerial Conference,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Doha work programme puts development at the heart of the objectives of the trade negotiation round,

B. whereas observance of the fundamental social standards set by the ILO and the promotion of decent work are conditions for development,

C. whereas some WTO members do not observe fundamental social standards, in particular trade union freedoms and the right to social protection, and are making non-compliance with social rights an element of unfair competition and a distortion of international trade rules,

D. whereas the Community institutions must commit to developing a social dimension of globalisation,

1. Calls on the Commission to:

   (a) propose within the framework of future WTO negotiations that the opening up of trade should be accompanied by compliance with common minimum standards with respect to social and trade union rights, as defined in ILO Conventions;

   (b) propose that the European Union should reserve the right to invoke trade safeguard clauses vis-à-vis countries which fail to uphold the principles recognised by every State by virtue of ILO membership and to refer such matters systematically to the relevant WTO and ILO bodies, calling on them to condemn such violations;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.

EN