



2020/2115(INI)

23.9.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on connectivity and EU-Asia relations
(2020/2115(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Seán Kelly

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Believes that as Asia is home to the world's largest population and fastest-growing economies, increasing connectivity between the EU and Asia, with an open, rules-based multilateral trading system that ensures a level playing field, will play a key role in mutual economic growth and will be an important factor in the recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Regrets that many countries in Asia still apply protectionist economic policies creating an unfair playing field for European businesses; notes that allowing free trade flows will build economic resilience and ensure the global availability of products through the diversification of supply chains;
3. Believes that efficient connections and networks between Europe and Asia through priority transport corridors, including air, sea and land transport, and high-capacity network links will increase trade flows between the EU and Asia; acknowledges the existence of an investment gap in connectivity and recognises the need to mobilise and strengthen cooperation with private investors, national and international institutions, and multilateral development banks;
4. Underlines the importance of the existing network of bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements and the bilateral cooperation between the EU and Asian partners, with successful examples of strategic partnerships in Japan, South Korea and Singapore;
5. Calls on the Commission to ensure the enforcement of trade agreements and make existing ones more ambitious, in particular by promoting sustainable EU norms and standards.