

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on International Trade

2007/2017(BUD)

27.3.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Commission's annual strategy for the 2008 budget procedure
(2007/2017(BUD))

Draftsman: Peter Šťastný

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that the Annual Policy Strategy for 2008 clearly reflects the breadth and depth of the challenges to trade facing the EU which, on top of the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round as an overriding priority, include developing, negotiating and eventually implementing closer economic ties and agreements in an increasing number of areas such as services, investment or Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) with an increasing number of partners around the world - including the ACP countries, the Ukraine, Korea, China, India, ASEAN, Mercosur, Central America, the Andean Community - and new Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova;
2. Stresses, in that context, the need for the Parliament to be meaningfully involved in the process of negotiating and adopting bilateral and regional trade agreements; calls on the Commission to provide Parliament's competent committee with a regular update on the state of play of the negotiations and to submit the outcome of those negotiations for Parliament's approval;
3. Stresses, therefore, that the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) should provide the Commission with sufficient budgetary and human resources in order to adequately meet the increasing number of trade-related challenges and to enable it to deliver results pursuant to the strategic objectives defined in the Commission's Global Europe Agenda of 2007, particularly in the area of bilateral economic and trade relations; invites the Commission, in that regard, to inform Parliament, prior to the presentation of the PDB, on the number and on the nature of the staff actually working on trade issues in the Commission's delegations in third countries, together with an assessment of their capabilities and the resources available to those delegations to deal with the growing challenges of trade policy, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies;
4. Notes that the legislative proposals that are to be brought forward by the Commission in 2008, further to the Single Market Review of 2007, in order to allow citizens and companies, in particular SMEs, to benefit fully from the internal market should specifically address the external commercial dimension of the new initiatives;
5. Notes the commitment that a substantial share of the EU's and Member States' pledge to increase their trade-related assistance to EUR 2 billion by 2010 will be devoted to the ACP countries; notes with concern, however, that only the Member States' collective contribution is meant to be additional to the European Development Fund resources; urges the Council and the Commission to clarify the magnitude and budgetary nature of that commitment as soon as possible and well in advance of the conclusion of the European Partnership Agreement negotiations;
6. Calls on the Commission to clarify what sums of money are needed for the funding of horizontal trade-related assistance initiatives, including bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives such as the Integrated Framework (IF);

7. Reiterates its request that the Commission put in place a regular reporting system on Trade Related Assistance (TRA)/Aid for Trade programming and spending whereby Parliament is to be informed on the measures that have been financed, and, where appropriate, on the results of monitoring and evaluation exercises, on the involvement of the relevant partners, and on the implementation of the pledges and budget commitments and on payments, such information being shown in a breakdown by country, region, and category of assistance respectively;
8. Notes with concern that its Committee on International Trade has not yet received specific written information concerning the objectives, strategies and trade and economic related elements of the future agreements with third countries such as the EU-China framework agreement, the new Enhanced Agreement with the Ukraine, the trade agreements with Central America and the Andean Community or the new PCAs with Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova;
9. Calls for adequate funding to be earmarked for the purpose of drawing up Sustainability Impact Assessments of all proposed trade agreements as soon as possible and, in any event, well in advance of the conclusion of the negotiations;
10. Stresses that Parliament should be consulted on Macrofinancial Assistance (MFA) proposals in sufficiently good time in order to allow it to express its views and adopt its opinion according to a normal calendar and procedure; requests the Commission, in that regard, to inform Parliament on MFA programming and the expected timetable for the Commission's MFA-related proposals;
11. Welcomes the Commission's decision to give high priority to energy policy and the fight against climate change, but considers it essential that external trade policy be devised in a manner that supports those objectives.

PROCEDURE

Title	The Commission's annual strategy for the 2008 budget procedure
Procedure number	2007/2017(BUD)
Committee responsible	BUDG
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	INTA
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Draftsman Date appointed	Peter Šťastný 28.2.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	27.2.2007
Date adopted	21.3.2007
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Kader Arif, Graham Booth, Carlos Carnero González, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Eduard Raul Hellvig, Jacky Henin, Syed Kamall, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Caroline Lucas, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Erika Mann, David Martin, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Tokia Saïfi, Peter Šťastný, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Zbigniew Zaleski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Panagiotis Beglitis, Danutė Budreikaitė, Elisa Ferreira, Małgorzata Handzlik, Jens Holm, Sepp Kusstatscher, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Zuzana Roithová, Corien Wortmann-Kool
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	