

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on International Trade*

**2004/2252(INI)**

23.2.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Development

on the role of the EU in the achievement of the Millennium Development  
Goals (MDGs)  
(2004/2252(INI))

Draftswoman: Caroline Lucas

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that trade with fair rules, although not an absolute remedy for world poverty, can positively contribute to the achievement of the MDGs through its impact on economic growth;
2. Takes note of recent studies by UNCTAD and other institutions that show that the extensive trade liberalisation in LDCs has been translated too little into sustained and substantial poverty reduction and has contributed to a decline of the terms of trade of developing countries, in particular of African countries;
3. Asks the Commission to include in the priority actions of the MDG Synthesis Report action by the EU on the stabilisation of commodity prices, including the review of international supply management mechanisms, support for proposals to include commodity prices in the current round of WTO negotiations and participation in the financing of the Task Force on Commodities proposed by UNCTAD;
4. Concerning the negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements with ACP partners, calls on the Commission to ensure that they constitute instruments for ACP development and poverty eradication, *inter alia* through the continuation of non-reciprocity in market access with a view to ensuring a fair place for ACP partners in world trade, a focus on supply side constraints and safeguards for sensitive products and the strengthening of existing regional integration efforts, and to take the initiative to revise or clarify Article 24 of the GATT Agreement;
5. Calls on the Commission to adjust its cooperation and trade policies as far as possible in order to help governments of developing countries to maintain and develop public services, particularly those guaranteeing access for the population as a whole to drinking water, health services, education, transport and energy;
6. Calls on the Commission to enhance the development content of current WTO negotiations through a focus on food security and rural employment as among the most effective elements in poverty eradication, *inter alia* through the introduction of a 'Development Box' in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture to enable poorer countries better to address food security concerns and preserve rural livelihoods and through a complete end to subsidies for EU agricultural exports;
7. Reiterates, with regard to discussions on the effects of liberalisation in the water sector, that water-related services should, as a matter of principle, stay fully under public responsibility and control, leaving it to the national, regional and local authorities to safeguard this principle, and urges the European Commission to stay in line with this opinion;

8. Calls on the Commission to promote urgent WTO reform in order to put sustainability and poverty eradication at the top of the trade negotiation agenda, and to enhance real special and differential treatment (S&D);
9. Asks the Council to call upon UNEP's Governing Council so as to ensure that the MDG Review summit in September launches a comprehensive review of the social and environmental consequences of the trade liberalisation policies implemented to date, in order to ensure that these support poverty eradication as effectively as possible;
10. Stresses that the Council should take early measures to implement the WTO Decision of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and calls on the Commission to urge the Member States to implement fully the new regulation as soon as possible;
11. Stresses that the Council should speed up the decision-making process with regard to the reform of EU trade policies on sensitive products;
12. Calls on the Commission to increase its trade-related assistance and to support capacity building, which is essential if the poorest countries are to be able to tackle the increased competition resulting from market liberalisation.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	The role of the EU in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
<b>Procedure number</b>	2004/2252(INI)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	DEVE
<b>Committee asked for its opinion</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 13.1.2005
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b>	
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Caroline Lucas 18.1.2005
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	2.2.2005
<b>Date suggestions adopted</b>	22.2.2005
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for: 29 against: abstentions:
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Kader Arif, Françoise Castex, Giulietto Chiesa, Jan Christian Ehler, Christofer Fjellner, Glyn Ford, Sajjad Karim, Alain Lipietz, Caroline Lucas, Erika Mann, David Martin, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Georgios Papastamkos, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Bogusław Rogalski, Tokia Saïfi, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Johan Van Hecke, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Zbigniew Zaleski
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Margrietus van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Albert Deß, Saïd El Khadraoui, Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, Maria Martens, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Jonas Sjöstedt
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	