

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

Pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Richard Howitt, Caroline Lucas, Patrick Gaubert, Helmuth Markov, Renate Weber

on Colombia and the GSP plus trade preference

Lapse date: 5.2.2009

0090/2008

Written declaration on Colombia and the GSP plus trade preference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Government of Colombia was awarded GSP plus status effective from January 2006, requiring the ‘effective implementation’ of a number of core labour and human rights conventions,
- B. whereas recent reports by the Colombian National Trade Union School, the Colombian Commission of Jurists, the US State Department (and numerous non-governmental organisations) show that the Government has been ineffective in implementing these conventions,
- C. whereas the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations expressed its concerns in 2008 about reported anti trade union practices,
- D. whereas the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards expressed its concern in a report written in 2008 about reported anti trade union practices,
- 1. Urges the Commission and the Council to use the renewal process for Regulation 732/2008 (applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences):
 - a. to fully evaluate (and inform Parliament of its evaluation) the submissions made by a range of Colombian trade union and non-governmental organisations (including the ILO) detailing these reported breaches of labour and human rights law,
 - b. to undertake an investigation into the reported failure of the Government to ‘effectively implement’ the human rights and labour conventions listed in the annex to the Regulation,
 - c. to release the GSP plus report on beneficiary countries to the Trade Committee in camera before 15 December 2008;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.