



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Development*

---

**2011/0260(COD)**

5.6.2012

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 as regards the exclusion of a number of countries from the list of regions or states which have concluded negotiations  
(COM(2011)0598 – C7-0305/2011 – 2011/0260(COD))

Rapporteur: Gabriele Zimmer

,

PA\_Legrej

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Development regrets the fact that in spite of the recent progress achieved in the negotiations, which the regions concerned are pursuing in good faith, the EU has decided unilaterally to impose a deadline. The main concern of the Committee on Development is that the proposed amendment to the regulation risks putting pressure on the governments of the ACP countries concerned to sign and ratify their respective EPAs within the specified timeframe, regardless of whether or not the contentious provisions have been resolved.

The Committee on Development insists that the conclusion of the negotiations should be driven by content, which must take into account the interests and address the concerns of both parties, and not by timeframes. Therefore the EU should show the necessary flexibility in the negotiation process, respecting the different levels of development of each ACP country. As the main aim is to comply with WTO rules, the EU should not force the ACP countries into commitments that go beyond those required under the WTO agreements.

The Committee on Development would like to highlight that if the Commission's proposal goes ahead, a number of ACP countries might lose their duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market, which could damage established exporters. In addition to this, putting pressure on countries to sign a trade agreement which includes certain unacceptable provisions not only limits the space for domestic economic policy-making, but could also damage their emerging economic sectors. This also runs counter to the objective of policy coherence for development enshrined in Article 208 of the TFEU and would be to the detriment of EU relations in the countries concerned.

The decision could also have an additional impact, shifting investments from ACP countries that do not have full EU market access, to those that have, which runs counter to the current efforts toward regional integration. Therefore, the EU should maintain EC Regulation 1528.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to propose rejection of the Commission proposal.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Amendment to Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 as regards the exclusion of a number of countries from the list of regions or states which have concluded negotiations
<b>References</b>	COM(2011)0598 – C7-0305/2011 – 2011/0260(COD)
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 12.10.2011
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	DEVE 12.10.2011
<b>Rapporteur</b> Date appointed	Gabriele Zimmer 11.10.2011
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	23.4.2012
<b>Date adopted</b>	4.6.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 13 -: 8 0: 4
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Thijs Berman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Corina Crețu, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Ivo Vajgl, Iva Zanicchi
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Emer Costello, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Fiona Hall, Edvard Kožušník, Judith Sargentini, Horst Schnellhardt, Patrizia Toia
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Marisa Matias