

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on International Trade*

**2008/2026(BUD)**

10.9.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2009  
(C6-0309/2008 – 2008/2026(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Helmuth Markov

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that new Aid for Trade money should be additional to existing development aid and new Aid for Trade pledges should not lead to the shifting of resources already earmarked for other development initiatives; reiterates the request made to the Commission to provide information on the origin of the EUR 1,000,000,000 pledged;
2. Expresses its concern regarding the lack of clarity on the way Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) will be financed; calls on the Commission to provide detailed information regarding what financial assistance it will provide to ACP countries to adapt to the economic changes following the signing of EPAs;
3. Reiterates the request made to the Commission to assess progress made in implementing the measures taken in the Aid for Trade area and to submit to Parliament and Council a biannual report (starting in 2009) on implementation and results obtained and, as far as possible, on the main outcomes and effects of Aid for Trade assistance;
4. Requests explicitly that the biannual report contain specific information on the history of the measures financed, where appropriate showing the results of monitoring and evaluation exercises, the involvement of the relevant partners, and the implementation of the pledges, budget commitments and payments, broken down by country, region and category of assistance; requests that the report also assess progress made in mainstreaming trade into aid programming and the results achieved with the assistance, using, as far as possible, specific and measurable indicators of its role in meeting the Aid for Trade objectives;
5. Calls on the Commission to present, in advance of Parliament's second reading, an overview providing the complete figures for all Aid for Trade finance coming from the EU budget, and the complete figure for the total amount of Aid for Trade for all "trade-related assistance";
6. Reiterates that Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) should be subject to strict monitoring and conditionality as the EU does not control the ways in which beneficiary countries spend the EU's general un-earmarked funds entering their general budget; regrets that MFA lacks a proper legal basis and continues to be based on ad hoc Council decisions for each operation; reiterates the need for a co-decided framework regulation on MFA that enhances transparency, accountability, monitoring and reporting systems;
7. Requests the Commission to supply Parliament in due time with information concerning MFA programming and the expected timetable for the Commission's MFA-related proposals; insists that the Council invite Parliament to deliver its opinion on the Commission's MFA-related proposals by way of the "urgency procedure" only when absolutely necessary and after due justification;

8. Reiterates that it is necessary to provide concrete financial support for pharmaceutical-related technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries and local production of pharmaceuticals in all developing countries, especially LDCs, in discharging the obligations laid down in Article 66(2) of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS);
9. Points out that it is necessary to increase funding for research and development in the field of poverty-related, tropical and neglected diseases with the participation of public-private partnerships and other possible funding ventures, and to support research institutes willing to cooperate in public health initiatives dedicated to these efforts and pursuing research into and development of, medicines of special relevance to developing countries;
10. Calls on the Commission to submit to Parliament as soon as possible a proposal for establishing the planned European Business Centre in China; stresses that the submission of a proposal is a precondition for the decision on making available the necessary funds; calls for the duplication of structures to be avoided when the European Business Centre in China is established.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	9.9.2008
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 25 - : 1 0 : 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Carlos Carnero González, Daniel Caspary, Françoise Castex, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Jacky Hénin, Alain Lipietz, Erika Mann, Helmuth Markov, David Martin, Vural Öger, Georgios Papastamkos, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Gianluca Susta, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Corien Wortmann-Kool
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Pierre Audy, Albert Deß, Elisa Ferreira, Vasco Graça Moura, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Rovana Plumb, Salvador Domingo Sanz Palacio, Zbigniew Zaleski
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	