Conclusion of the Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation between the EU and its Member States, of the one part, and New Zealand, of the other part

2017/2050(INI) - 24/10/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Charles TANNOCK (ECR, UK) containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the Union of the Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and New Zealand, of the other part.

The report stressed that New Zealand enjoys a close and historic partnership with the EU. The **EU remains New Zealand's third largest trading partner** and both sides maintain a wide range of economic and commercial interests.

Members welcomed the conclusion of the Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation (PARC), which will provide a forward-looking political framework within which EU-New Zealand relations and cooperation on sustainable development and a comprehensive range of issues will be developed even further for years to come in order to match new ambitions and aspirations. They supported the launch of the EU-New Zealand free trade agreement negotiations, which must be conducted in a spirit of reciprocity and mutual benefit, taking into account the sensitivity of certain agricultural and other products.

They stressed, however, that it is important to strengthen:

- political dialogue and cooperation on economic growth, job creation, trade and investment;
- environmental and ocean governance, which is necessary to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of resources;
- investment and new opportunities in scientific, academic and technology cooperation;
- its long-standing commitment in the international coalition against terrorism;
- cooperation on sustainable energy in line with the UN initiative 'Sustainable Energy for All'.