AMENDMENTS

1 - 23

Draft opinion
Markéta Gregorová
(PE646.754v01-00)

Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the Eastern Partnership, in the run-up to the June 2020 Summit (2019/2209(INI))
Amendment 1
Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Highlights that the Eastern Partnership (EaP) is an important part of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and is aimed at achieving political association, ensuring further economic integration and establishing a platform to address common challenges; including sustainable development;

Amendment

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Amendment 2
Urmas Paet, Dita Charanzová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Highlights that the Eastern Partnership (EaP) is an important part of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and is aimed at achieving political association, ensuring further economic integration and establishing a platform to address common challenges; promoting prosperity

Amendment

1. Highlights that the Eastern Partnership (EaP) is an important part of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and is aimed at achieving political association, ensuring further economic integration, promoting prosperity and establishing a platform to address common challenges;

Amendment 3
Urmas Paet, Dita Charanzová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

1. Highlights that the Eastern Partnership (EaP) is an important part of the EU Neighbourhood Policy and is aimed at achieving political association, ensuring further economic integration, promoting prosperity and establishing a platform to address common challenges;
1 a. Highlights that the EaP countries are a crucial partner to the European Union and this also applies to trade; notes that the six countries together are the EU’s 10th trading partner, whereas the EU is the main trading partner to Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan and the second main trading partner to Armenia and Belarus; remarks that the number of companies from DCFTA countries exporting to the EU has significantly increased since 2015: Georgia by 35%, Moldova by 40% and Ukraine by 26%; notes that volumes of trade have also increased: by 12% with Armenia, 28% with Azerbaijan and 16% with Belarus; points out that the above-mentioned numbers demonstrate the increasing practical cooperation between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries; points out that the EU is a significant donor and investor in the Eastern neighbourhood;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Urmas Paet, Dita Charanzová
Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Stresses that the EaP offers a solid framework for multilateral and bilateral cooperation;

Amendment

2. Stresses that the EaP offers a solid framework for multilateral and bilateral cooperation; emphasises that due to the tense global trade environment, the EU’s and EaP countries’ close cooperation with like-minded countries and with international organisations is essential;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Markéta Gregorová
Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Recalls that Parliament aims to reinforce the economic integration of the EaP countries and that the common goal remains to create and make use of additional market opportunities such as business development, increased connectivity and the digital economy; calls on the EaP countries to fund the necessary reforms and to further deepen their relations with the EU;

Amendment

3. Recalls that Parliament aims to reinforce the economic integration of the EaP countries and that the common goal remains to create and make use of additional market opportunities, such as business development, increased connectivity and the digital economy, public procurement and energy; stresses that projects in the energy sector, in particular those involving the EIB, EBRD and other public financial institutions, should meet climate objectives and align with EU environmental legislation, in particular the preservation of biodiversity and protected sites consultations on projects affecting protected areas, biodiversity and environmental protection, also taking into account local community views emphasises the need to give high priority to the EaP region under the EU’s Connectivity Strategy, calls on the EaP countries to fund the necessary reforms and to further deepen their relations with the EU on both bilateral and multilateral tracks;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Recalls that Parliament aims to reinforce the economic integration of the EaP countries and that the common goal remains to create and make use of additional market opportunities such as business development, increased

Amendment

3. Recalls that Parliament aims to reinforce the social and economic integration of the EaP countries and that the common goal remains an inclusive economic development; considers it important to this end, to create and make
connectivity and the digital economy; calls on the EaP countries to fund the necessary reforms and to further deepen their relations with the EU;

use of additional market opportunities such as development of a favourable business environment for SMEs, access to services, increased connectivity and the digital economy; calls on the EaP countries and the Union to cooperate in funding the necessary reforms, which can further deepen their mutual relations;

Amendment 7
Mihai Tudose

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recalls that Parliament aims to reinforce the economic integration of the EaP countries and that the common goal remains to create and make use of additional market opportunities such as business development, increased connectivity and the digital economy; calls on the EaP countries to fund the necessary reforms and to further deepen their relations with the EU;

Amendment

3. Recalls that Parliament aims to reinforce the economic integration of the EaP countries and that the common goal remains to create and make use of additional market opportunities such as business development, increased digital economy and connectivity, especially for energy and transport infrastructure; calls on the EaP countries to fund the necessary reforms and to further deepen their relations with the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Urmas Paet, Dita Charanzová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Is aware that common problems in the EaP countries are a high level of corruption, bank fraud, the influence of oligarchs, the informal economy and poor governance; calls on the EaP countries to

Amendment

4. Notes that issues such as high level of corruption, bank fraud, the influence of oligarchs, the informal economy and poor governance are of concern in the Eastern Partnership countries; calls on the EaP
improve the rule of law, to eliminate these problems and to tackle illicit trade; countries to improve the rule of law, to eliminate these problems and to tackle illicit trade; 
stresses that the continuation of judicial reforms, reducing level of corruption, applying EU standards, ensuring competition and improving the business environment are key in providing more certainty and security for economic stakeholders, including investors and thereby increasing investments and better realising the full potential of economic development; points out that the Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (AA/DCFTA) with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Armenia, serve as the roadmaps for reforms;

Amendment 9
Mihai Tudose
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion
4. Is aware that common problems in the EaP countries are a high level of corruption, bank fraud, the influence of oligarchs, the informal economy and poor governance; calls on the EaP countries to improve the rule of law, to eliminate these problems and to tackle illicit trade;

Amendment
4. Is aware that common problems in the EaP countries are a high level of corruption, bank fraud, the influence of oligarchs, the informal economy and poor governance; calls on the EaP countries to improve the rule of law, to eliminate these problems and to tackle illicit trade; encourages European policies in order to support the EaP countries to improve the quality of governance and to modernise their societies.

Amendment 10
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Mihai Tudose, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Marek Belka, Paolo De
Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

4. Is aware that common problems in the EaP countries are a high level of corruption, bank fraud, the influence of oligarchs, the informal economy and poor governance; calls on the EaP countries to improve the rule of law, to eliminate these problems and to tackle illicit trade;

4. Is aware that common problems in the EaP countries are a high level of corruption, bank fraud, the influence of oligarchs, the informal economy and poor governance; calls on the EaP countries to improve the rule of law, to eliminate these problems and to tackle illicit trade; calls on the EaP countries to guarantee the full respect of human rights and democracy.

Amendment

Amendment 11

Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

5. Stresses the importance of the deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTAs), the comprehensive economic partnership agreements and the partnership and cooperation agreements between the EaP countries and the EU, and the importance of fully implementing them; calls for the EU to support their implementation through coordinated assistance, to promote sustainable economic development and to support economic reforms and major reforms of the banking and financial sector aiming to combat money laundering and tax evasion; urges the EU to ensure that the DCFTAs do not contradict the climate objectives and initiatives set out in the framework of the European Green Deal;

5. Stresses the importance of the deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTAs), the comprehensive economic partnership agreements and the partnership and cooperation agreements between the EaP countries and the EU, and the importance of fully implementing them; calls for the EU to closely monitor and to support their implementation through coordinated assistance, to promote sustainable economic development and to support economic reforms and major reforms of the banking and financial sector aiming to combat money laundering and tax evasion; urges the EU to ensure that the DCFTAs do not contradict the climate objectives and initiatives set out in the framework of the European Green Deal; Recalls that DCFTAs must always include strong, binding and enforceable sustainable development chapters, that
fully respect international commitments, in particular the Paris Agreement, and are compliant with WTO rules; Stresses the importance of EU assistance to EaP countries to help them achieve these goals; Expects that deepening trade relations with the EU based on the DCFTA and increased trade flows in the short run will contribute to avoid a sudden economic slowdown in EaP countries and could have favourable long-term effects;

Amendment 12
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Stresses the importance of the deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTAs), the comprehensive economic partnership agreements and the partnership and cooperation agreements between the EaP countries and the EU, and the importance of fully implementing them; calls for the EU to support their implementation through coordinated assistance, to promote sustainable economic development and to support economic reforms and major reforms of the banking and financial sector aiming to combat money laundering and tax evasion; urges the EU to ensure that the DCFTAs do not contradict the climate objectives and initiatives set out in the framework of the European Green Deal;

Amendment

5. Stresses the importance of the deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTAs), the comprehensive economic partnership agreements and the partnership and cooperation agreements between the EaP countries and the EU, and the importance of fully implementing them; calls for the EU to support their implementation through coordinated assistance, to promote sustainable development and the achievement of the United Nations' SDGs by 2030, including economic development, and to support economic reforms and major reforms of the banking and financial sector aiming to combat money laundering and tax evasion; urges the EU to ensure that the DCFTAs do not contradict the climate objectives and initiatives set out in the framework of the European Green Deal;

Or. en
Amendment 13
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

5 a. Notes that the balance of trade in services with all EaP countries has developed highly in favour of the EU, and considers this imbalance of trade unsustainable; calls for increased efforts to develop a modern and competitive services sector within the EaP countries with local ownership and to create new job opportunities at the local and regional level; stresses the importance of a functioning public services sector in providing access to services essential both for citizens and businesses;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

5 a. Stresses the importance of economic diversification and of supporting SMEs in order to develop the region’s ability to further innovate indifferent economic sectors and decrease economic migration, including in the ICT sector, and the need for sustainable and credible investments in EaP countries by devising a strategy for long-term engagement;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Helmut Scholz
Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

5 b. Calls on the Commission to provide as soon as possible a thorough ex-post impact assessment of the trade and association agreements between the Union and the EaP countries, with a focus on the social and economic development within the societies of the EaP countries; calls on the Commission to include in the impact assessment also a section reflecting the implementation of obligations arising from the signatures to the Paris protocol and our joint effort to fight against climate change;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Helmut Scholz
Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

5 c. Notes that according to the Commission and the EEAS and with regard to the 20 deliverables for 2020, progress lacks behind on cross cutting issues such as engagement with civil society organisations, increase of gender equality and non-discrimination, harmonising of digital markets, the enhancing of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, the reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions, support for the environment and adaptation to climate change; points out that progress in these areas is extremely important for achieving sound economic and trade relations and to prevent positive developments from external shock.
Amendment 17
Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Stresses the importance of conditional EU macro-financial assistance as a contribution to the stabilisation of the neighbourhood and expects further continuity under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

Amendment

6. Stresses the importance of conditional EU macro-financial assistance as a contribution to the stabilisation of the neighbourhood and expects further continuity under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. Notes the importance of stable funding for the EaP to avoid unpredictability, which would show negative political signal. Believes that economic reforms and cooperation on migration are not sufficient criteria alone; Calls on the Commission to prioritise political reforms over economic stabilisation and to emphasize democratisation.

Amendment 18
Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

6 a. Emphasises the importance of focused youth programmes in the EaP in order to improve their job market situation, create decent jobs and support mobility and cyclical migration rather than irreversible economic emigration. Notes in this regard that the stronger
growth in the ICT sector and ambitious infrastructure projects will encourage the greater connectivity with the EU and amongst the six countries. Stresses the need to support SMEs and to strengthen digital competences and further innovation within the ICT sector in order to address economic emigration challenges in the neighbourhood.

Or. en

Amendment 19
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Mihai Tudose, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Marek Belka, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

6 a. Stresses the European Commission to provide further technical support to Eastern Partners in order to improve the external investment framework, particularly in the areas of predictability, certainty and investor protection.

Or. en

Amendment 20
Urmas Paet, Dita Charanzová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

6 a. Calls for the EU to continue to support reforms in the EaP countries with technical and financial assistance;

Or. en
Amendment 21
Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

6 b. Calls on the Commission to explore increased sectoral cooperation, especially in terms of SME investment and domestic market capitalisation, of education and research, innovation and digitisation as well as environmental and green technologies, in order to share know-how and best practices;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Mihai Tudose, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Marek Belka, Paolo De Castro, Raphaël Glucksmann

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

6 b. Stresses the European Commission to extend the cooperation with our Eastern Partners to strengthen the role of civil society for the scrutiny of trade agreements and relations.

Or. en

Amendment 23
Markéta Gregorová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

6 c. Calls for an increase of loans through specialised, regionally targeted
loan programmes of the EIB and other international financial institutions.