

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on International Trade

2008/2026B(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
(C6-0310/2008 – 2008/2026B(BUD))

Section I - European Parliament

Rapporteur: Helmuth Markov

PA_NonLeg

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:

- having regard to its resolutions of 24 April 2008 entitled "Towards a reform of the World Trade Organization"¹, of 4 April 2006 entitled "The assessment of the Doha Round following the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong"², of 12 May 2005 entitled "The assessment of the Doha Round following the WTO General Council Decision of 1 August 2004"³, of 9 March 2005 entitled "The guidelines for Sections II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII(A) and VIII(B) and on the European Parliament's preliminary draft estimates (Section I) for the 2006 budgetary procedure"⁴, of 22 April 2004 entitled "The estimates of revenue and expenditure of Parliament for the financial year 2005"⁵ and of 26 February 2004 entitled "2005 budget procedure: guidelines for sections II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII(A) and VIII(B) and preliminary draft estimates (Section I) for the 2005 budgetary procedure"⁶,
- 1. Recalls that parliamentarians, as elected representatives of the citizens, have an important role to play in trade negotiations and, in particular, in World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations;
- 2. Stresses that, since 2002, Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a Geneva-based international organisation, have been jointly organising and co-financing the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of the WTO, whose activities could be stepped up;
- 3. Notes that the principal objective of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is to enhance the external transparency of the WTO and to make it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people; further notes that it is a forum in which members of parliaments from all over the world exchange opinions, information and experience on international trade issues and provide a parliamentary dimension to the WTO by: i) overseeing WTO activities and promoting their effectiveness and fairness, ii) promoting the transparency of WTO procedures and improving dialogue between governments, parliaments and civil society, and iii) building capacity in parliaments in matters of international trade and exerting influence on the direction of discussions within the WTO;
- 4. Reiterates its declared aim to accompany WTO negotiations with a parliamentary process; stresses, therefore, that there will be a continual future need to finance this crucial activity; notes, in this regard, that in 2009 there will be at least an Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, either in parallel with the WTO Ministerial Conference - if it is organised - or otherwise in Brussels or Geneva and that there will be two sessions of its Steering Committee in Geneva;

¹ P6_TA(2008)0180.

² OJ C 293 E, 2.12.2006, p. 155.

³ OJ C 92 E, 20.4.2006, p. 397.

⁴ OJ C 320 E, 15.12.2005, p. 156.

⁵ OJ C 104 E, 30.4.2004, p. 1014.

⁶ OJ C 98 E, 23.4.2004, p. 171.

5. Is determined, as co-organiser of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to ensure that sufficient appropriations are available to provide for the adequate participation, with the necessary infrastructure, of its delegations in all meetings and cover the defrayal of travel and subsistence expenses of six representatives of the ACP countries;
6. Points out that, should a WTO Ministerial Conference be organised in 2009, Parliament would guarantee the reinforcement of budget line 3 0 4 4 in order to cover the costs connected with the organisation, in parallel, of a session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	0.0.0000
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	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
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Albert Deß, Elisa Ferreira, Vasco Graça Moura, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Rovana Plumb, Salvador Domingo Sanz Palacio, Zbigniew Zaleski
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	