



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on International Trade

2010/2245(INI)

17.3.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Innovation Union: transforming Europe for a post-crisis world
(2010/2245(INI))

Rapporteur: Inese Vaidere

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Points out that internationalisation and innovation are key drivers of external competitiveness and growth and are crucial to the EU 2020 strategic goals;
2. Underlines the importance of climate and energy-efficient and renewable technologies in the shift towards a sustainable global economy; recognizes the lead position of the EU in many key sectors for climate-friendly and resource-efficient industrial production; calls on the Commission to define strategies on internationalisation and innovation in these sectors;
3. Stresses the need to transform the EU's trade and innovation policy into a true vehicle for job creation, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development worldwide; firmly believes that consistency between the internal and external aspects of EU policies is indispensable and that the shaping of a new trade policy must be consistent with a strong, job-creating industrial and innovation policy in order to ensure economic growth and in turn to create more and better jobs;
4. Believes that, in order to develop a competitive trade policy, it is essential to attain the objective of investing 3% of the EU's GDP in R&D activities by 2020;
5. Points out that standardisation can increase innovation and competitiveness by facilitating access to markets and by enabling interoperability; encourages the Commission to step up efforts to promote the inclusion of European standards, particularly in the social and environmental fields, in future free trade agreements;
6. Stresses therefore that all strategies in relation to transforming Europe for a post-crisis world need to be guided by sustainable job creation;
7. Considers that, in the EU's innovation policies, particular attention must be paid to supporting start-ups and economies of scale in eco-compatible, energy-saving and low-carbon production and technologies, protecting affordable IPR, improving SMEs' access to funding, making SMEs internationally active, liberalising protected markets, stabilising exchange rates, fostering the legal protection of EU companies abroad and combating unfair competition, piracy and counterfeiting;
8. Believes that an efficient innovation and growth policy must inevitably invest in research programmes which facilitate mobility and exchanges between researchers at international level and strengthen cooperation between the worlds of science and business (Marie Curie Actions);
9. Notes that social challenges remain an important focus of the Innovation Union; underlines that its overarching objective should be the long-term development and competitiveness of the EU;

10. Notes that restricting the prioritization of innovations to limited areas should be avoided in order not to lose valuable innovative potential in the long term;
11. Considers EU public procurement markets an important factor for the large-scale introduction of new eco-compatible products and services; regrets that our international partners have not opened their internal public procurement markets to EU companies in the same way that the EU internal market has been opened to third-country enterprises;
12. Insists on the need to focus particularly on non-tariff barriers, which, as tariffs are gradually reduced or eliminated, tend to become the main obstacles to international trade; regards as unjustified all barriers resulting from the inconsistent implementation of bilateral and multilateral trade rules; regards as justified, on the other hand, all barriers resulting from legitimate legislative and administrative activities by public authorities originating in non-trade areas but having unintended consequences on trade, the elimination of which must be subject to public consultation and deliberation;
13. Encourages the simplification of SME innovation and start-up policies; supports the creation of a European service to facilitate Innovation Partnerships; regards political and increased financial support as crucial in fostering innovation, notably for networking activities among SMEs facilitating cooperation in R&D, marketing and internationalisation within sectoral clusters;
14. Points out that the single European patent and the European Company Statute need to be adopted to promote the transition to extra-Community trade; underlines the need to reduce the costs of an EU patent and IPR, taking into account the economic disparities that exist among EU Member States, in order to make them more competitive vis-à-vis US and Japanese prices;
15. Acknowledges that technology transfer in the interest of development and with respect to achieving the MDGs needs to be an important aspect of European trade policy, but recognizes that the transfer of EU high-technology know-how to third countries should be monitored by the Commission in order to gain better information on innovation patterns and future developments, and to avoid unfair competition;
16. Recognizes that the fight against climate change and efforts towards energy efficiency and the de-materialization of industrial production require an active policy on the global dissemination of new technologies.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	16.3.2011
Result of final vote	+ : 23 - : 0 0 : 4
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Kader Arif, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Christofer Fjellner, Metin Kazak, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Vital Moreira, Cristiana Muscardini, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Niccolò Rinaldi, Tokia Saïfi, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Gianluca Susta, Keith Taylor, Iuliu Winkler, Pablo Zalba Bidegain, Paweł Zalewski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Catherine Bearder, George Sabin Cutaş, Syed Kamall, Elisabeth Köstinger, Miloslav Ransdorf, Michael Theurer, Inese Vaidere, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa