

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on International Trade

2004/2225(INI)

27.1.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on the effect of globalisation on the internal market
(2004/2225(INI))

Draftsperson: Helmuth Markov

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the recent European debate on the challenges posed by globalisation to the internal market, a question whose importance was emphasised by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union at their informal summit at Hampton Court on 27 October 2005;
2. Highlights the concerns expressed by the Commission, in its Communication on European values in the globalised world¹, about the impact of globalisation on European workers; applauds the Commission's initiative to set up a Globalisation Adjustment Fund, and calls for the allocation of significant resources to this initiative;
3. Notes that, regardless of concerns about the negative impact of globalisation on the EU economy, the EU has maintained its leading position in global trade and that companies from EU Member States invest mostly in the EU and US markets despite the emergence of new foreign players, such as China, India and Brazil;
4. Notes that the EU and Member States need to devote a great deal of attention to the continuing education of their citizens so as to ensure an increased participation of the labour force in the value-added sector of the emerging global economy;
5. Notes that the rapid multilateral liberalisation of trade with third countries with low labour and environmental standards poses a considerable challenge to the competitiveness of the European economy and requires huge adjustments to the European economic and social models; supports the Commission's efforts to pursue the Lisbon Strategy, which provides for appropriate adjustments;
6. Points out that in order to realise potential gains from globalisation, the EU must adapt to global economic changes; advance in areas of economic strength, such as the medium-high technology sector; address its weaknesses, as in the high-technology sector, including ICT and bio-technology; and develop new areas of comparative advantage;
7. Considers that adequate policies need to be elaborated in order to preserve our social systems and prevent possible social inequalities that might result from globalisation;
8. Regards the application of clear labelling rules and observance of denominations of origin as means of guaranteeing the protection of European goods and values;
9. Calls on the Commission to increase preferential access to the EU market for those third countries which have ratified and appropriately applied core international labour and environmental standards, and to grant further preferential market access to

¹ COM(2005) 0525

countries that have adopted legislation on social and environmental protection and respect for cultural diversity;

10. Takes note of the fact that, today, 65% of market-opening initiatives worldwide are unilateral initiatives (by nation states and state unions); followed by multilateral initiatives, such as the WTO (25%); and bilateral initiatives (10%);
11. Points out that achieving progress in social and fiscal harmonisation at the European level could lower resistance to the completion of the internal market in services;
12. Points out that the creation of an internal market in services is essential in order to achieve the Lisbon Strategy goals, and, therefore, to increase the European Union's competitiveness on the world market;
13. Applauds those Member States which have opened up their labour markets for citizens from the new Member States and thus significantly contributed to a more mobile and competitive internal market in employment; urges those Member States which still maintain restrictions in this regard to eliminate existing obstacles to the free movement of labour;
14. Calls on the Commission to carry out an assessment of the impact on the internal market of further multilateral market opening in agriculture, manufacturing and services, and to share these assessments with a wide range of stake-holders prior to formulating its trade negotiation strategy in international trade negotiations.

PROCEDURE

Title	The effect of globalisation on the internal market
Procedure number	(2004/2225(INI))
Committee responsible	IMCO
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	INTA 18.11.2004
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	No
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Helmuth Markov 17.1.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	14.3.2005 29.8.2005 23.11.2005
Date adopted	24.1.2006
Result of final vote	+: 28 –: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Enrique Barón Crespo, Jean-Louis Boulanges, Daniel Caspary, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Jacky Henin, Syed Kamall, Sajjad Karim, Caroline Lucas, Erika Mann, Helmuth Markov, David Martin, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Georgios Papastamkos, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Bogusław Rogalski, Tokia Saïfi, Robert Sturdy, Johan Van Hecke, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Zbigniew Zaleski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Margrietus van den Berg, Elisa Ferreira, Robert Goebbels, Antolín Sánchez Presedo
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Seán Ó Neachtain, Carl Schlyter
Comments (available in one language only)	...