

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on International Trade

2005/2248(INI)

19.4.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on a European social model for the future
(2005/2248(INI))

Draftsperson: Giulietto Chiesa

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. calls on the Commission to ensure that its trade policy promotes and defends European values, as set out in Article I-3 of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, which is not yet in force, in particular a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, free and fair competition, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, sustainable development, promotion of scientific and technological progress, combating social exclusion and discrimination, labour rights, and, more generally, the role of social partners, equality between women and men, protection of the rights of the child, the enhancement of public services, multifunctional agriculture and cultural diversity;
2. welcomes globalisation and notes that it has contributed to the unparalleled economic growth of the past 30 years both in Europe and in the rest of the world; recalls also that globalisation has made possible great gains for European businesses and especially for European consumers;
3. considers that this requires the Commission and the Member States to adopt a consistent line in fora such as the ILO, OECD and Multilateral Environment Agencies and for WTO and bilateral trade negotiations to support the policy objectives defended in these other fora;
4. believes, in particular, that the work of the International Labour Organization should be more closely integrated into WTO agreements and considers that ILO assessments of core labour standards should be integrated into EU strategies towards WTO and bilateral negotiations;
5. supports the introduction of a European globalisation adjustment fund designed to cushion the negative effects of liberalisation, assist economic adjustment, promote scientific research and development and the implementation of the Lisbon strategy; calls for a new funding initiative to promote scientific and technical research at the European level with a view to creating new, high quality employment in Europe;
6. points out that investment is needed in research and new technologies in order to provide lifelong learning, so as to meet the need for increased competitiveness following the effects of globalisation, with a view to creating more jobs and combating unemployment and social marginalisation;
7. considers that developing countries need assistance in the area of good governance and the promotion of democracy, if they are to benefit from the outcome of multilateral or regional trade negotiations;
8. stresses the importance for European goods and services of open markets, without

hampering third countries' development and taking into account their ability to manage the existing imbalance of skills and experience;

9. welcomes the introduction of the GSP+ scheme, which provides incentives for higher social and environmental standards, and calls for this approach to be extended to bilateral trade agreements; notes the need for the Commission to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme with a view to ensuring that compliance with these standards is being achieved;
10. believes that the implementation of a trade policy based on European collective preferences and globally shared values, and an aid policy aiming to promote education, basic labour and environmental standards, and standards of transparency and good governance, will contribute to the enhancement of the political strength of the European Union in international institutions;
11. recognises that, although trade liberalisation can provide an opportunity for European citizens, they are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact on European jobs and living standards of trade liberalisation; calls on the Commission to base all trade negotiations on the sustainable development strategy as formulated by the Lisbon and Gothenburg European Councils; calls in this regard on the Commission to work towards increased transparency in trade negotiations, the timely information of the European Parliament, and to provide clear, independent analyses of the costs and benefits of proposed new trade agreements through a continuation and extension of Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs) monitored by the European Parliament;
12. welcomes initiatives, including product labelling, which seek to provide information to European consumers about the environmental and social working conditions in which products are produced; stresses that these initiatives should not lead to increased protectionism in the European Union; stresses that European companies should be made responsible for securing the fundamental labour rights of all workers in their production chains, including outsourced work;
13. with regard to social protection systems, calls for a study to be undertaken into the situation as regards compulsory retirement in the European Union, so as to ensure that all workers can be sure that periods spent working outside their Member State will be properly recognised;
14. considers that Parliaments have an important role to play in informing the public and conveying its concerns to trade negotiators, but that this requires the Commission to provide timely and comprehensive information during the negotiations.

PROCEDURE ⁽¹⁾

Title	A European social model for the future
Procedure number	2005/2248(INI)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	INTA 15.12.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	No
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Giulietto Chiesa 23.11.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	21.2.2006 21.3.2006 19.4.2006
Date adopted	19.4.2006
Result of final vote	+: 23 –: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Daniel Caspary, Françoise Castex, Giulietto Chiesa, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Jacky Henin, Syed Kamall, Helmuth Markov, David Martin, Georgios Papastamkos, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Bogusław Rogalski, Robert Sturdy, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Zbigniew Zaleski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Panagiotis Beglitis, Margrietus van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Elisa Ferreira, Robert Goebbels, Filip Andrzej Kaczmarek, Jörg Leichtfried, Mauro Zani
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...