



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2010/2103(INI)

8.10.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on International Trade Policy in the context of Climate Change imperatives
(2010/2103(INI))

Rapporteur: Catherine Grèze

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Underlines that the rise of CO₂ emissions related to transport and international trade undermines the effectiveness of the EU climate change strategy; takes the view that this makes a strong case for shifting from an export-led development strategy towards endogenous development based on diversified and local consumption and production in developing countries; recalls that such a strategy would have positive effects on employment both in the EU and in developing countries;
2. Regrets that a significant part of international trade consists of homogeneous products which could just as easily be produced locally and that the transport required does not bear its own environmental costs;
3. Notes with concern that economic globalisation has often led to an agricultural model based on export crop monocultures which favours unsustainable farming practices in many developing countries; believes that the trade regimes should reflect adequately the needs of smallholder farmers and rural communities, especially in the developing world, while providing incentives for organic agriculture, which is less carbon-intensive and therefore contributes to climate change mitigation; calls for the setting-up of quality trade standards at national and international level and for governments to be enabled to link market access to these standards, e.g. by granting preferential market access to products that adhere to certain sustainability standards;
4. Stresses that developed countries must take the lead in reducing CO₂ emissions; believes that the setting-up of standards, labelling and certification are instruments with a huge potential for reducing energy use and thereby addressing climate change; calls on the Member States to strengthen their regulation over the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) by establishing a minimum price for carbon; deems that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has failed to address the needs of most vulnerable countries;
5. Deplores the fact that none of the WTO agreements currently make direct reference to climate change, food security and the Millennium Development Goals; deplores the development of bio-piracy on climate-resilient seeds; considers that changes in WTO rules are needed to ensure coherence and consistency with the commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and multilateral environment agreements (MEAs); calls urgently for a reform of the WTO to enable products to be distinguished according to their production and processing methods (PPMs), and for the introduction of new flexibilities through the use of 'compulsory licensing' under the TRIPs agreement;
6. Stresses that increasing technology transfer to developing countries as a means to address carbon leakage will be a critical component of a post-2012 climate regime; deplores the fact that technology transfer makes up only a small share of official development aid; urges Member States to deliver additional technical and financial assistance for developing countries to face the consequences of climate change, to meet climate-related standards and to include upfront development impact assessments of standards, labelling and certification;

7. Calls on the EU to take the lead in the identification of the salient barriers to the dissemination of technologies in developing countries to address climate change;
8. Urges the EU to use the comprehensive environmental provisions in bilateral and regional trade agreements as a development tool, emphasising the need for proper implementation of environmental clauses and cooperation mechanisms to promote technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity building;
9. Stresses that efforts must be made to ensure that adverse environmental effects resulting from trade are reflected in prices and that the 'polluter pays' principle is enforced; urges that the labelling and information systems regarding environmental standards be synchronised;
10. Considers it important that international commitments relating to reducing GHG emissions also apply to international air transport and shipping;
11. Calls on the Commission systematically to include environmental clauses in trade agreements concluded with non-EU countries, with particular regard to reducing CO₂ emissions and the transfer of low-emission technology;
12. Is of the opinion that new international climate protection agreements must contain firm guarantees on reducing the adverse environmental impact of the international timber trade and eradicating deforestation, the extent of which is cause for concern;
13. Considers it crucial that there be strict standards of sustainability for the international trade in biofuels, bearing in mind their contradictory environmental and social impact.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	5.10.2010
Result of final vote	+: 28 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Corina Crețu, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, Enrique Guerrero Salom, András Gyürk, Eva Joly, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, David-Maria Sassoli, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theocharous, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Kriton Arsenis, Santiago Fisas Aixela, Isabella Lövin, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Bart Staes, Patrizia Toia
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein