DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the implementation of the common commercial policy – annual report 2018 (2019/2197(INI))

Rapporteur: Benoît Biteau
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 a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); recalls the EU’s commitment regarding the principle of policy coherence for development and the ‘do-no-harm’ principle;

2. Stresses the importance of comprehensive, binding and enforceable provisions on social, labour and environmental standards, especially in the trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters of free trade agreements (FTAs); stresses the importance of effective monitoring and sanctions mechanisms that allow individuals and communities, whether outside or within the EU, to seek redress; calls for the systematic use of comprehensive ex ante and ex post impact assessments on trade sustainability, including with regard to human rights;

3. Highlights that trade agreements can have a negative impact on food security in developing countries; calls for the EU to support developing countries’ demands to protect their food production and to safeguard their population from the potentially destructive effects of cheap imports, notably through the revision of their common external tariffs within the remit of revised economic partnership agreements (EPAs);

4. Recalls that one of the main challenges for developing countries is to climb up the global value chain through economic diversification; calls for the EU to refrain from adopting a trade policy that as a general rule prohibits developing countries from levying export taxes on raw materials, insofar as it is WTO-compatible;

5. Stresses that the implementation of the Paris Agreement should be supported by EU trade policy; calls for the inclusion of specific provisions and targets to achieve these commitments in FTAs, notably on the implementation of the national determined contributions, on loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and on technology transfer.