



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2009/2213(INI)

17.3.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the EU strategy for relations with Latin America
(2009/2213(INI))

Rapporteur: Catherine Grèze

PA_NonLeg

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. Calls on the European Union and the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries to improve their partnership and cooperation mechanisms, by placing greater emphasis on the protection of political, environmental and social human rights, including the cultural rights of indigenous minorities; calls for a reinforced dialogue in the area of the reform of international financial institutions in order to secure fairer representation for the countries involved; considers these measures to be an essential precondition for addressing and mitigating the effects of the economic and financial crisis;
2. Recommends a strategic approach based on institutional capacity-building in the emerging countries and focusing on the containment of social polarisation through the development of self-sustaining capacities and sound regional development;
3. Takes the view that the EU-LAC partnership's objective of social cohesion will be achievable only insofar as it generates a high level of development and fairness of income and wealth distribution, and that this objective requires concrete measures to be taken to eradicate poverty in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals and to strengthen the judicial system in the LAC countries;
4. Urges the European Union and the LAC countries to strengthen their partnership in order to be able to face up to ecological challenges, and calls on the EU to support the development of projects, such as the Yasuni-ITT Initiative, provided that they do not infringe the rights of local inhabitants;
5. Calls for an end to large-scale mining practices that do not comply with the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review's recommendations and large dams projects that do not comply with the World Commission on Dams' recommendations;
6. Calls for the fight against climate change, which hits the world's poorest people the hardest, to become a key focus of the EU-LAC strategy; suggests developing essential measures based on the conservation of forests and natural resources and sustainable agriculture and using agroforestry measures and natural afforestation to maximise climate mitigation and resilience;
7. Calls on the European Union and the LAC countries to work towards a common negotiating position on the climate change talks leading up to the Mexico summit and to stay watchful and open to the proposals of the World People's Climate Summit to be held in Cochabamba in April 2010;
8. Stresses the importance of food security for the LAC countries and of adequate food storage capacities to face forthcoming food supply challenges;
9. Emphasises the need to give priority to establishing and extending short transport circuits (for passengers, goods and energy) as part of the development of renewable energies and inter-connectivity in the context of the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF); stresses that the LAIF should not be included within the DCI programme, but should be

given a new budget line;

10. Reiterates the support given by the EU to regional integration processes and the 'bloc-to-bloc' negotiating approach pursued by the EU through association agreements, as in the case of Central America; recognises, however, that countries that wish to step up their relations with the EU should not be disadvantaged by internal problems in regional integration processes, as is the case with the Andean Community, nor by sovereign decisions by their component parts, however legitimate these may be;
11. Calls on the EU to oblige EU-based transnational corporations to apply ecological and social standards established by international agreements, such as the International Labour Organisation's Decent Work Agenda, in the LAC countries as minimum standards and not to circumvent those standards;
12. Considers the Millennium Development Goals to be one of the most important objectives to be achieved by 2015, by focusing investment on the poorest countries and most vulnerable peoples, and calls for both regions to find common ground ahead of the MDG high-level meeting to be held in September 2010;
13. Calls for better cooperation among states and greater transparency in the area of taxation via the introduction of a system of automatic data exchange and country-by-country reports;
14. Calls for all the countries concerned to sign the ILO conventions, including Convention 169, which deals with the rights of indigenous peoples, recognition of the right of such peoples to collective ownership and the introduction of joint programmes to combat discrimination against women and indigenous populations¹;
15. Calls for a legal guarantee regarding the protection of public services, including universal access to water, free access to education and health and the widest possible access to micro-credit;
16. Calls for the peoples concerned to be fully included and involved in the whole process of designing and screening programmes to combat poverty and climate change, by means of a detailed mechanism drawn up jointly by the parties concerned;
17. Welcomes the recent ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on the Campo Algodonero feminicides in Mexico as a precedent for the whole region; calls on the governments of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean to use the ruling as a guideline for their future work and to ensure that their strong condemnation of violence against women is accompanied by properly funded protection, prevention and restorative justice programmes; calls also for a strong commitment to combating gender violence in general, and for appropriate investment in reproductive health and in programmes designed to promote gender equality, sex education and access to methods of family planning, in accordance with the ICPD Programme of Action (1994).

¹ Indigenous people earn 17% less than non-indigenous people, according to a recent paper by the Inter-American Development Bank entitled 'New Century, Old Disparities: Gender and Ethnic Wage Gaps in Latin America', IDB Working Paper Series No 109, 2009.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	16.3.2010
Result of final vote	+: 16 -: 0 0: 12
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Corina Crețu, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Greze, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Franziska Keller, Gay Mitchell, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, David-Maria Sassoli, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theoharous, Ivo Vajgl, Iva Zanicchi, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Proinsias De Rossa, Santiago Fisas Ayxela, Krzysztof Lisek, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Cristian Dan Preda
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Jens Geier