Resolution on the outcome of the Commission’s review of the 15-point action plan on trade and sustainable development

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the outcome of the Commission’s review of the 15-point action plan on trade and sustainable development.

The EU, being the world’s largest trading bloc, is in a unique position to cooperate and engage globally and bilaterally with partner countries to enhance the respect of international labour standards and environmental rules through its trade policy and trade agreements. Moreover, it needs to be ambitious in its World Trade Organization-compatible efforts when designing additional autonomous instruments to support global climate action, the fight against biodiversity loss and deforestation, improve animal welfare, establish rules on corporate sustainability, due diligence and forced labour, advance the circular economy and the green energy transition and ensure decent work worldwide.

All modern EU trade agreements include trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters. Since 2018, the 15-point action plan has guided their implementation and enforcement. Parliament has systematically called for improvement of the implementation and effective enforcement of the TSD chapters and for the **possibility to use sanctions as a last resort**. In June 2021, the Commission launched an in-depth **review** of the TSD 15point action plan with the objective of strengthening the ability of trade agreements as a whole to champion sustainable trade in cooperation with trade partners.

Parliament welcomed the publication of the outcome of the TSD review and took note of the Commission’ s intention to reinforce TSD chapters as cooperative instruments and to make use of early gap analysis to identify country-based implementation priorities with the involvement of civil society.

Parliament also welcomed the Commission’s plan to streamline sustainability throughout FTAs in order to contribute to a **carbon-neutral economy, and prioritise market access for environmental goods and services as well as access to raw materials and energy goods** that are essential for the functioning of a carbon-neutral economy, provided they respect sustainable practices and do not harm human rights, labour rights and the environment in non-EU countries, and respect the UN principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Members remain committed to continuously stepping up parliamentary work in scrutinising TSD commitments and their implementation throughout the whole lifecycle of trade agreements, including through dedicated monitoring groups, specific parliamentary missions of the European Parliament and possible joint parliamentary monitoring committees with partner countries. In this regard, they asked the Commission to report periodically to Parliament on the progress achieved regarding TSD commitments and their implementation by partner countries.