

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Development*

**2008/2031(INI)**

25.6.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the evaluation of EU sanctions as part of the EU's actions and policies in the  
area of human rights  
(2008/2031(INI))

Draftswoman: Renate Weber

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that in cases of grave violations of human rights and democratic principles, where governments show no commitment to dialogue with the international community and all other measures have failed, sanctions are an important policy tool; considers that given their potential negative side effects, sanctions should only be applied after all other less coercive means of exerting influence have proven ineffective;
2. Underlines the fact that, in countries subject to EU restrictive measures, humanitarian aid must be delivered in strict conformity with the humanitarian principles affirmed by the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (i.e. those of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence);
3. Commits its parliamentary bodies, specifically its standing and ad-hoc delegations, to using their contacts with parliaments in non-sanctioning countries to enhance understanding of existing EU sanctions regimes relevant to the region concerned and to examine possibilities for coordinated action for the promotion of human rights;
4. Supports the recent European Union focus on targeted sanctions, including in particular visa bans, arms embargoes and the freezing of funds, which help to minimise negative humanitarian and development impacts; emphasises that for targeted sanctions against individuals to be effective, the Council and the Commission should always consider also applying them to those individuals' immediate family members; in all cases the right of access to justice must be observed;
5. Believes that economic and political incentives, including the suspension of existing sanctions, are an important instrument for promoting change, as they present a lever for local civil society to put pressure on their own governments; stresses that incentives, just like sanctions, must be applied in a transparent manner, linked to clear benchmarks and be well communicated within and outside the country concerned;
6. Considers that sanctions are more effective if there is a mobilised democratic opposition/civil society supporting the process of change within the sanctioned country;
7. Calls for an active role for Parliament in the drafting, implementation and monitoring of sanctions and incentives policies;
8. Underscores the importance of human rights and democracy clauses in EU agreements, and considers that these clauses should be used more coherently and consistently; supports the procedural model established under the Cotonou Agreement (CA) for reacting to grave violations of human rights, for democratic principles, and for the rule of law; believes that the system of intensive political dialogue (Article 8 of the CA) and consultations (Article 96 of the CA), before and after the adoption of appropriate measures, has in several cases provided a successful instrument for improving the situation on the ground;

9. Deplores the fact that sanctions have not been used consistently by the EU and its Members States; believes that in order to uphold credibility and avoid the accusation of "double standards", the EU must be able to justify the adoption or non-adoption of sanctions, based primarily on human rights grounds and arguments of effectiveness;
10. Calls on the Council and the Commission to define, in close consultation with Parliament, a coherent policy strategy on sanctions; believes that this strategy must also establish principles and procedures which ensure that the positions of civil society and democratic opposition within the countries concerned are taken into account; emphasises that, on the basis of this strategy, each individual case must be analysed with regard to the context and likely effectiveness before action is taken; considers that the strategy should also provide for emergency procedures to be applied in exceptional circumstances, when an immediate reaction that could have a predictable positive outcome is required from the EU; notes that sanctions are more effective if they are in response to concrete, sudden incidents and aimed at concrete and identifiable measures being taken by the target country;
11. Emphasises that sufficient time and resources, including staff specialised in human rights, must be invested by the Council and the Commission for the analyses preceding the design of sanctions and for the evaluation of sanctions and their effectiveness;
12. Recommends the establishment of sanctions committees and expert panels to monitor the implementation of EU sanctions, which would enhance the transparency and coherence of the EU's policy; in addition, calls on the Council and the Commission to take the initiative to strengthen the UN sanctions regime along these lines;
13. Calls on the Commission to ensure that development assistance strategies under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Development Fund (EDF) are consistent with existing sanction regimes and human rights dialogues; calls on the Commission to ensure that the conditions for general budget support, including under the so-called "Millennium Development Goals (MDG) contracts", are explicitly linked to human rights and democracy criteria;
14. Emphasises that any economic sanctions should first and foremost target those sectors which are not employment-intensive and are of limited relevance for small and medium-sized enterprises, which are important both for economic development and for redistribution of income.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.6.2008
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 23 -: 0 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Thijs Berman, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Corina Crețu, Nirj Deva, Fernando Fernández Martín, Alain Hutchinson, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Gay Mitchell, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Horst Posdorf, José Ribeiro e Castro, Frithjof Schmidt, Felekna Uca, Johan Van Hecke, Jan Zahradil, Mauro Zani
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Mihaela Popa, Renate Weber