



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 – 2014

---

*Session document*

---

9.12.2009

B7-0192/2009

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Question for Oral Answer B7-0232/2009

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the prospects for the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) following the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference

**Michael Theurer, Niccolò Rinaldi, Metin Kazak,**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**B7-0192/2009**

**European Parliament resolution on the prospects for the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) following the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the GATT Agreement, Chapter IV, Articles 36 (Principles and Objectives) and 37 (Commitments),
  - having regard to the Doha Ministerial Declaration of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of 14 November 2001,
  - having regard to the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of 18 December 2005,
  - having regard to its resolution of 4 April 2006 on the assessment of the Doha Round following the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the 2008 draft blueprints (or ‘modalities’) for a final deal on agricultural and non-agricultural trade,
  - having regard to the G20 Leaders’ Statement adopted in Pittsburgh on 25 September 2009,
  - having regard to the inaugural speech by Pascal Lamy at the WTO Public Forum on 28 September 2009,
  - having regard to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the EU Member States’ aid commitments to tackle hunger and poverty,
  - having regard to the WTO’s 2009 Annual Report,
  - having regard to the Conclusions of the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference of 2 December 2009,
  - having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Doha Round was launched in 2001 with the objectives of creating new trading opportunities, strengthening multilateral trade rules, addressing current imbalances in the trading system and putting trade at the service of sustainable development, with an emphasis on the economic integration of developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), arising from the conviction that a multilateral system, based on more just and equitable rules, can contribute to fair and free trade at the service of the development of all continents,

---

<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted of that date, P6\_TA(2006)0123.

- B. whereas the Doha Declaration reaffirms its commitment to special and differential treatment for developing countries to take account of their unequal situation,
- C. whereas the WTO Ministerial Talks to close the Doha Round stalled at the end of July 2008,
- D. whereas international trade has been particularly deeply affected by the economic crisis, with trade flows decreasing even more significantly than global output,
- E. whereas the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference, which took place in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 2009, underlined the great importance of trade and the Doha Round for economic recovery and poverty alleviation in developing countries,
- F. whereas the name ‘European Union’ was used for the first time in the WTO in the 1 December 2009 working session at the Seventh Ministerial Conference, following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon,
  - 1. Reiterates its commitment to the multilateral trading system and the WTO as the guarantor of a rules-based trade system; believes that the WTO has a key role to play in ensuring better management of globalisation and more equitable distribution of its benefits;
  - 2. Takes the view that, in the current economic crisis, WTO rules and commitments have to a great extent prevented Members from having recourse to trade-restrictive measures, while allowing for flexibility in adopting economic recovery measures;

#### **DDA (Doha Development Agreement)**

- 3. Recalls the commitment made in Doha in 2001 by all WTO Members to conclude a Development Round of negotiations aiming at rectifying the existing imbalances in the trade system and aiming to put trade at the service of development;
- 4. Acknowledges the progress that has been achieved in the DDA since the Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong; notes the commitment shown at the Seventh Ministerial Conference in Geneva, which was not on DDA negotiations;
- 5. Strongly supports the conclusion of the DDA on the basis of a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced outcome to the negotiations, to the benefit of economic growth and development worldwide, as well as of the credibility of the multilateral trading system;
- 6. Believes that the needs of the developing and, especially, least developed countries should be given priority in the DDA negotiations, with development and the contribution of trade to eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Goals being placed at the forefront in all considerations;
- 7. Urges the advanced developing countries to assume their responsibility as global economic players and to make concessions commensurate with their level of development and (sectoral) competitiveness; emphasises the importance of North-South, as well as South-South, trade;
- 8. Calls for appropriate differentiation among advanced and other developing countries, to

the benefit of those developing countries that are in the greatest need;

9. Calls on the developed and advanced developing countries to follow the EU Everything but Arms initiative, offering 100% duty-free, quota-free market access for the least developed countries (LDCs); emphasises also the importance of an enhanced framework for Aid for Trade;
10. Calls on the Commission to pursue the objectives set out in the negotiating mandate as regards protection of geographical indications and intellectual property rights (IPRs), market access for industrial goods and services and public procurement in both developed and developing countries, and minimal requirements for environmental and social standards;
11. Encourages the Commission to play a more active role in promoting tangible progress in the ongoing WTO negotiations with a view to concluding the Doha Round by the end of next year and being a bridge between the United States and emerging countries, as well as promoting the full participation of developing countries and LDCs in global trade;

#### **i. Agriculture**

12. Urges the developed countries to abide by their commitments of July 2008 with regard to agricultural market access in the establishment of final modalities;
13. Calls on the Commission to comply strictly with its negotiating mandate from the Council, which sets the already completed CAP reform and the subsidy cuts envisaged for 2013 as the limit of its action, provided that equivalent concessions are obtained from its trading partners, and to strongly defend the EU position on geographical indications;
14. Urges WTO Members, particularly the United States, to abide by their Hong Kong undertaking to put an end to export subsidies, particularly on cotton, in order to eliminate one of the most damaging trade-distorting measures affecting poor countries' agricultural producers;

#### **ii. NAMA (non-agricultural market access)**

15. Calls for ambitious results in the negotiations on non-agricultural market access (NAMA), guaranteeing real new market-access opportunities through substantial cuts in applied rates, while allowing for special and differential treatment; favours the pursuit of sectoral initiatives in areas of export interest for the EU;

#### **iii. Services**

16. Urges the Commission to maintain a firm negotiating stance aimed at genuinely enhanced market access for European products and services in both developed and emerging economies;
17. Encourages WTO Members to explore the potential positive impact of the liberalisation of services in general;

#### **Reform of the WTO**

18. Notes that reflection is needed on an institutional reform of the WTO designed to improve its functioning and its democratic legitimacy and accountability; stresses in this context the importance of a parliamentary dimension to the WTO; calls on the Commission to play an active role in the future institutional reform of the WTO and in the promotion of a WTO parliamentary assembly;
19. Believes that the frustrations of the developing countries over the lack of transparency in the difficult negotiation process highlight the need, once the round is over, to address the question of reform of the WTO as a matter of urgency;
20. Believes that the WTO needs to address more effectively the links between trade and new global challenges such as climate change, food security and sovereignty, and decent work;
21. Calls for enhanced cooperation between the WTO and other international organisations and bodies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in order to ensure mutual supportiveness and consistency between trade and non-trade concerns; in this context supports efforts aiming for the adoption of international standards and regulatory cooperation;
22. Supports the strengthening of existing, and the conclusion of new, bilateral and regional (WTO-plus) free trade agreements, but not as an alternative to the multilateral framework;

### **Lisbon Treaty**

23. Urges the Commission to associate Parliament closely in the ongoing negotiations; points out, therefore, the need to renegotiate the Interinstitutional Treaty in order to reflect the trade provisions of the Lisbon Treaty whereby European trade policy must be subject to more rigorous democratic scrutiny; intends, in the light of the Lisbon Treaty, to revise the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) in order to establish full participation by Parliament in the EU's international trade negotiations, ensuring in particular:
  - (a) that Parliament is informed, before the negotiations open, of the chosen legal basis,
  - (b) that, in the event of a formal request from Parliament, the Council will agree not to authorise the opening of negotiations until Parliament has stated its position on the proposed negotiating mandate on the basis of a report from the committee responsible,
  - (c) that Parliament is provided with regular, full and timely information over the course of all bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations,
  - (d) that, if at any stage of the negotiation Parliament adopts recommendations regarding the conduct of negotiations, the Commission will take Parliament's opinion into account before the conclusion of an agreement,
  - (e) that an interinstitutional inventory incorporating all documents that the Commission provides to the special committee provided for in Article 207(3) TFEU is set up and

used;

24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Director-General of the WTO.