

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2005/2061(INI)

2.9.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the social dimension of globalisation
(2005/2061(INI))

Draftswoman: Marie-Hélène Aubert

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development 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. Takes the view that small and medium-sized undertakings cannot be sidelined from active participation in the globalised economy and accordingly urges the Commission to provide incentives for the networking of such undertakings; calls in addition for European company and cooperative statutes to be adjusted to enable undertakings of this type to participate fully in the globalised economy;
2. Calls for social rights and social dialogue, human rights and the primacy of law, the protection of the rights of the child, in particular the right to education, to be accorded greater importance in the EU's various external programmes, with a view to priority being given to democratisation and the establishment of the rule of law in developing countries, without which no sustainable development is possible (cf. the Johannesburg Summit in 2002);
3. Calls on the European Union to take practical action to combat poverty by adopting a more cogent policy on agriculture and trade in combination with debt forgiveness and aid;
4. Is concerned about the brain drain from developing countries, particularly in the field of healthcare professionals; calls on Member States to adopt ethical recruitment policies and the Commission to draw up an overview of current practices so that good practice mechanisms can be established;
5. Notes that agriculture remains the cornerstone of the economies of most southern hemisphere countries, that small and family farmers are being marginalised by agribusiness, that major food corporations are increasing their control of the whole market, that most people of those countries continue to live in rural areas, that these countries should therefore, where necessary, be able to secure exemption from the liberalisation of trade in agricultural products through the special and differentiated treatment accorded to developing countries and that they should be able to derive maximum benefit from the removal of European export subsidies;
6. Underlines the importance of fair trade in working towards poverty eradication in rural areas and urges the Commission to give concrete follow-up to pledges to give more technical and budgetary support for fair trade producers and their distributors in EU countries;
7. Considers that the social and environmental responsibilities of multinationals should be clearly established, particularly those of companies exploiting and trading in natural resources or exploiting oil and mineral resources, and that EU action in this area should be stepped up; believes that concrete follow-up to the work of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is long overdue and calls on the Commission to publish its communication early in the autumn;

8. Stresses that the current economic model is extremely closely geared to the oil resource and that this dependency can have an adverse impact not merely in terms of pricing, because of energy commodity shortages, but also, and above all, in terms of conflict and political instability in southern producer countries, the social impact of which is extremely serious.

PROCEDURE

Title	Social dimension of globalisation
Procedure number	2005/2061(INI)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	DEVE 12.5.2005
Enhanced cooperation	No
Draftswoman Date appointed	Marie-Hélène Aubert 24.5.2005
Discussed in committee	13.7.2005 30.8.2005
Date suggestions adopted	30.8.2005
Result of final vote	for: 32 against: 0 abstentions: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Margriet van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Nirj Deva, Alexandra Dobolyi, Fernando Fernández Martín, Michael Gahler, Filip Andrzej Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Maria Martens, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Toomas Savi, Pierre Schapira, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca, Paul Verges, Anna Záborská, Mauro Zani
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marie-Hélène Aubert, John Bowis, Manolis Mavrommatis, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Carl Schlyter, Åsa Westlund, Jürgen Zimmerling