



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA), Brussels, 25 - 26 January 2012

1. Election of the Chair and 4 Vice Chairs

In its constituent meeting on 25th January, INTA confirmed its Bureau by acclamation:

Chair: Mr. Viral MOREIRA (S&D/PT)
1st Vice-Chair: Ms. Christiana MUSCARDINI (EPP/IT)
2nd Vice-Chair: Mr. Robert STURDY (ECR/UK)
3rd Vice-Chair: Mr. Pawel ZALEWSKI (EPP/PL)
4th Vice-Chair: Mr. Yannick JADOT (Greens/FR)

2. Monitoring Group Activities

INTA/7/08162

Exchange of views

The members responsible for the monitoring groups on the US (Mr. MOREIRA), Canada (Mr. STASTNY EPP/SK), Central America (Mr. ZALBA EPP/ES) and China (Mr. SCHOLZ GUE/DE) , briefly presented the state of play of the work in their recently established working groups which should focus on trade related aspects of relations. All reported to be in the process of establishing contacts with the relevant EP delegations and negotiators of agreement at the Commission and the planning of forthcoming work.

3. Amendment of certain regulations relating to the common commercial policy as regards the granting of delegated powers for the adoption of certain measures

INTA/7/06285 2011/0153(COD) COM(2011)0349 – C7-0162/2011

Consideration of draft report

The rapporteur Mr. LEICHTFIED (S&D/AT) presented the main amendments he intended to table for this so called "Omnibus II" proposal on delegated acts. These concerned the reinforcement of the role of the European Parliament i.e. the participation of EP experts in the preparation and drafting of delegated acts, the limitation of the time in which the Commission could exercise delegations to a (renewable) period of 5 years and clarifications as regards the differences between Omnibus I (implementing powers) and II, such as the move of acts related to market access for ACP countries from Omnibus I to Omnibus II.

The representative of the Commission commented on certain amendments and in particular on those requesting the participation of EP experts in the decision making process for delegated acts. In her view this was not part of the interinstitutional agreement and would disturb the institutional balance. She considered that limiting in time delegated powers would create legal uncertainty for traders.

The Chair agreed with the Commission's comments, saying that if delegated powers are conferred they should be exercised by the Commission. The Council and the European Parliament had the possibility to react at a later stage.

The rapporteur concluded that his intention was to give the European Parliament the possibility to react at an early stage and, if need be, possibly to take back the delegated powers, which was not possible if the delegation was not limited in time.

The deadline for amendments was set for 6 February 2012.

4. Amendment to Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 as regards the exclusion of a number of countries from the list of regions or states which have concluded negotiations

INTA/7/07312 2011/0260(COD) COM(2011)0598 – C7-0305/2011

First exchange of views

In the absence of the rapporteur Mr. MARTIN (S&D/UK), Mr. LANGE (S&D/DE) introduced the Commission proposal which was aimed at restricting market access to countries which had not signed an EPA by 1 January 2014. Nine of the eighteen countries that might be subject to this measure were Least Developed Countries (LDCs), for which he felt the measure was not appropriate. He considered that the proposal should be assessed in conjunction with GSP reform and called on the Commission to maintain the partnership with ACP countries instead of increasing the pressure.

Mr. JADOT, whilst expressing understanding for the impatience of the Commission EPA negotiators, spoke along the same lines, criticising the fact that the Commission was sanctioning countries such as Haiti which were not willing to sign an EPA. He called for a case by case approach in line with the ACP agreement and taking into account development prospects. Mr. SCHOLZ agreed with the criticism and insisted on a continuation of the dialogue with ACP countries. Mr. DARTHMOU (EFD/UK) said that his group had major concerns with this proposal as it would sanction eleven Commonwealth countries.

The representative of the Commission recalled the long history of market access of ACP countries and its WTO context. He considered that negotiations with certain countries were not very fruitful and that care should be taken not to create an unfair treatment of countries which had made efforts and signed an EPA, but which would, in the end, have the same conditions as those that had not. He explained that the amendment to the Regulation would only enter into force on 1 January 2014, which left some more time for negotiations, and that countries, in particular LDCs, which dropped out, could still benefit from market access under GSP. Replying to a specific question from Mr. LANGE on the status of Botswana and Namibia, which would drop out of both systems, he said that it was hoped that both countries would sign an EPA since this better addressed their development needs.

The draft report would be discussed on 26 March 2012.

5. Engaging in energy policy cooperation with partners beyond our borders: A strategic approach to secure, sustainable and competitive energy supply

INTA/7/08433

Consideration of draft opinion for ITRE

The rapporteur Mr. ZHRADIL (ECR/CZ) emphasised the need for the EU to have a single energy policy, which needed synergy with trade. Considering the energy mix in different Member States he said he was in favour of more transparency and information exchange. Energy policy should look beyond traditional fossil resources and also address renewable energy and bio fuel. Developing countries should be assisted with exploiting their own sustainable resources.

Mr. JADOT considered that there were important links with other ongoing reports and announced that his group would table a series of amendments strengthening the overall consistency and the references to renewable energy targets, energy efficiency and the fight against climate change. Mr. LANGE asked that trade partners should be made aware of the EU energy policy, called for increasing cooperation with third countries and requested the safeguarding of the EP's role in energy policy-making which should not be left to Member States alone.

Mr. SCHOLZ advocated that consideration also be given to the EP position on access to raw materials and recommended a careful study of all points.

The representative of the Commission informed the Committee that the approach should ensure the EU 's competitiveness, sustainability, security of supply and the protection of the internal market. Synergy between trade and energy policy should address investment protection, market access and the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty. Negotiations in TEC involved standard settings but did not cover nuclear power.

In his conclusions, the rapporteur asked to focus on trade issues, since other issues such as sustainability and research were being tackled by other committees.

The deadline for amendments was set for 1 February 2012.

6. A resource-efficient Europe

INTA/7/05794 2011/2068(INI) COM(2011)0021

First exchange of views on an opinion for ENVI

The rapporteur Mr. IACOLINO (EPP/IT) explained the need for resource efficiency in the light of the 2020 strategy, taking into account sustainability, competitiveness and environmental aspects. The issues he felt should be addressed were global energy markets and bilateral energy agreements. A draft report would be available by the end of February.

Mr. CUTAS (S&D/RO) and Mr. JADOT intervened along the same lines, stressing the importance of an efficient use of resources not only as a matter of environmental and resource protection but also as a means of reducing production costs and thus enhancing competitiveness.

The representatives of the Commission highlighted the work already undertaken and planned in this policy area which included exhaustive dialogue with Member States, involvement of the regional and local levels, legislative acts and guidelines and an international Conference in June 2012.

The deadline for amendments was set for 8 March, whilst the vote in INTA was scheduled for 27 March 2012.

7. Presentation by Gabriel Craen, Chairman of the Sherpa Group of the High Level Expert Group on Key Enabling Technologies (KET)

Mr. Craen presented the main findings of a study which focused on competitiveness of the European KET sector. He informed Members that there was a clear disconnection between the EU patent share and its manufacturing share; although the EU was good at producing priority patents, it was not succeeding in converting these patents into industrial production. One of the key reasons for this deficiency was that almost the whole budget available for research and development was used for basic research. Compared to other trading blocs such as Asia and the US, the EU legislative framework, and in particular competition policy, was not adapted to global challenges either. Actions were recommended to bridge this gap.

Intervening Members including Mr. LANGE and Mr. JADOT suggested that relaxing state aid rules could lead to making choices which might prove wrong after some time, that state aid was not the only criterion for taking investment decisions and that FTAs promoted the import of high tech products, which could be seen as detrimental to European industry.

8. Presentation by Pia Olsen Dyhr, Minister for Trade and Investment of Denmark, representing the President-in-Office of the Council, on the priorities of the Danish Presidency in the area of International Trade Policy

The Minister delivered the speech in Annex 1.

After a first round of questions from political group representatives, she gave a series of replies. On Japan, the scoping exercise was expected to be finalised by February and Japan had made some concession in the GPA which were expected in the following months and which she considered to be an opening towards an FTA. Analysis was ongoing with regard to the work on the TEC, and the possibilities for an FTA were still open.

The FTA with India was proving difficult but the EU did need to work with emerging markets including BRIC countries, which also valued a political partnership. Progress had been made on the human rights situation in Columbia but some challenges remained. It was not easy to see a way forward on the Doha Round. The EU should grab the opportunities offered by the Arab spring to conclude a DCFTA with those countries that were WTO members. Further regional integration should be promoted.

In the second round of questions from Members, some of these issues were reiterated. However, the Minister also stated that the Council was waiting for a new Commission proposal on origin marking which would cover both the internal market and imports from third countries; that the EU was continually putting forward its commitments on climate change when negotiating with third countries; that ACTA was aiming to tackle large scale criminal organisation whilst not restricting civil liberties; that given the full Presidency agenda negotiations with Taiwan could not be prioritised; that policy coherence was very important; and that the Presidency would continue to involve the European Parliament in trade negotiations in line with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.

9. Trade for Change: The EU Trade and Investment Strategy for the Southern Mediterranean following the Arab Spring revolutions

INTA/7/05860

Consideration of draft report

Since it was already the fourth time that INTA had discussed the issue, the rapporteur Mr. RINALDI (ALDE/IT) shortly reiterated the main content of his draft report, which reflected the ideas expressed in previous debates. The main items were the creation of a regional financial institution (like the EBRD), facilitating access to micro-credits, increasing technical co-operation to overcome non tariff trade barriers, increasing contact between Chambers of Commerce, promoting regional integration and improving the working conditions for SMEs, which represent 70% of the workforce but are not involved in cross border trade.

Whilst Ms. MUSCARDINI, Mr. STURDY and the representative of the Commission welcomed the report, Mr. MURPHY (GUE/IRL) wanted to include some more explicit reference to the financial support role of Member States to former regimes and to human rights violations, requested more transparency from oil companies operating in the region and addressing of the large proportion of public debt in Egypt and Tunisia.

The deadline for amendments was set for 17 February 2012.

10. Scheme of generalised tariff preferences

INTA/7/06028 2011/0117(COD) COM(2011)0241 – C7-0116/2011

Consideration of amendments

The rapporteur, Mr. FJELNNER (EPP/SE) informed the Committee that 180 amendments had been tabled. However these were often overlapping or addressing similar issues.

Broadly, four categories of amendments could be identified: those increasing or decreasing the country coverage, whether or not they entailed new criteria, those affecting the coverage of products or product preference rates, those addressing safeguards (in particular for textiles) and finally those related to GSP +. For the rapporteur the latter was the most difficult area since the final objective of this regime was not clear. As he saw it, GSP+ needed to be made more attractive, so that more countries could meet the conditions, rather than tightening the economic criteria, which in the end would make GSP+ an empty shell.

In the subsequent debate, the shadow-rapporteurs clarified their position and the Chair concluded by stating that in his view the Commission's reform proposal did not meet its unilateral objectives, namely to prioritise LDCs and prevent harmful effects on EU business. The alleged new benefits to Pakistan and the Philippines would be to the detriment of LDCs and some smaller Member States, which would have to pay for the generosity of the EU.

The representative of the Commission announced that written comments would be sent on all amendments, but strongly emphasised that GSP is an instrument under WTO rules and that these should be strictly respected, so arbitrary rules or considerations other than economic development could not be allowed.

He recommended a careful balance between the different interests at stake.

The vote in INTA was scheduled for 29 February 2012.

11. Amended Constitution and Rules of Procedure of the International Rubber Study

Group

INTA/7/06064 2011/0116(NLE) 13123/2011 – C7-0332/2011

Consideration of draft recommendation (consent)

Referring to the hearing in December (see 18979, point 7) and considering the importance of the Group as a meeting point for producers and consumers of rubber, the rapporteur, Mr. MOREIRA, suggested that the Commission would endeavour to promote membership in order to enhance the authority of the body and he suggested recommending consent.

Apart from the Commission, which welcomed the rapporteur's views, there were no other interventions

The deadline for amendments was set for 6 February and vote in INTA would be taken on 29 February 2012.

12. State of Play on International Trade Negotiations

INTA/7/01417

Exchange of views with João Aguiar Machado, Deputy Director-General, DG Trade

"in camera"

13. Repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2007 on administering certain restrictions on imports of certain steel products from Russia

INTA/7/07777 2011/0315(COD) COM(2011)0715 – C7-0396/2011

First exchange of views

The rapporteur, Mr. STURDY and the representative of the Commission, informed Members that the proposal was a technical adjustment following Russia's Membership of WTO.

At the request of Mr. ZALEWSKI, the Committee would discuss in a forthcoming meeting information relating to the impact of Russia's WTO Membership, not only for steel, but also for other products.

14. Delegation to Copenhagen, Denmark, 28-29 November 2011

INTA/7/08533

Presentation of mission report

The Chair briefly reported on the visit to Copenhagen prior to the start of the Danish Presidency. He advocated this type of visit as a good opportunity to exchange views not only with government representatives but also with members of parliament and business and other stakeholders. He regretted that the delegation had not met great success since only himself and another S&D Member had made the trip and called on the other political groups for broader participation in the forthcoming delegations to Cyprus and Ireland.

15. Votes:

a) The following acts were adopted without amendments:

Conclusion by the European Union of the International Cocoa Agreement 2010

INTA/7/04746

2010/0343(NLE) 09771/2011 – C7-0206/2011

The Committee recommended consent by unanimity

Second amendment to the Cotonou Agreement of 23 June 2000

INTA/7/06687 2011/0207(NLE) 16894/2011 – C7-0469/2011

Adoption of draft opinion

2010 discharge: EU general budget, Section III, Commission

INTA/7/06945 2011/2201(DEC) COM(2011)0473[01] – C7-0256/2011

Adoption of draft opinion

b) The following acts were adopted with amendments:

Motion for resolution on child labour in cocoa sector

INTA/7/07882

Adoption of motion for a resolution

Amending Council Regulation (EC) No 617/2009 opening an autonomous tariff quota for imports of high-quality beef

INTA/7/06358 2011/0169(COD) COM(2011)0384 – C7-0170/2011

Adoption of draft report by unanimity

Amendment of certain regulations relating to the common commercial policy as regards the procedures for the adoption of certain measures

INTA/7/05563 2011/0039(COD) COM(2011)0082 – C7-0069/2011

Adoption of draft report on so called "Omnibus I", the report will shortly be voted in plenary as to enable the start of negotiations with Council and Commission

Agreement between the EU and Morocco concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products and fishery products

INTA/7/03836 2010/0248(NLE) 15975/2010 – C7-0432/2010

Adoption of recommendation for consent (21 votes in favour, 7 against, 1 abstention)

Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin

INTA/7/07880

Adoption of question for oral answer

Adoption of motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer

Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin

INTA/7/02793 2010/0093(NLE) 11343/2010 – C7-0207/2011

Adoption of draft recommendation for consent

**Exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements between
Member States and third countries in the field of energy**

INTA/7/06806 2011/0238(COD) COM(2011)0540 – C7-0235/2011

Adoption of draft opinion

Customs enforcement of intellectual property rights

INTA/7/06140 2011/0137(COD) COM(2011)0285 – C7-0139/2011

Adoption of draft opinion

European standardisation

INTA/7/06244 2011/0150(COD) COM(2011)0315 – C7-0150/2011

Adoption of draft opinion

16. Date, time and place of next meeting:

- 29 February 2012, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 1 March 2012, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

ANNEX 1
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Danish Minister for Trade and Investment Ms. Pia Olsen Dyhr's

Speech to the INTA Committee in the European Parliament

25 January 2012

Thank you for inviting me to come to your Committee and to Chairman Professor Moreira for welcoming me. It is a pleasure to be here. I know that INTA is probably the Committee, where the workload per member is the heaviest.

Let me say first that I welcome the **democratization** of trade policy introduced with the Lisbon Treaty, where you in Parliament and the Member States through the Council now act as co-legislators and where you give your consent to Free Trade Agreements. The EU gets stronger through a more solid democratic basis. Together, we can achieve important results!

As chair of the Council on trade issues I look forward to a constructive, effective and result-oriented cooperation with you. I anticipate that we will move the agenda forward on the legislative side as well as regarding trade agreements, during the coming six months. In this process I look forward to learn from you – to pick your brains - and to draw on your experience.

The current crisis makes it clear that the citizens of Europe expect us to move forward. I heard that the newly elected President of the European Parliament emphasized - in his first speech in the Plenary Assembly - that today we face a situation, where it is uncertain whether we will be able to ensure a better life for our children than we have had.

That was well-phrased. And it points, in a nutshell, to what politics is all about: Working to ensure a better life for our citizens and for future generations. That is also why sustainability and green growth should be part of our perspective. I will return to that.

The headline for the Danish EU-Presidency is “**Europe at Work**”. During the next six months, it is our firm ambition to bring EU a step closer to a solution to the current economic crisis. **Creating growth and jobs** in Europe is our overall objective in the trade policy field. However, equally important, we will emphasize that global trade should be **free and fair**, not forgetting the needs of the developing countries. Finally, we will bring back the important link between **trade and climate change** to the EU’s agenda.

Let me now be more specific and briefly take you through our priorities. First, I will go through the ones directly relating to growth and jobs in Europe. Secondly, I will move on to our plans in trade and development. Thirdly, I will present my ideas for a new look at trade and climate change.

Finally, I will mention the additional important legal acts and agreements on our common agenda.

When giving attention to **growth and jobs in Europe**, it is evident that we should make it a priority to get better **market access to the BRIC countries**. With their continued strong growth rates these markets are vital for European exports.

The BRIC is not a homogenous group. Therefore the approach to each country varies: I hope we will see substantial progress on the FTA negotiations with **India**. The upcoming summit with India on 10 February should provide political progress in key areas of an FTA. It would be a great step forward.

While waiting for **Russian** ratification of the WTO membership, we should not let this important file rest. We must press ahead in order to include commitments on trade, investment and energy in the New Agreement.

Regarding **Brazil**, I expect that we will approach the next exchange of offers in the EU-Mercosur FTA negotiations towards the end of our Presidency. I am aware that this negotiation in particular contains not only offensive but also defensive interests for the EU.

Last but not least, it is our strong ambition that the EU and **China** agree on launching negotiations on an investment agreement during the Danish Presidency, including market access.

In addition to our focus on the BRIC, we want to make **it a priority to pave the way to launching negotiations with Japan for an FTA**. There is an enormous economic potential for the EU in an FTA with Japan. We must also keep in mind the wider strategic implications of such an agreement for the EU's overall relations with Japan. Japan being the world's third largest national economy. However, we need to see - as one thing - firm commitment from the Japanese government with regard to the future handling of the many non-tariff barriers that stand in the way for stronger trade relations.

We will also give priority to **improving Economic relations with our neighbours** – in the East and in the South. The trade relations with our neighbours touches on our role as an important international actor. A main tool in these relations is the negotiation of deep and comprehensive free trade agreements, in short: DCFTA's. My colleague, the Danish Minister for European Affairs - being responsible for trade policy relations with EU's neighbours - is prepared to engage in these issues.

Focus is now on the negotiations which are just about to begin on DCFTAs with **Moldova and Georgia**. We hope that these two countries can become models for our neighbourhood policy and show that it will work also for others. Unfortunately, the political developments in Ukraine are disappointing. A DCFTA is ready in principle, but moving ahead is difficult in the current situation.

Turning now to our **Southern neighbours**: In March 2011 the European Council declared that the EU should support the reform processes in the Southern neighbours responding to the Arab Spring. It is vital that we respond to this historic opportunity in concrete terms. We can make important steps in liberalizing trade, thereby supporting economic growth and political stability.

The Council agreed in December last year to give the Commission negotiating directives to begin negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia on DCFTA's. We acknowledge that it will be a long process. It will require political flexibility on both sides to give the necessary concessions. It will be important to keep the sensitivities of our Southern European member states in mind.

However, if the project is to succeed – and I very much hope it will – it is extremely important that the Union can maintain its **credibility**. Therefore, I strongly urge the Parliament to give its consent to the **additional EU Morocco agreement on trade in agricultural products**. If the Parliament rejects this agreement, bilateral relations with Morocco will suffer a major setback. Furthermore, we risk that relations with the other countries will also suffer.

For the Danish EU Presidency, it will also be a priority to do what we can to promote **the WTO and the Doha round**. This is the single most important agreement, which in itself could make a substantial contribution both to growth and employment in Europe and globally. The WTO is a vital tool for integrating the poorest countries into the global economy. And particularly we should strive for advancing issues beneficial to Least Developing Countries. Ideally future steps should also involve further agreements on issues such as climate friendly goods. Green trade liberalisation should be tested as one possible area, where movement could be obtained in the WTO after the 8th ministerial conference.

Perhaps it is a novelty that we do not mention the promotion of the WTO and Doha at first.

Definitely, this does not imply that we will not make a strong effort.

We must do what we can for all the reasons mentioned, but still we must also recognize that our resources must be put to use, where they can make a difference for the EU's trade policy.

The **investment area** in general is another area of major importance for growth and jobs in Europe. As a new area of common EU competence, it is essential that we work together to implement a new investment policy for the EU. I have instructed my staff to give their full commitment to finalizing the trilogue on the **Grandfathering regulation** with the Parliament. More than two years since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, we have a still stronger obligation to work together and find the common ground. I am sure, we can all agree, that there is also a still growing need to get legal certainty for our investors. We certainly look forward to a fruitful and constructive dialogue with both INTA and the Commission.

Our overall ambition regarding growth and employment through trade also touches upon the **Transatlantic economic relations**. The US is the EU's most important economic partner and we must continue promoting together the freest possible transatlantic flow of ideas, products and services. At the latest EU-US Summit in November 2011 this intention was confirmed and the Danish Presidency will put emphasis on exploring opportunities to enlarge co-operation on this basis - looking at new interesting area of the cooperation like e-mobility and e-health.

As I mentioned in the beginning of my intervention, it is important – as we deal with the crisis – that the EU does not forget the importance of **looking beyond our shores**. Europe must never forget its **responsibility for ensuring fairness in global trade**.

The EU must therefore continue to have a strong focus on **trade and development** and help developing countries - especially the poorest and most vulnerable ones - to become better integrated into the world economy with the objective of creating sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Within the EU it is of paramount importance that the trade and development policies are **mutually reinforcing and complement each other**. Trade is an important and integral part of development. It contributes to the development of new markets and sustainable economic growth, while at the same time trade promotes peace, security and more open societies.

The Danish EU Presidency will focus on the Commission's upcoming **communication on "Trade and Investment for Development"** and the negotiations on a **new GSP regulation**. The final design of these two important instruments will be an important signal to the rest of the world regarding EU's continued role within Trade and Development.

The communication will be important in establishing the right priorities and the approach to trade and development for the next decade. We therefore also intend to adopt Council conclusions in Spring.

The EU's **GSP scheme** plays an important role as the EU's primary trade instrument to support developing countries. The review is an opportunity to improve the scheme further and show the EU's continued leadership in trade and development. Therefore, the Danish Presidency looks very much forward to a **close cooperation with INTA** and we will do our utmost to promote this important file together with you.

Allow me now as promised to direct your attention to the important area of **climate change and how trade** can make a contribution. A topic very close to my heart. Green growth is a major theme across the council formations during the Danish EU Presidency.

It is of no less prominence in trade.

Climate change calls for new solutions so that we can globally pool our products, services and know-how together, enabling increased use of sustainable energy sources worldwide. Increased trade of green goods is key to this process. Moreover, we strongly believe that this would actually also contribute to growth and employment in the European Union.

Previous discussions on trade liberalization in the DDA context were stalled due to conflict between industrialized countries and emerging economies. The latter are somewhat suspicious towards developed countries' agenda in this context.

We aim to start consideration of new initiatives on how to liberalise trade in green products. Multi-track solutions to be considered are: How to include trade liberalisation in climate friendly goods in bilateral agreements (FTAs), on the multilateral agenda (DDA) and – possibly – within plurilateral agreements. We should also consider other possibilities to promote trade liberalisation, including the proposal from the Geneva based think tank ICTSD on a **Sustainable Trade Agreement**. Any initiative will have to comply fully with WTO rules. It is important to include developing countries in this context, and to assist them in their process towards a greener economy. I would appreciate input from Members of this Committee as to how they view the possibilities and the options.

Finally, before concluding, I will go very briefly through some of the additional important legal acts and trade agreements on our common agenda.

We expect that the European-Parliament will have its final say on ACTA in the course of the Danish Presidency. **ACTA** is an important agreement in tackling the global problem of counterfeit goods.

It provides a clear added value compared to the existing international enforcement arrangements of Intellectual Property Rights. And consequently I do hope that you and Parliament as such will back the agreement.

On our common agenda, we also have the two **Omnibus proposals**, which aims to adapt EU trade policy regulations to the changes inherent in the Lisbon Treaty. In the coming months the Danish Presidency expects to obtain a mandate from the Council to initiate the triologue. We believe the prospects are good for successfully concluding with you members of Parliament on the Omnibus I-file, and we want to move the Omnibus II-file as much forward as possible in a spirit of cooperation.

The proposal for compulsory **Origin Marking on certain imported products** has been on the table for some years. As you are fully aware, there has been a “dead-lock” in the Council for long. However, the European Parliament’s overwhelming support for the Commission proposal regarding an origin marking regulation has sparked renewed discussions in the Council. The Danish Presidency will start assessing possibilities for a voluntary system.

The multiparty trade agreement with Colombia and Peru is important for all parties in the current global economic situation. We hope to finish the work in the Council by spring. The agreement should possibly enhance the positive developments in human rights that we have seen over the last couple of years in Colombia.

The Danish Presidency shares the concern of the European Parliament about human rights violations and politically motivated assassinations. EU should continue to follow the situation closely. **The human rights suspension clause** and the mechanisms of the **sustainable development chapter of the FTA** were pivotal for the Council in negotiating this agreement.

They should not be underestimated as tools of influence. I look forward to follow discussions in the Parliament, and to our cooperation.

Finally, I just want to mention the comprehensive economic and trade agreement with Canada and the FTA with Singapore, where the Danish Presidency has high hopes for final agreement on the negotiations. And we aim at signature of the EU-Central America Agreement during our Presidency.

As you can see we have much work ahead of us – even additionally on a range of files that I did not have enough time to cover today. So let us pull up the sleeves and exercise “Europe at work”. I do - as chair of the Council - look very much forward to working with you in the coming six month.

Thank you for your attention.
