



2017/2065(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on International Trade

on Towards a digital trade strategy
(2017/2065(INI))

Rapporteur: Reinhard Bütikofer

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the increased speed and convenience of digital tools empower companies and expand their reach; stresses that the EU must develop strategies to harness the benefits of digital technology for its citizens, businesses and consumers, ensure fair market access and protect the fundamental rights of citizens;
2. Highlights that the deployment of infrastructure adequate in coverage, quality and security is crucial for digitising European industry and increasing e-governance;
3. Highlights the global nature of best ICT standards and technical specifications for trade infrastructure, both locally and internationally;
4. Underlines the importance of selecting trade partners that apply the highest standards; opposes the use of trade agreements as a standardisation tool;
5. Highlights the major societal impact of digital trade on employment, working conditions, workers' rights, education and skills; insists that trade agreements keep competition fair and do not lower European standards;
6. Stresses that fair and similar treatment of stakeholders must be included in all trade agreements; believes that European businesses should enjoy the same rights as economic actors from partner countries, so as to fully ensure the cybersecurity of their operations and the confidentiality of their communications;
7. Stresses that trade agreements should encourage the use of advanced technologies, the interoperability of systems and predictable contractual relations;
8. Stresses the importance of the compatibility of payment systems and clear rules on taxation and duties;
9. Proposes the inclusion in trade agreements of a provision maintaining the right of a party to protect personal data, with the only condition that it must not be used with the intention of restricting data flows for reasons other than the protection of personal data.