



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on International Trade

2010/0310(NLE)

7.11.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Iraq, of the other part (10209/2012 - C7-0189/2012 - 2010/0310(NLE))

Rapporteur: Maria Badia i Cutchet

PA_NonLeg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The original mandate of the Council in 2006 authorised the Commission to negotiate a "Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Iraq". In 2009 in Baghdad, both Iraq and the EU agreed to enhance the status of the draft Agreement, by changing the title of the Agreement to "Partnership and Cooperation Agreement". Nonetheless, the new agreement includes a sizeable Trade content in it, with a whole Chapter dedicated to "Trade and Investment".

The Rapporteur welcomes this agreement, as it is the first ever contractual relation between the EU and Iraq and goes in the right direction. The non-preferential trade agreement included in the PCA incorporates basic World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, even though Iraq is not yet a member of the WTO. It also includes an efficient dispute settlement mechanism, featuring binding panel rulings and compliance procedures.

It is in the interest of both Iraqis and Europeans to see a stable and democratic Iraq. In this respect, the Rapporteur believes that trade facilitation is a good way to increase the stability and prosperity in a country that badly needs both. For this reason the Rapporteur is proposing that the European Parliament gives its consent to the agreement. However, the Rapporteur would also like to underline that in her opinion this is the first step, and that Iraq would need technical and logistical help so that it is able to make the best out of the agreement, particularly the trade part. Thus, the Rapporteur hopes that the Commission will also provide our partners with the necessary tools and know-how to exploit the benefits of the agreement and also to live up to their end of the bargain.

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament gives its consent.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	6.11.2012
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 3 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Maria Badia i Cutchet, Marielle de Sarnez, Yannick Jadot, Metin Kazak, Franziska Keller, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Paul Murphy, Franck Proust, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Gianluca Susta, Henri Weber, Jan Zahradil
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Josefa Andrés Barea, Catherine Bearder, George Sabin Cutaş, Béla Glattfelder, Syed Kamall, Pablo Zalba Bidegain
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Edite Estrela, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Oldřich Vlasák