



Committee on Development

2017/2070(INI)

26.2.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the Annual report on the implementation of the Common Commercial
Policy
(2017/2070(INI))

Rapporteur: Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Emphasises that trade is not an end in itself, but that an inclusive and fair trade policy aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the promotion of human rights is an important element which could contribute to poverty-eradication; recalls the principle of policy coherence for development, requiring that the objectives of development cooperation be taken into account in policies that are likely to affect developing countries; calls for efforts to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and emphasises the need for an inclusive and fair trade policy that strictly respects and abides by the UNFCCC Paris Agreement commitments in order to contribute fairly and coherently to poverty-eradication and social and climate justice;
2. Reiterates the importance of the multilateral system as the most effective way to achieve an inclusive global trading system; welcomes the extension of the WTO waiver for pharmaceutical products for LDCs until 2033; calls on the Commission, in this regard, to ensure that trade provisions do not hinder access to medicine, and TRIPS+ provisions such as data exclusivity are not included in trade agreements with developing countries;
3. Calls on the Commission to further assess the impact of preferential trade agreements on developing countries, including the effects of preference erosion and the diversion of trade and investment from developing countries to developed countries with EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs);
4. Emphasises the importance of comprehensive provisions on social, labour and environmental standards in trade agreements; notes the ongoing debate on possibly including a binding and enforceable chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development in all trade agreements; insists on the inclusion of strong provisions to tackle tax evasion and avoidance in EU FTAs and preferential trade regimes;
5. Welcomes the conclusion of the Regulation on Conflict Minerals¹ and calls for its speedy implementation, including implementation of the accompanying measures; encourages the Commission to introduce greater transparency and accountability in global supply chains, notably in the garment sector;
6. Calls on the Commission and all international actors to adhere to the new OECD due diligence guidelines for responsible supply chains in the garment and footwear sector;
7. Recalls that greater access to customs data on imports entering the EU would increase global value chain transparency and accountability; calls on the Commission to extend customs data requirements and include the exporter and the manufacturer as mandatory customs data elements, thereby enhancing the transparency and traceability of global value chains; calls also on the Commission to seek ways to enable parties with a public

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas, OJ L 130, 19.5.2017, p. 1.

interest stake to access the customs data collected from parties trading in products or goods imported into the EU;

8. Regrets that non-financial reporting mechanisms for European companies operating in developing countries remain voluntary; notes that, in order to achieve the goal of policy coherence for development (PCD) and demonstrate a commitment to a responsible attitude towards society, investment must adhere to strict corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements with full tax transparency using a clear international legal framework; emphasises that investments must be used to support local economies and the creation of decent work in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the ILO core labour standards; reiterates its call on the EU and its Member States to participate constructively in the intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights with the aim of establishing a mandatory and enforceable international treaty;
9. Emphasises the need to reform the international investment regime to balance the rights and obligations of investors, i.e. by allowing claims by affected individuals and awarding remedies against foreign investors if they breach the binding obligations;
10. Recalls that EU trade and development policy must globally contribute to sustainable development, regional integration and the incorporation of developing countries into regional and ultimately global value chains through economic diversification, which necessitates fair and pro-development global trade rules; calls on the Commission to continue to support the development of a fair Continental Free Trade Area in Africa through political and technical assistance;
11. Notes the progress on the conclusion and implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs); deems that an in-depth analysis is needed of their impact on African economies and their sub-sectors, their respective labour markets and the promotion of intra-regional trade in Africa; calls on the Commission to advance dialogue in a spirit of genuine partnership in order to address outstanding issues; recalls that EPAs are asymmetrical agreements which should accord equal importance to development and trade aspects; calls in this regard for the timely implementation of accompanying measures, including the disbursement of EDF resources;
12. Welcomes, furthermore, the implementation of the Cariforum EPA; notes that further awareness-raising is needed to ensure that CARICOM countries are able to take advantage of opportunities under the Agreement; welcomes the establishment of the Joint Consultative Committee, but urges the Commission to ensure that future civil society institutions are convened in a timely fashion;
13. Takes note of Decision No 12/CVI/17 of the ACP Council of Ministers of 5 and 6 December 2017¹ and encourages the Commission to explore the possibility of setting up a programme to help developing countries adapt to changes in European legislation and their consequences for their economies, in order to enable them to adopt the necessary measures to maintain access to the European market for their exports;

¹ Decision No 12/CVI/17 of the 106th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Brussels on 5 and 6 December 2017.

14. Stresses the importance of robust monitoring mechanisms in trade agreements with developing countries; recalls that monitoring and enforcement of sustainable development provisions require sustained and comprehensive engagement with civil society organisations, including local partners; calls on the EU to ensure that human rights conditions linked to unilateral trade preferences such as GSP or GSP+ are effectively implemented and monitored; welcomes, in this regard, the fact that EU monitoring missions are being sent to all GSP+ countries and urges the Commission to carry out a critical assessment of progress reports in order to evaluate the ability of trade preferences to deliver development outcomes;
15. Welcomes the development of gender equality provisions in the ongoing negotiations with Latin American countries; emphasises the need for further mainstreaming of gender equality in EU trade policy;
16. Stresses the importance of adapting trade policies to support national efforts to combat climate change in order to comply with the Paris Agreement, which should be considered as an ‘essential clause’ in all future EU trade agreements.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	20.2.2018
Result of final vote	+ : 16 - : 4 0 : 1
Members present for the final vote	Ignazio Corrao, Mireille D'Ornano, Nirj Deva, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Maria Heubuch, György Hölvényi, Arne Lietz, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Eleftherios Synadinos, Eleni Theocharous, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Željana Zovko
Substitutes present for the final vote	Thierry Cornillet, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Paul Rübig, Rainer Wieland

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

16	+
ALDE	Thierry Cornillet, Paavo Väyrynen
ECR	Eleni Theoharous
EFDD	Ignazio Corrao
PPE	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, György Hölvényi, Cristian Dan Preda, Paul Rübig, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Rainer Wieland, Željana Zovko
S&D	Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Arne Lietz, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon

4	-
ECR	Nirj Deva
EFDD	Mireille D'Ornano
GUE/NGL	Lola Sánchez Caldentey
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos

1	0
VERTS/ALE	Maria Heubuch

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention