



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on International Trade

2010/2110(INI)

8.12.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on EU-Agriculture and International Trade
(2010/2110(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl

(*) Associated committee - Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Calls upon the Commission to comply strictly with its negotiating mandate in the WTO, which sets the already completed CAP reform as the limit of its action, provided that equivalent concessions are obtained from its trading partners; recalls the EU commitment to an elimination of export subsidies upon the strict condition that there is a parallel move by its trading partners regarding export subsidies, as well as all export measures with equivalent effect;
2. Recalls that the 2003 CAP reform and the 2008 'Health Check' have demonstrated the seriousness of the EU's reform commitments by anticipating the likely results of the Doha round, while equivalent concessions are still expected from the EU's trading partners;
3. Notes the fact that the agreement on trade in bananas settles twenty years of the most technically complex, politically sensitive and significant WTO-dispute, constitutes an important step towards the consolidation of a rule-based multilateral trading system, and at the same time could make a decisive contribution to the resolution of issues relating to tropical products and preferences in WTO negotiations; believes that the interests of Community producers and ACP producers must be taken into consideration in similar future negotiations, so that these sectors, which provide numerous jobs, are not weakened;
4. Notes that the outermost regions are an integral part of the territory of the European Union and must be fully covered by the trade agreements; stresses that the fragile economies based on the agriculture sector in these regions and their productions are in competition with products from Latin American producers benefiting from the lowering of customs tariffs; points out that Article 349 TFEU allows for the tailoring of Community policies to the geographical and economic realities of those regions; calls on the Commission to take into account the specific interests of the outermost regions in the negotiations so that the development of those regions is not affected;
5. Calls on the Commission to abide by its commitments regarding the EU sugar sector and to end systematic concessions on sugar in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations; notices in this context the initiatives of the sugar sector which have increased its competitiveness while improving its environmental sustainability and contributing to the EU development agenda via the preferences granted to ACP and LDCs;
6. Calls upon the Commission to continue, in order to safeguard consumer interests by providing consumers with reliable and relevant product information, to seek more effective protection of geographical indications (GI) in the WTO by extending the higher level of protection currently available for wines and spirits (Article 23 of the TRIPS agreement) to all GIs, and by establishing a system of notification and registration of geographical indications;
7. Calls upon the Commission to maintain an even stronger stance on the inclusion of GIs

within the scope of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement and in bilateral trade negotiations;

8. Believes that the conclusion of multilateral negotiations is a priority to be pursued by the EU; believes that bilateral trade agreements must complement multilateral processes in the form of respect for equal working conditions, common environmental rules and food safety standards already in force in the European Union and avoid the fostering solely of sustainable development programmes; recalls that the EU has substantial offensive interests in agriculture, in particular as regards high- quality processed products; believes that bilateral trade agreements with major trade partners can successfully promote the export interests of the EU agro-food industry, providing substantial economic benefits;
9. Notes the resumption of negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement – an agreement of the utmost importance, which would affect 700 million people and would be the world's most ambitious bi-regional agreement – and therefore stresses that the European Parliament should be closely involved at all stages of the negotiations; emphasises that a balanced outcome for both parties must be achieved by making sure that the negotiations take full account of its consequences and impacts, in particular on environmental and social challenges; calls on the Commission to carry out an impact assessment on the consequences of such an agreement for the agricultural sector;
10. Emphasises that all products marketed within the EU, domestic or imported, must continue to comply with the same stringent food safety requirements; in the case of animal welfare and environmental standards, calls on the Commission to do all it can to promote common understanding with third countries where standards go beyond international recommendations, as well as including provisions for adoption and enforcement of international standards in its bilateral trade agreements;
11. Calls on the Commission to encourage EU trading partners in their ongoing efforts to improve their social and environmental standards so as to prevent a diminution of EU competitiveness in world agricultural production and to achieve consistent and comprehensive standards in these areas;
12. Emphasises the importance of strict implementation of the preferential rules of origin; calls for a review of all trade preferences given to emerging countries which are members of the G-20 by the European Union;
13. Reaffirms the importance of agricultural trade for economic development and poverty alleviation in developing countries; calls upon the EU to help ACP countries to adapt to the increasing global competition;
14. Underlines the need for trade policy to play a role in tackling food security and food sovereignty challenges; calls for reinforced surveillance of the effects of agro-fuel schemes on food security and coordination of export restriction measures to prevent the aggravation of any future food crisis;
15. Is concerned at the prospect of concessions on cereals in the negotiations with Ukraine, in view of the fact that Ukrainian production is highly competitive and that Ukraine is already the main user of reduced-tariff cereal quotas (wheat and barley) offered to third

countries; calls, therefore, on the Commission to limit its offer in this sector.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	1.12.2010
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 6 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Harlem Désir, Christofer Fjellner, Joe Higgins, Yannick Jadot, Metin Kazak, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Vital Moreira, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Tokia Saïfi, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Keith Taylor, Paweł Zalewski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	George Sabin Cutaş, Ryszard Czarnecki, Małgorzata Handzlik, Salvatore Iacolino, Maria Eleni Koppa, Jörg Leichtfried, Michael Theurer, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Giommaria Uggias