



**MEP BSR**

**Vienna, Austria**

**2019**

**RESOLUTIONS**

## Committee on International Trade

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The question of EU-AU Relations. In 2019 the African Union (AU) ratified its entry into the African Continental Free Trade Area, creating the world's largest free trade area, by EU model. The EU and the AU are long-standing partners where European investment has been key in job-creation growth in Africa. Now the relationship between Europe and Africa is shifting from Africa being the recipient of European aid to a trade partnership. Moreover, Chinese influence on the African continent has increased dramatically, potentially posing a threat to European and African interests.

*How can the EU deepen economic and trade relations between Africa and Europe? How should the EU continue to support the African Union in harnessing its economic potential? How can the EU best promote European interests in Africa through aid and/or investment strategies?*

The Model European Parliament,

- A) Noting with deep concern the expiration of the Cotonou Agreement<sup>1</sup> in 2020,
- B) Emphasizing the need for a unionwide trade deal between the EU and AU,
- C) Taking into account the African Union's recent AfCFTA<sup>2</sup> deal, suggesting their willingness to work as a union and the need for further negotiations with the continent as a whole:
  - i) While still being aware of African countries' individual prerequisites for trade,
- D) Observing Africa's €150 billion need of investment annually,
- E) Having considered the low amount of EU investment in Africa due to high risk,
- F) Alarmed by the rapid M&A<sup>3</sup> investments of China in Africa and the irreversible debt they may cause,
- G) Having examined the problem of power shortages in African manufacturing, and the investment possibilities of sustainable energy on the African continent,
- H) Expressing concern due to the high-leveled import of volatile<sup>4</sup> commodities by the EU from Africa,
- I) Further recalling the importance of the vehicle and machinery trade being the highest volumed between the EU and AU,
- J) Noting with regret the tariff-free trade in agricultural commodities between the EU and the LDC's<sup>5</sup> currently in place as a part of the Cotonou Agreement,
- K) Concerned by the fact that some African countries in the African Union<sup>6</sup> are not full members of the WTO<sup>7</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> The Cotonou Agreement is a treaty between the EU and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States, signed in 2000

<sup>2</sup> The African Continental Free Trade Area

<sup>3</sup> Mergers and Acquisitions

<sup>4</sup> fast change in price of a commodity

<sup>5</sup> Least Developed Countries

<sup>6</sup> Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Comoros, Libya, Sao Tomé und Príncipe, Sudan

- 1) Further requests the prolonging of the Cotonou Agreement until a new more comprehensive trade deal between the EU and the AU is established;
- 2) Calls upon an immediate start to such trade deal negotiations between the EU and the AU;
- 3) Notes the importance of equal market access between the EU and the AU through an all-encompassing framework as part of the proposed EU-AU trade deal;
- 4) Proposes for the EU, in the proposed EU-AU trade deal, to obligate European agricultural products to be sold non-reciprocally<sup>8</sup> to further facilitate Africa's food independency;
- 5) Recommends the implementation of EU-subsidies issued by the EIB<sup>9</sup> to FDI's<sup>10</sup> by European companies in the African Union;
- 6) Calls for risk-guarantees issued by the EIB to EU-27 investors in Africa;
- 7) Encourages the ACHPR<sup>11</sup> to evaluate investments subsidised or risk-guaranteed by the EU in Africa which they see fit, and make recommendations for the EU not to subsidise or provide risk-guarantees, in order to protect African humanitarian interests and indigenous rights;
- 8) Urges the EU member states' national chambers' of commerce as well as the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote European M&A affairs in Africa to compete with Chinese M&A-investments<sup>12</sup>;
- 9) Invites the EU to introduce subsidies in the proposed EU-AU trade deal for European companies investing in the African energy sector to increase the power supply in Africa;
- 10) Further requests diversifying AU trade by support infant industries<sup>13</sup> with competence and investment by the EIB, in compliance with the AfCFTA agreement;
- 11) Encourages the EU to impose duty-free trade of machinery, and market-competitive quotas on vehicles in the proposed AU-EU trade agreement;
- 12) Calls upon the proposed EU-AU trade agreement to include a 5% duty imposed on import and export of agricultural commodities between the EU and the AU with a gradual increase of 1% per annum, until a 10% duty is reached;
- 13) Recommends the EU to advocate for every member of the African Union to become a full member of the WTO;
- 14) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>7</sup> World Trade Organization

<sup>8</sup> sold without preference, such as subsidies

<sup>9</sup> The European Investment Bank

<sup>10</sup> Foreign Direct Investment, when companies invests in foreign project or company without ownership

<sup>11</sup> African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights

<sup>12</sup> currently financing 33% of African M&A-volume

<sup>13</sup> companies in a startup phase

## Committee on Development (DEVE)

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The question of European enlargement policy for the Western Balkans. The European Commission set a target of 2025 for Western Balkan EU accession, and negotiations are underway with candidate countries. However, there has been expressed 'Enlargement fatigue' among member states, and the processes have been delayed for candidate states in the Western Balkans towards accession.

*How can the EU continue to foster stability, sustainable development, climate action and EU integration in the region? How should the EU proceed with its accession commitments to the Western Balkans?*

The Model European Parliament,

- A) Recognising the lengthy process of the EU accession,
  - B) Deeply concerned about non EU countries' influence in the Western Balkan countries in the form of, including but not limited to, improving infrastructure, in order to affect the politics and opinions of the countries,
  - C) Recalling that Kosovo's integration is dependent on recognition from other member states,
  - D) Alarmed by the endangering of the EU economy by accepting new countries,
  - E) Fully aware of the tense relations between Kosovo and Serbia,
  - F) Concerned by the lack of engagement towards accession from the leaders of the Western Balkans,
  - G) Noting with concern the internal dissent of the EU citizens, Western Balkan citizens and governments about accession,
  - H) Aware of the fact that the Western Balkan countries are unable to join the EU due to difficulties such as but not limited to economic issues, political issues, social issues, safety, corruption, migration, organized crime such as but not limited to drug trafficking and climate goals,
  - I) Disturbed that the censorship in the Western Balkans is preventing citizens from acquiring important governmental information such as but not limited to information about accession,
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- 1) Proclaims the importance of achieving transparency within the governments of the Western Balkan countries, in ways, such as but not limited to:
    - i) The publication of government cash flows and budget information,
    - ii) Releasing information about the decision making process within the government,
  - 2) Proclaims the importance of fighting and preventing corruption and organized crime in the Western Balkan countries, in ways, such as but not limited to:

- i) Organizing country-wide assessments of organized crime and providing the EU with relevant findings,
    - ii) Finds a monitoring organ to overlook the Western Balkan countries' governments in transparency, corruption, financial transactions and organized crime;
  - 3) Encourages all candidate and potential candidate countries to cooperate with their respective SAAs<sup>14</sup>;
  - 4) Reminds all the Western Balkan countries about the importance of reaching the EU-wide climate goals with means such as but not limited to:
    - i) Enforcing stricter legislation on possible pollution sources,
    - ii) Utilising the already-existing EU climate strategy;
  - 5) Calls upon the SEECP<sup>15</sup> to further its cooperation with the EU to strengthen the stability in the Western Balkan countries by means including but not limited to:
    - i) Consulting the EU on decisions regarding economic, political and social issues, as well as questions related to the accession progress, how to proceed and the best plans of action for individual member states,
    - ii) Joining the EU summits concerning the region, with the intent being to share opinions and solutions to relevant problems;
  - 6) Emphasises the importance of fulfilling and adopting the Copenhagen Criteria as one of the most vital things in order for EU accession;
  - 7) Reaffirms the stabilisation of Kosovo-Serbia relations as a requirement for accession for the parties involved in the conflict and encourages all member states to recognize the independence of Kosovo by improving the communication and relations with the government of Kosovo;
  - 8) Further requests the continuation of the Western Balkan media days and urges government representatives of all Western Balkan countries to attend;
  - 9) Encourages the European Commission to focus on one candidate country, thus shortening the accession process and lowering the impact on the EU economy;
  - 10) Highlights the importance of informing the Western Balkan citizens about the benefits and risks of joining the EU;
  - 11) Trusts the UN to continue the peace negotiations concerning Kosovo and Serbia and hopes for increased cooperation with the EU on that matter;
  - 12) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.
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<sup>14</sup> Stabilization and Association Agreements

<sup>15</sup> South-East European Cooperation Process

## **Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)**

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The question of rail transport. In the pursuit of the environmental goals of the Paris agreement, more transportation needs to be by train to cut carbon emissions. Today, the European rail network faces challenges in terms of the lack of integration and standardization between member states and outdated operational practices.

*Which measures should the EU take towards an integrated European railway area? How can rail transport become a valid transportation alternative, for instance security, cost and convenience, for flying within the EU?*

The Model European Parliament,

- A) Deeply disturbed by the high cost of building and maintaining high-speed rails and trains due to reasons such as but not limited to the lack of efficiency in planning and building,
- B) Alarmed by a general lack of safety and security of trains, when compared to other means of transportation such as but not limited to aviation,
- C) Aware of a lack of integration between different means of public and cargo transportation such as but not limited to trains, ferries and buses,
- D) Bearing in mind that people often prefer other means of transportation because of less comfort in trains,
- E) Fully aware that there are no subsidies for long-distance trains being given out by the European Union,
- F) Noting with deep concern the differences between the EU Member States regarding the lack of standardization of ETCS<sup>16</sup> systems, e.g.:
  - i) Different signalling systems,
  - ii) Different operational systems,
  - iii) Different gauge sizes,
  - iv) Different safety standards,
- G) Recognizing noise problems caused by trains near populated areas hence making it unattractive to live there,
- H) Realizing the number of current existing cross-border tracks being too low,
- I) Taking into account that aviation is a competitor to rail traffic regarding,
  - i) Ticket prices,
  - ii) Speed and time;

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<sup>16</sup> ETCS - European Train Control System. A system that controls maximum speed, signaling and on-board systems on trains in a standardized matter.

- 1) Approves to found a panel, ETS, of experts supporting and advising the companies building the trains and tracks in order to solve the technical problems, who work closely together with ERA;
- 2) Encourages the Member States to collaborate in order to improve the existing technology regarding building and maintaining high-speed rails, through means such as but not limited to, consistent meetings with the ETS panel;
- 3) Recommends financial investments in the ERA regarding the development of safety and security procedures;
- 4) Urges the installation of security checks for long distance trains, similar to the ones already used in airports;
- 5) Endorses Member States to implement automatically opening glass walls at train stations surrounding the platform, in order to prevent people from falling and jumping onto tracks;
- 6) Recommends an intermodality concept connecting different modes of transport to achieve the most efficient transport of cargo;
- 7) Urges the creation of the organization PTIE<sup>17</sup> in order to make different means of transport in Europe more integrated,
  - i) Synchronisation of schedules and timetables,
  - ii) Different modes of cross-border transport combined into one ticket;
- 8) Further requests the introduction of a new standard of personal storage unit in future constructed long-distance trains, which will include private lockers;
- 9) Endorses a multimedia campaign containing the enlightenment of citizens about the carbon dioxide emissions to call upon their conscience choosing their mode of transport;
- 10) Urges tax for flights under 500 kilometres within the EU to encourage people to travel by train and decrease prices of tickets on long distance trains using the money from the taxes;
- 11) Further requests the EU to improve the ETCS to become standardized for all EU countries;
- 12) Supports the building of sound insulating walls and other noise barrier constructions along the tracks at populated areas;
- 13) Recommends for non-EU countries neighboring EU countries to comply with the 4<sup>th</sup> railway package<sup>18</sup> legislation;
- 14) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>17</sup> PTIE – Public transport integration in Europe.

An EU system that focuses on making it easier to use public transport in Europe. It will be making trains more integrated and connected with other means of public transport in EU countries.

<sup>18</sup> The 4th railway package is a set of changes to rail transport regulation in the European Union law. It aims to remove the remaining barriers to the creation of a single European rail area through introducing additional cross-border tracks.

## Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)

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The question of tax avoidance within the EU. In recent years more and more multinational companies, such as but not limited to McDonald's, have been finding loopholes in member state tax regulations, which has led to decreased tax revenues for member states. In order to deal with this tax avoidance, the European Union and member states have attempted a bolder approach to enforcement and reform to ensure that large multinational corporations pay their fair share of taxes. Despite these efforts, these corporations have stayed one step ahead of lawmakers and enforcement authorities, restructuring their businesses and shifting assets and cash flows.

*How can current EU legislation with regards to tax avoidance be improved? Should the EU push for minimum standards of tax regulations? If not, what alternative measures can the EU implement to fight tax avoidance?*

- A) Aware of the reluctance of non-EU member states to cooperate with the EU in order to fight tax avoidance,
  - B) Alarmed by the lack of transparency obligations of companies to foreign tax authorities,
  - C) Alarmed by the lack of awareness of this issue amongst citizens,
  - D) Noting with deep concern the lack of a worldwide minimum tax reporting standard,
  - E) Alarmed by the existence of letterbox companies<sup>19</sup>,
  - F) Keeping in mind the inadequacies in tax codes as well as the exploitation of loopholes such as, but not limited to
    - i) base erosion
    - ii) corporate profit shifting,
  - G) Deeply concerned about the use of tax havens for aggressive tax planning,
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- 1) Strongly recommends that non-EU member states increase the authority of tax inspectors;
  - 2) Encourages non-listed companies<sup>20</sup> to publicly release their annual reports;
  - 3) Calls upon the founding of a new organization which permanently spreads awareness amongst citizens through measures such as, but not limited to, publicity campaigns;
  - 4) Urges the states of the world which are not part of the OECD<sup>21</sup> to join in order to have a worldwide CRS<sup>22</sup>;
  - 5) Further requests member states to tax companies according to their economic activities per country;
  - 6) Further recommends a Supervisory Authority<sup>23</sup> representing the EU to research and study existing loopholes and inform EU member states;

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<sup>19</sup> a business that has its domicile in one member state while conducts its activities in others

<sup>20</sup> A company which is not traded on a public stock exchange

<sup>21</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

<sup>22</sup> Common Reporting Standard

<sup>23</sup> An authority which does not prosecute companies, individuals or states but only researches the issue



- 7) Encourages cooperation between the tax authorities of EU member states when creating new tax laws;
  - 8) Encourages further development of the imposed standards by which the EU currently stands regarding blacklisted tax havens<sup>24</sup> and encourages finding a mutually beneficial resolution between the EU and the aforementioned blacklisted tax havens;
  - 9) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.
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<sup>24</sup>Jurisdictions with favorable tax rates (usually zero)

## Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

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The question of democracy and transparency in the EU.

*How could the EU become more transparent for the citizens in each member state? Should there be democratic reforms to increase the accountability of EU politicians (e.g. commissioners) to the citizens? What other alternatives to increase democracy and transparency can be implemented in the EU? How can the EU best counter the arguments of the anti-EU parties?*

The Model European Parliament,

- A) Realizing the invulnerability of elected EU officials and their lack of personal responsibility before the citizens' opinion,
  - B) Deeply concerned by the high levels of bureaucracy within the processes that occur in the EU which burdens efficient decision-making,
  - C) Deeply concerned by the rising levels of Euroscepticism and the existing measures that the EU has taken towards anti-EU governments that have caused further straining between the EU and the Eurosceptic governments,
  - D) Alarmed by poor media coverage, as mentioned by the Action Plan on Disinformation, concerning
    - i) The decision-making processes, such as EU elections;
    - ii) Important events, such as but not limited to elections, in the Member States within the EU
  - E) Alarmed by the infrequent lack of access to information regarding EU legislative processes, which impede upon Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
  - F) Further deploring the lack of clarity in the language utilised by the European Parliament that alienates many people,
  - G) Alarmed by the lack of communication between EU institutions and European citizens, furthermore the lack of inclusion of the European youth,
  - H) Noting with regret that many citizens within the EU lack adequate media literacy<sup>25</sup>, leading to the propagation of deceitful information,
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- 1) Considers decreasing the amount of paperwork regarding menial decisions by diminishing the number of pre-set steps necessary in order to accelerate the procedure at hand;
  - 2) Calls upon raising the remuneration of governmental employees to decrease corruption in the EU states as previously successfully carried out in Estonia;

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<sup>25</sup> The US-based National Association for Media Literacy Education defines it as the ability to access, analyse, evaluate, create and act using all forms of communication.

- 3) Strongly urges broadening the focus when investigating alleged corruption; for example enforcing audits for suspicious EU representatives;
- 4) Calls upon the reconsideration of the usage of Article 7 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) because, as seen in Poland and Hungary, the use of sanctions and limiting EU voting rights only furthers the anti-EU sentiment and is counterproductive to the EU's values on democracy;
- 5) Encourages undertaking a series of initiatives fostering dialogue between citizens and policymakers, such as but not limited to public debates both in person and online;
- 6) Encourages quality journalism to provide a neutral view on important events, yet equally bridge information gaps when it comes to events happening such as elections in Member States;
- 7) Calls upon the formation of an EU institution that cooperates with the media that will summarise and brief political meetings and issues and equally encourages the local media to cover it;
- 8) Further requests to guarantee access to all official public documents regarding EU legislative processes and negotiations by expanding platforms with public access, as well as establishing a mandatory Transparency Register;
- 9) Instructs the "Directorate-General for Translation" to translate documents and transcripts of the EU institutions and bodies into plain language for each of the 24 languages of the EU member states;
- 10) Encourages measures to engage the general population including but not limited to
  - i) Subsidising programs such as "Europe for Citizens" and focusing attention on communicating via the Internet in order to involve citizens,
  - ii) The creation of videos summarising the events within the EU directed to all citizens with a special focus on the youth,
  - iii) Projects where young people can acquire initial experience of participatory democracy, such as the European clubs in Portugal and the Prague Student Summit in the Czech Republic,
  - iv) Fostering citizens' sense of EU identity, community and belonging, which could be crucial for the future of Europe, via higher education and learning;
- 11) Encourages the exchange of practices in parliamentary scrutiny among national parliaments, such as the holding of regular debates between the respective ministers;
- 12) Urges the European Commission to give more serious consideration to the legislative initiative launched by the European Parliament;
- 13) Further requests that the Eurostat bureau conducts surveys in higher frequency as they are instrumental in finding out what EU citizens want;

- 14) Second the efforts of the European Commission in cooperation with the European Member States to support cooperation with media literacy practitioners as well as the promotion of media literacy for the public as seen during the Media Literacy Week in March 2019;
- 15) Recommends EU Member States to have mandatory media literacy courses in high school and to offer monthly public classes on media literacy open to people who are no longer attending education;
- 16) Invites the Council and the European Commission to resume negotiations on the extension of the European Parliament's Right of Inquiry in order to entrust it with effective powers to investigate alleged maladministration in implementing Union Law by the Commission;
- 17) Declares accordingly that quarter-yearly, citizens of corresponding elected EU members have a vote to see if their elected representatives have been acting accordingly to their wishes and demands; furthermore, if this vote fails, the following occurs:
  - i) If it is a rare occurrence (first or second time offender), a request to the elected EU member to act accordingly will be made,
  - ii) If there is a pattern of such behaviour of the elected EU member failing to represent their citizens, then a re-election in the country is held with the previously-elected EU member being barred from entering;
- 18) Calls upon EU Member States to realize and prevent certain inclinations in a government which tend to cause corruption, specifically the existence of an information deficit and a lack of governmental control, which can each be respectively tackled by:
  - i) Implementing an information bureau and ensuring that communication between national institutions is done without delay or mistakes,
  - ii) If there is a lack of control within the national government, then it is called for such EU Member State's governments to immediately implement new managerial positions in such institutions,
  - iii) If the situation is more dire, "Robust Monitoring" can be introduced, which will be implemented by having an EU-elected and trusted officials who will come and monitor the government and oversee that all is done within legal and ethical boundaries;
- 19) Strongly encourages all political actors to participate in the "Spitzenkandidaten process" of electing President of the European Commission with the view to strengthening the link between the European Commission and the voters;
- 20) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.