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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on International Trade

on a new forward-looking and innovative future strategy on trade and investment
(2015/2105(INI))

Rapporteur: Theresa Griffin

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Emphasises that trade and investment policies must be aimed at creating sustainable growth and high-quality, decent jobs, and that future trade agreements should be drawn up in such a way as to form part of an industrial strategy based on fair competition and reciprocity;
2. Stresses the importance of SMEs to trade and investment, given that there are more than 600 000 SMEs in the EU, which account for one third of EU exports;
3. Notes that sustainable production requires decent work and environmental, social and labour standards, as defined by the ILO Conventions, and must be an indispensable part of trade agreements;
4. Stresses the importance of preventing the EU's trading partners from engaging in anti-competitive practices, including social or environmental dumping, or the dumping of cheap products in Europe, as this could de-stabilise European industry;
5. Believes that trade and investment policies can play a role in the development of the telecoms market and digital economy in Europe and bring clear benefits to EU consumers and businesses; stresses, however, that trade strategies must ensure that non-EU companies do not take advantage of the fragmentation of the EU market;
6. Calls on the Commission to encourage European research bodies to engage more actively with potential partners outside the EU;
7. Calls on the Commission, given the EU's reliance on foreign energy supplies, to promote the diversification of energy suppliers, routes and sources through the development of renewables, as well as promoting energy efficiency;
8. Notes the requirement in the Commission's 'Investment Plan for Europe' to boost investment within the EU, and considers trade strategies to be an essential means of achieving this goal.