



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on International Trade*

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**2010/2298(INI)**

14.4.2011

# OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the EU as a global actor: its role in multilateral organisations  
(2010/2298(INI))

Rapporteur: Jörg Leichtfried

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Considers that the role of the EU within the WTO serves as one model for EU actions in other international organisations (including UNCTAD and OECD), given that through its exclusive competence, the EU is a full member of the WTO and negotiates on behalf of all EU Member States, while at the same time all Member States are WTO members in their own right and work together to act as a single block;
2. Asks the Commission to elaborate its reflexion on a full membership in international organisations such as UNCTAD and OECD and to present its elaborations for further evaluation to the Parliament and the Council as well;
3. Takes the view that the establishment of two separate EU delegations in Geneva as a result of the Lisbon Treaty, one to the WTO and the other to the UN, should reinforce the EU's coordination capacity, presence and visibility, but stresses the importance of ensuring coherence in actions between the two delegations so that any duplication of work can be avoided;
4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to adopt an identical strategy in the medium and long term in order to promote and defend a common position within the WTO;
5. Calls on the EU to take into account and uphold specific European interests within the WTO; considers that it should in particular insist on special treatment for agricultural issues and act to defend certain sensitive European regions or sectors and to promote fair trade that fosters sustainable development;
6. Considers that the protracted Doha Round negotiations have underscored a systemic need to improve the functioning of the WTO as a negotiating forum and that the EU should therefore seek to:
  - introduce into the negotiation process an ex-ante assessment of potential inconsistencies of agreements in the WTO with existing UN treaties and conventions as well as other international agreements, in particular with regard to their implementation;
  - maintain the principle of consensus in WTO decision-making but also explore alternative solutions;
  - strengthen the WTO secretariat and increase the resources for technical support, especially to developing WTO members;
  - create an institutional setting which better distinguishes between the negotiation of rules and implementation of existing agreements;
  - strongly enhance the parliamentary dimension of the WTO in order to increase the democratic legitimacy and transparency of WTO negotiations;
  - defend the European objectives of sustainable development and protection of social,

human and environmental rights in trade relations;

7. Calls for thorough consideration of the issue of better accommodating non-trade concerns within the scope of WTO rules, in order to allow members to pursue legitimate policy objectives, while safeguarding market access; in this context, stresses the need to ensure the consistency of trade policy with other EU policies and international law, and that WTO actions are consistent and mutually supportive with actions of other international organisations;
8. Encourages other political disciplines to take into consideration more often how other policy areas could on the one hand negatively affect, and on the other hand positively contribute to, trade policy; suggests to other political disciplines to also introduce binding dispute settlement mechanisms into their multilateral organisations;
9. Calls on the Commission to provide its trade negotiators, Council and the European Parliament with a register of UN treaties and conventions signed by EU Member States, in order to make transparent the current *acquis communautaire* with regard to binding international obligations and international law; encourages the Commission to set up a dedicated unit to observe the consistency of trade agreement negotiations with other existing binding international obligations such as those established by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights;
10. Identifies the implementing powers of the WTO created through its dispute settlement body, as key element of the success of this organisation;
11. Calls on the EU to strengthen both the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other likeminded organisations.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	13.4.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 23 -: 0 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Kader Arif, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Marielle De Sarnez, Metin Kazak, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Vital Moreira, Paul Murphy, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Gianluca Susta, Keith Taylor, Iuliu Winkler, Pablo Zalba Bidegain, Paweł Zalewski
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Catherine Bearder, George Sabin Cutaş, Elisabeth Köstinger, Jörg Leichtfried, Carl Schlyter
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Véronique Mathieu, Csaba Sógor