

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2007/2186(INI)

15.11.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on International Trade

on economic and trade relations with Korea
(2007/2186(INI))

Draftsman: Werner Langen

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SUGGESTIONS

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

General suggestions

1. Recalls the multilateral regulatory system and underlines that free trade agreements negotiated and concluded by the European Union should be accompanied by adequate mechanisms compatible with the WTO agenda;
2. Considers that any free trade agreement with Korea must be in line with the progress made in the WTO Doha Development Round of negotiations and should take account of the four so-called Singapore Issues (foreign investment, competition, transparency in public procurement and trade facilitation);

Regarding individual economic sectors

3. Calls for the conclusion of a free trade agreement with Korea that covers trade in goods and services, makes scientific and technical cooperation and intellectual property an essential element of bilateral agreements, promotes cooperation on energy efficiency, is against climate change and includes provisions on other external aspects of energy policy, nuclear and renewable energy sources and the Galileo programme;
4. Emphasises that any free trade agreement with Korea should ensure the following:
 - no concentration on 'sensitive' products in specific sectors that are exempt from the rules on competition (e.g. agriculture),
 - an improvement and simplification of Community rules on origin,
 - broader harmonisation of existing international norms and standards instead of the introduction of new standards,
 - more stringent disclosure requirements and the promotion of best practices in regulation,
 - the transparency of national support mechanisms and the dismantling of existing non-tariff barriers,
 - compliance with international technical regulations and labelling requirements and Korea's ceasing to use non-tariff barriers, in particular in the automotive, pharmaceutical, cosmetics and electronics industries;
5. Proposes that the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) should form the basis of a free trade agreement with Korea, as agreements on services formed the basis of free trade agreements with the USA and of the strict social and environmental clauses

contained therein;

6. Considers that, in the light of the EU's problematic experiences with the Korean shipbuilding industry's dumping prices, effective and immediately enforceable sanction mechanisms should be applied in the event of infringement;
7. Points to the particular problem of the inclusion of goods from the (North Korean) Kaesong Industrial Complex and considers that this would only be acceptable if basic Community rules on origin as well as core labour standards were applied in respect of the manufacture of these goods.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	12.11.20007
Result of final vote	+ : 28 - : 3 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Renato Brunetta, Gianni De Michelis, Den Dover, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, András Gyürk, Fiona Hall, David Hammerstein, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Atanas Paparizov, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Nikolaos Vakalis
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Danutė Budreikaitė, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Edit Herczog, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Vittorio Prodi, Esko Seppänen
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Eva Lichtenberger