

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2008/2171(INI)

3.12.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on International Trade

on trade and economic relations with China
(2008/2171(INI))

Rapporteur: Christopher Heaton-Harris

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

WTO

1. Calls for further dialogue to enable China to address the outstanding areas of concern for EU industry, such as the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, transparency and environmental, social and health standards;
2. Calls on China to join the WTO Government Procurement Agreement and to open large-scale infrastructure projects to investment and trade;
3. Encourages China to ease the way for European products that are imported onto the Chinese market and furthermore to strive for a more balanced trade deficit, while fostering a transparent trade environment equally beneficial to Chinese and European undertakings;
4. Urges China to take further steps towards a more competitive market, acknowledges China's improvements in this field, and calls on the Commission to support China to implement the necessary mechanisms for developing a competitive market;

Intellectual Property Rights

5. Believes that, as China becomes more innovative, it is in its best interests to protect Intellectual Property Rights; believes, however, that regulations requiring the exclusive registration of innovations in China would heavily constrain business activities, prevent China benefiting from innovation and devalue the "Made in China" brand;

Product safety

6. Welcomes the significant efforts China has made with respect to the improvement of product safety, including toy safety, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to reinforce cooperation with the Chinese Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) in order to ensure product safety on a broader scale, with particular focus on the less-developed regions of China; calls on the European Union's Member States, institutions and companies to provide greater European-level technical assistance to Chinese companies and the Chinese authorities in the interests of greater investment in safety, quality and quality checks geared, above all, to the products of small manufacturers, safety and quality checks on which appear to be one of the authorities' major problems;
7. Welcomes the efforts the Commission has made in this area, thanks to the new system of quarterly reporting on Chinese enforcement actions to track down at source dangerous goods notified within the Rapex-China system, thus increasing European consumer safety;

8. Underlines the importance of the trilateral contacts between the Commission and the US and Chinese administrations aimed at improving the global governance of product safety; in this area, it would be extremely useful for concrete shape to be given as soon as possible to the Commission's proposal to establish a joint working party on product and import safety within the Transatlantic Economic Council;
9. Calls on the Commission to promote business-to-business cooperation, to raise awareness of the Market Access Database website and to improve dispute settlement mechanisms;
10. Encourages programmes designed to increase China-EU trade participation, such as the Executive Training Programme; calls on the Commission to increase technical assistance to China in order to implement health and safety rules and to improve customs cooperation.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+: 30 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Mia De Vits, Janelly Fourtou, Evelyne Gebhardt, Martí Grau i Segú, Małgorzata Handzlik, Malcolm Harbour, Christopher Heaton-Harris, Anna Hedh, Edit Herczog, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Lasse Lehtinen, Toine Manders, Catiuscia Marini, Arlene McCarthy, Catherine Neris, Bill Newton Dunn, Zita Pleštinská, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Eva-Britt Svensson, Marianne Thyssen, Jacques Toubon, Barbara Weiler
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emmanouil Angelakas, Brigitte Fouré, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Anja Weisgerber
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Maddalena Calia