

European Parliament Resolution on the Community's position in the GATT negotiations (18 June 1975)

Caption: On 18 June 1975, the European Parliament calls the Member States of the European Economic Community (EEC) engaged in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations to work in support of an equitable world trade organisation.

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The European Parliament,

— having regard to the results of the meeting of the Council of the European Communities of 10 February 1975, which broadly confirm the fundamental positions of the Community based on the Commission's overall approach drawn up with a view to the multilateral negotiations in GATT (COM(73) 556 and 556/2),

— having regard to the declaration issued at the end of the conference of ministers of the Member States of GATT (Tokyo, 12 to 14 September 1973),

— having regard to its resolution of 4 July 1973 (1),

— having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Opinions of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 106/75),

1. Welcomes the opening of the new multilateral negotiations in GATT, which demonstrate the desire of the participating countries to oppose the disorganization of world trade and to give a new impetus to international trade exchanges;
2. Regards the new approach defined by the Commission for the negotiations, in so far as the guidelines allow it to be judged, as balanced and flexible;
3. Requests the Commission to advocate liberalization of international trade based on the principle of reciprocity between all countries;
4. Supports the petition adopted by the Community in the negotiations, in so far as it is aimed at obtaining not only a significant reduction to customs tariffs but also, at the same time, a harmonization of these tariffs at world level;
5. Invites the Member States to speed up within the Community the process of harmonization in respect of non-tariff barriers to trade and to give the Commission wider power to negotiate in this field;
6. Considers that, without prejudice to the common agricultural policy, the stabilization of world agricultural markets is a necessary condition for supplies to the world population and for its well-being;
7. Doubts the effectiveness of an international code of good conduct in the agricultural sector unless an appropriate supervisory body is set up at the same time and recognized internationally;
8. Emphasizes the need for a more flexible organization of the GATT safeguard clause arrangements (pursuant to Article XIX of GATT);
9. Emphasizes the exceptional importance of the Community's objective in the negotiations of helping to broaden the developing countries' opportunities to participate in the expansion of world trade;
10. Requests the Commission to vigorously oppose, in the light of experience gained during the world primary commodity and energy crisis, the introduction of export restrictions and other protectionist measures as part of national external trade policy;
11. Supports the Community's position in the negotiations in so far as it is aimed at obtaining an appropriate counterpart to the concessions granted to the eastern countries;

12. Hopes that certain reservations included in the 1974 American Trade Act will not prove a hindrance to the implementation of the agreements reached in the GATT negotiations;

13. Emphasizes that an effective world economic system can only exist on the basis of a coherent international monetary system which should be organized at the earliest possible date;

14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

(1) OJ No C 62, 31.7.1973, p. 22.