



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on International Trade

2009/2218(INI)

11.1.2010

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Development

on the EU Policy Coherence for Development and the 'Official Development Assistance plus concept' (ODA +)
(2009/2218(INI))

Rapporteur: Joe Higgins

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that the Commission's strategy paper entitled 'Global Europe: Competing in the world' is by no means a contribution towards Policy Coherence for Development, but instead underlines the predatory nature of the trade promoted by the EU in the interests of EU-based multinationals;
2. Stresses that the neo-liberal agenda of trade liberalisation, implemented forcefully by all major economic powers over the past 20-25 years, has led to an ever greater gap opening up between rich and poor globally;
3. Recognises that according to the Commission's Aid for Trade (AfT) monitoring report 2009 (COM(2009)160 final, p. 30), the EU's AfT commitments to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States fell from €2975 million in 2005 to €2097 million in 2007, that the ACP's share of the EU's overall AfT commitments fell from 50% to 36% over the same period, and that this is not consistent with prior promises to prioritise poverty eradication and development;
4. Notes that there has been mass opposition by the trade union movement and civil society, for example in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya and Senegal, to the introduction of EPAs and stresses that trade should be conducted in the interests of working people and the poor masses in Europe and around the world;
5. Underlines the fact that the so-called 'Singapore issues', such as liberalisation of services, investment and government procurement, the introduction of competition rules and stronger enforcement of intellectual property rights, do not serve the aim of achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals;
6. Reiterates that the EU should support those developing countries which use the 'flexibilities' built into the TRIPS Agreement in order to be able to provide medicines at affordable prices under their domestic public health programmes;
7. Deplores the TRIPS+ provisions included in the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement, and in the agreement that is being finalised with the countries of the Andean Community, provisions which create barriers to access to essential medicines.