



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on International Trade*

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**2009/2215(INI)**

27.4.2010

# OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the Union for the Mediterranean  
(2009/2215(INI))

Draftsman of the opinion: Marielle De Sarnez

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Reiterates the importance of a Euromed free trade area, which will significantly contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the entire region, and to greater economic and regional integration promoting economic growth in the region; calls for negotiations on the free trade area to be conducted on a concerted, gradual basis in the context of a rational, predictable partnership reflecting the socioeconomic realities of each of the countries; underlines that the UfM has to be seen as an initiative complementary to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership inaugurated in Barcelona in 1995, by addressing some of its shortcomings;
2. Underlines the importance of relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean region, not just in terms of trade but also politically, socially, academically and culturally and also in terms of development and protection of the environment; considers that the development of a regionally complementary market would boost industrial policy in the southern regions of the EU;
3. Urges the Commission to strengthen its role as an investor and partner and develop specific guidelines for responsible investment to reduce social inequalities and promote diversification of the local economies, particularly with regard to industrialisation, sustainable development of agriculture, maintenance of local food production and food security; stresses in particular the need to support foreign direct investment and promote research and development;
4. Urges the Commission to strengthen its role in the UfM project and calls for greater clarity regarding its participation in the new institutional structure;
5. Welcomes the selection of six main strategic projects: the de-pollution of the sea, the solar energy plan, transport, education and research, SMEs and business development and civil protection, and hopes that these major projects will receive adequate support from European and international financial institutions; considers that the new UfM projects should endeavour to involve as many Euro-Mediterranean partners as possible;
6. Acknowledges the administrative and operational contribution that the new secretariat will be able to make to the UfM's work in pursuing Euro-Mediterranean priorities and objectives, on the basis of adequate, specified resources;
7. Stresses the vital need to develop South-South trade, which accounts for just 6% of world trade, and thus to take action to extend the Agadir Agreement; draws attention to the interest these countries have in stepping up their relations and their trade so that they form a united, strong economic area which is attractive to investors and capable of defending the region's interests and boosting its development; emphasises that the UfM must make it easier to respond to requests for technical and financial assistance with a view to promoting South-South economic integration; considers that extension and simplification

of the pan-Euro-Mediterranean system of cumulation of origin might help in this regard;

8. Takes the view that enhancing port and land transport infrastructure may help to promote economic growth and trade between Euro-Mediterranean countries;
9. Hopes for an improvement in the economic and legal environment in the region, an essential guarantee for the security of future investment, in particular as regards foreign direct investment (FDI), which remains very weak, and to encourage funding for major strategic projects; calls, further, for greater harmonisation in this area, given the wide variations between one country and another;
10. Hopes for an improvement in the economic and legal environment in the region, an essential guarantee for future investment; insists on the objective of favouring the development of human resources and employment in line with the Millennium Development Goals for fighting poverty; underlines that the preservation and the development of strong public services is another important precondition to guarantee sustainable development in the region;
11. Stresses the importance of the role of and dialogue between businesses on both shores of the Mediterranean in boosting trade and investment;
12. Calls on the Commission to take account in trade negotiations of the results of existing impact assessments and to assess the effects of the liberalisation process, in the light of climate change and the economic and social crisis, and to enable this to be applied gradually and asymmetrically, as necessary, while protecting comparable production sectors on both shores of the Mediterranean, which are more likely to face competition as a result of greater liberalisation; calls on the UfM to select projects mainly according to social and economic and environmental mitigation needs;
13. Underlines the need to establish a regional agricultural policy in line with the Euro-Mediterranean Road Map for Agriculture, to preserve local food production and food security, and to promote production, distribution and diversification of typical Mediterranean products and the development of small and middle farming adapted to sustainable development; in the light of growing food insecurity in many Mediterranean partner countries, calls on the Commission to accept partner requests regarding extended safeguards and quick procedures to implement them in times of food crises;
14. Recognises the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of energy between the Euro-Mediterranean partners and the need to develop a regional energy market, with a view to the implementation of renewable energy and energy infrastructure projects in the Mediterranean region; urges that sustainable energy and development policies such as the Desertec project should be geared first and foremost to the region and thus contribute to its development; welcomes the UfM's regional project 'Mediterranean Solar Plan', since as well as contributing to the development of infrastructure it will boost the development of the components industry and corresponding engineering and technology in all the countries covered by the plan;
15. Hopes that the association agreements will be reviewed in the light of the new

requirements deriving from the financial, economic and social crisis and the food and energy crises; points out that one of the main objectives of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area must remain that of boosting trade in the service of development and poverty reduction, and hopes that the Road Map adopted at the ministerial summit of 9 December 2009 will help to achieve this objective;

16. Urges the Commission in its trade negotiations to keep up its demands for further development of democracy and human rights from both Libya, which participates in the UfM as an observer State, and from all the member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean;
17. Calls on the Commission to contribute towards regional stability and crisis prevention with a view to consolidating a single shore of peace, development, justice, equality, freedom, plurality, democracy and respect;
18. Reiterates the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly as a natural forum for political, economic and social dialogue between the democratically elected representatives of Euro-Mediterranean countries.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	27.4.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 23 - : 0 0 : 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Daniel Caspary, Marielle De Sarnez, Christofer Fjellner, Joe Higgins, Yannick Jadot, Metin Kazak, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Vital Moreira, Cristiana Muscardini, Tokia Saïfi, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Gianluca Susta, Jan Zahradil, Pablo Zalba Bidegain, Paweł Zalewski
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	George Sabin Cutaș, Elisabeth Köstinger, Michael Theurer, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Lara Comi, Sylvie Guillaume