



2015/2233(INI)

7.12.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the
Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)
(2015/2233(INI))

Rapporteur: Lola Sánchez Caldentey

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that EU trade and investment policies are interlinked with EU development policies and have an impact on developing countries; calls for the Commission to respect the principle of Policy Coherence for Development and to incorporate the principles of aid for trade in all trade negotiations; stresses the need to focus on the effective implementation and monitoring of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals; calls the Commission to guarantee the highest global standards on human rights, ILO standards, social protection, social dialogue, gender equality, public and universal health coverage, universal access to medicines, and food security in all trade agreements;
2. Acknowledges the recent steps by the EU to increment transparency in its trade agreements; urges the Commission to continue to increase transparency and democratic accountability in the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiation process; recognises the EU institutions' ongoing engagement with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the process; encourages the Commission to continue, and possibly enhance, this proactive approach to transparency in the EU's trade policies; stresses the need to take into account concerns expressed by trade unions and civil society organisations, including the CSOs of developing countries; urges the Commission to increase the accessibility of all public consolidated negotiation documents, as these are the only democratic means by which concerned civil society organisations and citizens can be informed about and become involved in the process; encourages the Commission to commission an independent study on TiSA's impact on developing countries as regards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in third countries and to give careful consideration to its outcomes;
3. Points out that, according to UNCTAD, the service sector accounts for approximately 51 % of GDP in developing countries; notes also that service exports from African countries are increasing; recognises that trade, including in services, could, under certain conditions be a trigger for inclusive growth, sustainable development, poverty and inequality reduction and decent job creation, and can encourage innovation by facilitating exchanges of know-how, technology and investment in research and development, including through foreign investment; maintains, consequently, that enabling developing countries to gain fair access to world markets in services can bolster their economic integration and their adjustment to globalisation;
4. Notes that only a limited number of developing countries participate in the TiSA negotiations; reiterates the need for a strengthened multilateral approach to global trade, to be achieved by means of intensified cooperation between the EU and democratic international bodies, such as the UN and the WTO, in which developing countries are properly represented; notes that TiSA should be based on the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), to which all WTO members are parties; recalls, however, its rejection of any provision that would be incompatible with GATS and that would prevent future integration into the WTO system; calls on the Commission to take into account the impact of TiSA on countries that are not part of the negotiations, especially developing countries, and to include in TiSA the provisions contained in GATS Article IV;

5. Urges the Commission to make efforts in order to avoid imbalances in international trade relations; recalls that SDG target 17.15 acknowledges the need to respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development; insists that the right of national and local authorities to regulate is preserved throughout the TiSA negotiations; stresses that, in order to mitigate any potentially negative effects for developing countries, whose priorities are to develop their service sectors, including services of general economic interests, and their regulatory frameworks, the EU should intensify its actions to include developing countries in global value chains in services, and consider a more flexible approach for developing countries when subscribing to the level of ambition of the agreement;
6. Calls on the Commission explicitly to exclude from the TiSA negotiations public services and cultural and audiovisual services – and to ensure specifically that developing countries are able to preserve their cultural assets – as these represent fundamental tools for sustainable development and for ensuring respect for people's dignity; recalls that TiSA, like any other international agreement, must comply with internationally agreed standards on labour, the environment and human rights; invites the Commission to support and monitor the capacity-building efforts of developing countries in providing sustainable public services;
7. Recalls that the 2008 crisis of the financial system demonstrated the need to define strong prudential regulations on the liberalisation of financial services in order to maintain the soundness and stability of financial markets; calls on the Commission, therefore, to ensure that the financial service aspects of TiSA safeguard the highest transparency and accountability standards, ensure debt sustainability, guarantee the principle of the common responsibility of lenders and borrowers and do not increase economic volatility or instability;
8. Calls on the Commission to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in its trade policy, in light of existing concerns, and to monitor closely the impact of EU trade agreements on gender equality; points out, in this connection, that the gender dimension of trade in services in Africa, where the proportion of women employed by the service sector exceeds female employment in manufacturing, might be an opportunity for the development of women's entrepreneurship and decent employment;
9. Recalls that TiSA must not undermine EU law and respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which is binding upon the EU institutions and bodies and applies to national governments when they implement EU law; recalls that the EU is based on a strong commitment to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law worldwide; insists, in this connection, that human rights are at the very heart of EU relations with other countries and regions;
10. Invites the Commission to reflect on the recent withdrawal of Uruguay from the TiSA negotiations and to draw the necessary conclusions by paying more attention to the needs of developing countries that sign up to TiSA.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| Date adopted | 1.12.2015 |
| Result of final vote | +: 21 -: 0 0: 0 |
| Members present for the final vote | Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Stelios Kouloglou, Arne Lietz, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Maurice Ponga, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, György Schöpflin, Pedro Silva Pereira, Davor Ivo Stier, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Rainer Wieland |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Jordi Sebastià |
| Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote | Pál Csáky, José Inácio Faria, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández |