



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2012/0195(CNS)

30.1.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on the proposal for a Council decision on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union ('Overseas Association Decision')
(COM(2012)0362 – C7-0285/2012 – 2012/0195(CNS))

Rapporteur: Philippe Boulland

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This new Overseas Association Decision is of major significance for the OCTs, since it should enable them to put their economies and societies on a sustainable development path by increasing their competitiveness and meeting their needs while respecting their specific characteristics and diversity. In this context, particular emphasis must be placed on vocational training and job-creating measures.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The contribution of civil society to OCT development can be enhanced by strengthening civil society organisations in all spheres of cooperation.

Amendment

(6) The contribution of civil society to OCT development can be enhanced by strengthening civil society organisations ***and giving them greater responsibility*** in all spheres of cooperation.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Given the OCTs geographical position, cooperation between them and their neighbours, despite the different status vis-à-vis Union law of each actor in a given geographical area, shall be pursued in the interests of all sides, and with a particular focus on areas of common interest and the promotion the Union's values and standards.

Amendment

(7) Given the OCTs geographical position, cooperation between them and their neighbours, despite the different status vis-à-vis Union law of each actor in a given geographical area, shall be pursued in the interests of all sides, and with a particular focus on areas of common interest and the promotion the Union's values and standards, ***particularly those of a humanitarian and social nature.***

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) It is important to support the OCTs in their efforts in becoming less dependent on fossil fuels, with a view to reducing their vulnerability to fuels access and price volatility, thus making their economy more resilient and less vulnerable to external shocks.

Amendment

(12) It is important to support the OCTs in their efforts in becoming less dependent on fossil fuels, with a view to reducing their vulnerability to fuels access and price volatility, thus making their economy more resilient and less vulnerable to external shocks, ***particularly in terms of jobs***.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) The effects of the OCTs' remoteness constitute a ***barrier*** to their ***competitiveness*** and thus it is important to improve the accessibility of the OCTs.

Amendment

(14) The effects of the OCTs' remoteness constitute a ***challenge*** to their ***economic development*** and thus it is important to improve the accessibility of the OCTs.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) The Union and the OCTs recognise the importance of education as a lever for the OCTs' sustainable development.

Amendment

(15) The Union and the OCTs recognise the importance of education ***and vocational training*** as a lever for the OCTs' sustainable development.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) A crucial aim of cooperation should be improving working conditions, labour and trade union rights. An important role has to be played in the process by trade unions and other workers' representatives.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17) The incidence of communicable diseases in the OCTs, such as dengue in the Caribbean and the Pacific and Chikungunya in the Indian Ocean region, can have significant negative health and economic impacts. Beyond decreasing the productivity of affected populations, epidemics in OCTs are likely to heavily impact tourism, which is a mainstay of many OCTs' economies. With large numbers of tourists and migrant workers travelling to OCTs, they are vulnerable to importation of infectious diseases. Inversely, the large flow of people travelling back from OCTs could be a vector of introduction of communicable diseases in Europe. Ensuring a "safe tourism" is therefore a critical factor for the sustainability of the OCT economies that heavily rely on tourism.

(17) The incidence of communicable diseases in the OCTs, such as dengue in the Caribbean and the Pacific and Chikungunya in the Indian Ocean region, can have significant negative health and economic impacts. Beyond decreasing the productivity of affected populations, epidemics in OCTs are likely to heavily impact tourism, which is a mainstay of many OCTs' economies. With large numbers of tourists and migrant workers travelling to OCTs, they are vulnerable to importation of infectious diseases. ***Easy and regular access to occupational medicine could reduce the scale of epidemics.*** Inversely, the large flow of people travelling back from OCTs could be a vector of introduction of communicable diseases in Europe. Ensuring a "safe tourism" is therefore a critical factor for the sustainability of the OCT economies that heavily rely on tourism.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) The Union recognises the importance to develop a more active partnership with the OCTs as regards to good governance and the fight against organised crime, trafficking in human beings, terrorism and corruption.

Amendment

(19) The Union recognises the importance to develop a more active partnership with the OCTs as regards to good ***economic, social and fiscal*** governance and the fight against organised crime, trafficking in human beings, terrorism and corruption.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) Trade and trade-related cooperation between the Union and the OCTs should contribute to the objective of sustainable development in economic development, social development and environmental protection dimensions.

Amendment

(20) Trade and trade-related cooperation between the Union and the OCTs should contribute ***as a matter of course*** to the objective of sustainable development in economic development, social development and environmental protection dimensions.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) Global changes, reflected in the continuing process of trade liberalisation, broadly implicate the Union, the principal trading partner of the OCTs, their ACP neighbours and other economic partners.

Amendment

(21) Global changes, reflected in the continuing process of trade liberalisation, broadly implicate the Union, the principal trading partner of the OCTs, their ACP neighbours and other economic partners. ***This implies a shared responsibility for including, as a matter of course, minimum social clauses in any negotiated partnership or trade agreement.***

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision Recital 21 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(21a) Austerity policies have had detrimental effects on employment and the livelihoods of millions of workers and the poor around the world, therefore there is the need for cooperation between OCTs and the Union to break from these policies and advance ambitious programmes of public investment as the only way of guaranteeing decent living and working conditions for the majority of the population in both OCTs and the Union.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(26) Taking into account the aims of integration and the developments of global trade in the area of services and establishment, it is necessary to support the development of services markets and investment possibilities by improving the market access of OCT services and investment to the Union market. In this regard the Union should offer to OCTs the best possible treatment offered to any other trading partner through comprehensive most favoured nation clauses, while ensuring more flexible possibilities for trade relations for OCTs by limiting the treatment offered by OCTs to the Union to what has been offered to other major trading economies.

(26) Taking into account the aims of integration and the developments of global trade in the area of services and establishment, it is necessary to support the development of services markets and investment possibilities by improving the market access of OCT services and investment to the Union market ***and facilitating their access to public procurement contracts.*** In this regard the Union should offer to OCTs the best possible treatment offered to any other trading partner through comprehensive most favoured nation clauses, while ensuring more flexible possibilities for trade relations for OCTs by limiting the treatment offered by OCTs to the Union to what has been offered to other major trading economies.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and technical barriers to trade may have an impact on trade and require cooperation. Trade and trade-related cooperation also should address competition policies and intellectual property rights, which affect the equitable distribution of the gains of trade.

Amendment

(28) Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and technical barriers to trade may have an impact on trade ***and on the employment situation*** and require cooperation. Trade and trade-related cooperation also should address ***employment policies, particularly those concerning young people,*** competition policies and intellectual property rights, which affect the equitable distribution of the gains of trade.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) To ensure that OCTs may participate under the best conditions in the Union's internal market as well as regional, sub-regional and international markets, it is important to develop the capacity of OCTs in relevant areas. These include the development of human resources and their skills, the development of small and medium enterprises, the diversification of economic sectors and the implementation of an appropriate legal framework in order to achieve a business climate conducive to investment.

Amendment

(29) To ensure that OCTs may participate under the best conditions in the Union's internal market as well as regional, sub-regional and international markets, it is important to develop the capacity of OCTs in relevant areas. These include the development of human resources and their skills ***by: offering appropriate vocational and continuing training; facilitating*** the development of small and medium enterprises; ***facilitating access to micro-funding instruments and loans;*** the diversification of economic sectors; and the implementation of an appropriate legal framework in order to achieve a business climate conducive to investment. ***To that end, combining EDF funds with programmes and instruments under the EU's general budget for which OCTs are eligible would make it possible to leverage and rationalise proposed investments.***

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision Recital 30 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(30a) OCTs can play a crucial role in the fight against tax havens. In this regard, the need to move towards genuine transparency of the financial sector should be underlined.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) the promotion of green growth;

(b) the promotion of green growth ***and green jobs in all green-growth industries;***

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) job creation, education, vocational training and health;

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point f a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fa) the establishment of social dialogue;

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point g a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ga) facilitating access to new information and communications technology;

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point g b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(gb) the engagement of young people in the labour market to minimise youth unemployment.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. With an aim to strengthen the relations between themselves, the Union and the OCTs endeavour to make the association known among their citizens, in particular by promoting the development of the links and cooperation between the authorities, academic community, civil society and businesses of OCTs on the one hand and their interlocutors within the Union on the other.

1. With an aim to strengthen the relations between themselves, the Union and the OCTs endeavour to make the association known among their citizens, in particular by promoting the development of the links and cooperation between the authorities, academic community, civil society, ***the social partners*** and businesses of OCTs on the one hand and their interlocutors within the Union on the other.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a decision

Article 7 – paragraph 4 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) job-creation and vocational training;

Amendment 23

Proposal for a decision

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point (a)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) an OCT-EU forum for dialogue (the OCT-EU Forum), shall meet annually to bring together OCT authorities, representatives of the Member States and the Commission. Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the EIB, and representatives of the outermost regions shall be associated with the OCT-EU Forum, **where appropriate**;

(a) an OCT-EU forum for dialogue (the OCT-EU Forum), shall meet annually to bring together OCT authorities, representatives of the Member States and the Commission. Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the EIB, and representatives of the outermost regions shall be associated with the OCT-EU Forum;

Amendment 24

Proposal for a decision

Article 29

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) services aims at spurring, in the OCTs, innovation, economic growth and improvements in daily life for both citizens and businesses, including the promotion of accessibility for persons with disabilities. Cooperation shall, in particular, be directed at enhancing OCTs' regulatory capacity and may support the expansion of ICT networks and services through the following measures:

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) services aims at spurring, in the OCTs, innovation, economic growth, **cooperation, freedom of expression, creation of new jobs** and improvements in daily life for both citizens and businesses, including the promotion of accessibility for persons with disabilities. Cooperation shall, in particular, be directed at enhancing OCTs' regulatory capacity and may support the expansion of ICT networks and services through the

- (a) creation of a predictable regulatory environment that keeps pace with technological developments, stimulates growth and innovation and fosters competition and consumer protection;
- (b) dialogue on the various policy aspects regarding the promotion and monitoring of the information society;
- (c) exchange of information on standards and interoperability issues;
- (d) promotion of cooperation in the field of ICT research and in the field of ICT-based research infrastructures;
- (e) development of services and applications in domains of high societal impact.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a decision Article 30 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of research and innovation may cover science, technology, including information and communication technologies, with the aim to contribute to the OCTs' sustainable development and to promote excellence and industrial competitiveness within OCTs. In particular, cooperation may concern:

following measures:

- (a) creation of a predictable regulatory environment that keeps pace with technological developments, stimulates growth and innovation and fosters competition and consumer protection;
- (b) dialogue on the various policy aspects regarding the promotion and monitoring of the information society;
- (c) exchange of information on standards and interoperability issues;
- (d) promotion of cooperation in the field of ICT research and in the field of ICT-based research infrastructures;
- (e) development of services and applications in domains of high societal impact *such as education and vocational training*.

Amendment

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of research and innovation may cover science, **education**, technology, including information and communication technologies, with the aim to contribute to the OCTs' sustainable development and to promote excellence and industrial competitiveness within OCTs. In particular, cooperation may concern:

Amendment 26

Proposal for a decision

Article 30 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) promotion of access to new technology for all;

Amendment 27

Proposal for a decision

Article 30 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) policy and institutional building within OCTs and concerted actions at local, national or regional level, with a view to developing science, technology and innovation activities and their application;

(b) policy and institutional building within OCTs and concerted actions at local, national or regional level, with a view to developing science, ***education***, technology and innovation activities and their application;

Amendment 28

Proposal for a decision

Article 30 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) participation of individual OCT researchers, research bodies and legal entities from OCTs in the framework for cooperation related to research and innovation programmes within the Union;

(d) participation of individual OCT researchers, research bodies, ***SMEs*** and legal entities from OCTs in the framework for cooperation related to research and innovation programmes ***and the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises*** within the Union;

Amendment 29

Proposal for a decision Article 30 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) training and international mobility of OCT researchers and ***exchange***.

Amendment

(e) training and international mobility of OCT researchers ***and students*** and ***exchanges of researchers and students***.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a decision Article 31 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Union shall ensure that natural persons from OCTs, as defined in Article 49, can participate in initiatives of the Union concerning youth on the same basis as nationals of Member States.

Amendment

1. The Union shall ensure that natural persons from OCTs, as defined in Article 49, can participate in ***the*** initiatives ***and programmes*** of the Union concerning youth on the same basis as nationals of Member States.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a decision Article 31 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The association aims at strengthening the ties between young people living in the OCTs and the Union, among others by promoting ***learning*** mobility of OCT youth and by fostering mutual understanding between young people.

Amendment

2. The association aims at strengthening the ties between young people living in the OCTs and the Union, among others by promoting ***educational and initial, vocational or continuing training, learning exchanges and*** mobility of OCT youth and by fostering ***intercultural learning and*** mutual understanding between young people, ***and by creating favourable conditions for them to develop their skills and to work and participate actively in society which is essential for sustainable economic and social development***.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a decision
Article 31 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Union and OCTs shall cooperate in order to have young people actively engaged on the labour market in order to avoid youth unemployment.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a decision
Article 32 – paragraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) the provision of work-experience opportunities for students which can help young people to make decisions about their future career and to develop useful skills for the labour market;

Justification

The work-experience gives students an insight into working life and enables them to learn by doing.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a decision
Article 32 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) the support to the OCTs in defining and implementing education policies.

(b) the support to the OCTs in defining and implementing education ***and formal and informal vocational training*** policies;

Amendment 35

Proposal for a decision
Article 32 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) the provision of adequate training and educational opportunities which can facilitate promotion of skills for green jobs, with a specific emphasis on promoting gender equality.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a decision Article 32 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Union shall ensure that natural persons from the OCTs, as defined in Article 49, can participate in education initiatives of the Union on the same basis as nationals of Member States.

Amendment

2. The Union shall ensure that natural persons from the OCTs, as defined in Article 49, can participate in education ***and vocational training*** initiatives of the Union on the same basis as nationals of Member States.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a decision Article 32 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Union shall ensure that educational bodies and institutes from OCTs can take part in education related cooperation initiatives of the Union on the same basis as the educational bodies and institutes of the Member States.

Amendment

3. The Union shall ensure that educational ***and vocational training*** bodies and institutes from OCTs can take part in education related cooperation initiatives of the Union on the same basis as the educational ***and vocational training*** bodies and institutes of the Member States.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a decision Article 33 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Union and the OCTs shall maintain

Amendment

1. The Union and the OCTs shall maintain

dialogue in the area of employment and social policy in order to contribute to the economic and social development of the OCTs and the promotion of decent work in the OCTs and regions where they are located. Such a dialogue shall also aim at supporting the efforts of the OCTs' authorities to develop policies and legislation in this area.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

dialogue in the area of employment and social policy in order to contribute to the economic and social development of the OCTs and the promotion of decent work ***and social inclusion in a green economy*** in the OCTs and regions where they are located. Such a dialogue shall also aim at supporting the efforts of the OCTs' authorities to develop policies and legislation in this area.

Amendment

1a. The Union and the OCTs shall cooperate in order to promote decent jobs in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity thus facilitating poverty reduction and achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The dialogue shall mainly consist of exchange of information and best practices relating to policies and legislation in the area of employment and social policy that are of mutual interest to the Union and the OCTs. In this regard, areas such as skills development, social protection, social dialogue, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities, health and safety at work and other labour standards shall be taken into consideration.

Amendment

2. The dialogue shall mainly consist of exchange of information and best practices relating to policies and legislation in the area of employment and social policy that are of mutual interest to the Union and the OCTs. ***Job creation, particularly in SMEs, should be boosted by promoting ambitious social standards. The dialogue should encourage all innovative measures which should protect the environment and the health of workers and citizens, aimed at enabling job creation in areas where OCTs have an asset such as biodiversity, mineral resources and new technology, as***

well as in areas related to improving accessibility. In this regard, areas such as anticipating future skills requirements, skills development, the training of a qualified workforce to meet labour market needs, social protection, social dialogue, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities, health and safety at work and other labour standards shall be taken into consideration.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Union and the OCTs shall cooperate in order to exchange best practices for active labour market policies, a strong social dialogue, job standards and social protection to safeguard the rights of workers and their communities, to fight against forced or child labour and to combat undeclared work.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. The Union and OCTs shall cooperate in order to provide a good balance between security and flexibility in the labour market through a comprehensive implementation of flexicurity principles, and to address labour market segmentation, by providing both adequate social protection coverage for people in periods of transition, or on temporary or part-time employment contracts, and access to training, career development

and full-time work possibilities.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. The Union and OCTs shall exchange best practices and cooperate to provide investments in services, such as affordable, fulltime and high-quality childcare, all-day school places and care for elderly, that help promote gender equality, foster a better work–life balance and create a framework which allows people to enter or re-enter the labour market.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. De-population, including the "brain drain" and emigration of young persons for work, is a challenge for many OCTs and for this reason Union and OCTs shall cooperate to protect the rights of migrant workers on the labour market.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a decision

Article 33 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 33a

Social dialogue and development of social democracy

In the context of the association, the promotion of social dialogue and the development of social democracy could be supported through measures including:

– actions to provide training for the social partners,

– actions to permit communication and the creation of spaces devoted to promoting and developing social dialogue and social democracy,

– actions to enable the exchange of best social practices at regional and local level.

Amendment 46

Proposal for a decision Article 34 - point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) actions to strengthen preparedness and response capacity against cross-border health threats such as infectious diseases which should be built on existing structures and should target unusual events;

Amendment

(a) actions to strengthen preparedness and response capacity against cross-border health threats such as infectious diseases which should be built on existing structures **and occupational medicine** and should target unusual events;

Amendment 47

Proposal for a decision Article 34 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) the Union and OCTs shall organise exchanges of best practice with a view to improving workplace effectiveness. It is important to ensure that all workers are covered by prevention policies and enjoy effective respect for their fundamental right to health;

Amendment 48

Proposal for a decision Article 34 -point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) capacity building through strengthening public health networks at regional level, facilitating exchange of information among experts and promoting adequate training;

Amendment

(b) capacity building through strengthening public health networks at regional level, facilitating exchange of information among experts and promoting adequate training ***and the introduction of telemedicine;***

Amendment 49

Proposal for a decision Article 34 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 34a

Health and safety at work

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of health and safety at work aims at strengthening the OCTs' capacity for preventing occupational diseases and work-related accidents through measures including:

- actions seeking to conduct studies and develop expertise on health and safety at work concerning risks specific to the territory in question,***
- assistance for the modernisation of regulations on health and safety at work,***
- support for actions to encourage prevention of work-related risks.***

Amendment 50

Proposal for a decision

Article 54 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Where trade agreements currently being negotiated with third countries risk endangering the traditional trade sectors characteristic of OCTs, the Commission shall carry out prior impact assessments of the potential consequences in accordance with the criteria defined by the ILO and the UN. When completed, these prior impact studies shall be forwarded by the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the governmental and local authorities of the OCTs before the conclusion of the international agreements in question.

Amendment 51

Proposal for a decision

Article 57 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) facilitating the removal of obstacles to trade or investment regarding goods and services of particular relevance for climate change mitigation, such as sustainable renewable energy and energy efficient products and services, including through the adoption of policy frameworks conducive to the deployment of best available technologies and through the promotion of standards that respond to environmental and economic needs and minimise technical obstacles to trade;

(b) facilitating the removal of obstacles to trade or investment regarding goods and services of particular relevance for climate change mitigation, such as sustainable renewable energy and energy efficient products and services, including through the adoption of policy frameworks conducive to the deployment of best available technologies and through the promotion of standards that respond to environmental, ***social*** and economic needs and minimise technical obstacles to trade;

Amendment 52

Proposal for a decision

Article 57 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) promoting trade in goods that contribute to social conditions and environmentally sound practices, including goods that are the subject of voluntary sustainability assurance schemes such as fair and ethical trade schemes, eco-labels, and certification schemes for natural resource-based products;

Amendment

(c) promoting trade in goods that contribute to social conditions and environmentally sound practices, including goods that are the subject of voluntary sustainability assurance schemes such as fair and ethical trade schemes, eco-labels, ***social labels*** and certification schemes for natural resource-based products;

Amendment 53

Proposal for a decision

Article 62

Text proposed by the Commission

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of consumer policy, consumer health protection and trade may include the preparation of laws and regulations in the area of consumer policy and consumer health protection, with a view to avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade.

Amendment

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of consumer policy, consumer health protection and trade may include ***the option of temporary recognition of rules and procedures established in the OCTs as well as*** the preparation of laws and regulations in the area of consumer policy and consumer health protection, with a view to avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade.

Amendment 54

Proposal for a decision

Article 68 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) strengthening the OCTs' capacities to define and implement policies necessary for the development of trade in goods and services;

Amendment

(a) strengthening the OCTs' capacities to define and implement policies necessary for the development of trade in goods and services, ***particularly by means of new information and communications***

technologies;

Amendment 55

Proposal for a decision Article 68 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) encouraging the efforts of OCTs to put into place appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as the necessary administrative procedures;

Amendment

(b) encouraging the efforts of OCTs to put into place appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as the necessary administrative procedures,
particularly so as to help improve social standards and create a social climate favourable to growth;

Amendment 56

Proposal for a decision Article 68 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) facilitating market and product development, including product quality improvement;

Amendment

(d) facilitating market and product development ***and diversification***, including product quality improvement;

Amendment 57

Proposal for a decision Article 68 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) contributing to the development of human resources and professional skills relevant to trade in goods and services;

Amendment

(e) contributing to the development of human resources and professional skills ***by offering adequate training courses*** relevant to trade in goods and services;

Amendment 58

Proposal for a decision Article 68 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) enhancing the capacity of business intermediaries to provide OCT enterprises services pertinent to their exporting activities, such as market intelligence;

Amendment

(f) enhancing the capacity of business intermediaries to provide OCT enterprises services pertinent to their exporting activities, such as market intelligence,
through more effective use of new technology;

PROCEDURE

Title	Association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union ("Overseas Association Decision")	
References	COM(2012)0362 – C7-0285/2012 – 2012/0195(CNS)	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	DEVE 13.9.2012	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	EMPL 13.9.2012	
Rapporteur Date appointed	Philippe Boulland 24.10.2012	
Discussed in committee	6.12.2012	14.1.2013
Date adopted	24.1.2013	
Result of final vote	+: 35 -: 1 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Heinz K. Becker, Pervenche Berès, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Cabrnoch, Alejandro Cercas, Minodora Cliveti, Marije Cornelissen, Emer Costello, Andrea Cozzolino, Frédéric Daerden, Marian Harkin, Nadja Hirsch, Stephen Hughes, Ádám Kósa, Jean Lambert, Patrick Le Hyaric, Thomas Mann, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Csaba Őry, Siiri Oviir, Sylvana Rapti, Licia Ronzulli, Elisabeth Schroedter, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Jutta Steinruck, Traian Ungureanu, Andrea Zanoni	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Georges Bach, Malika Benarab-Attou, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Richard Howitt, Paul Murphy, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Gabriele Zimmer	
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Jens Nilsson	