Strengthening the capacities of the developing countries

2002/2157(INI) - 15/05/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Concepcio FERRER (EPP-ED, Spain) on capacity-building. (Please see the summary dated 18/03/03.) As well as developing four principles upon which capacity-building policy should be based, Parliament placed particular emphasis on developing countries' industrial and agricultural capability. It stated that even if the poorest countries have a non-reciprocal right of access to the markets of the developed countries, this will be a totally inadequate means of ensuring that trade actually develops, unless at the same time, those countries' industrial and agricultural development capability is increased, their ability to comply with the rules and meet the standards (in particular health and plant-health standards) in force in the importing countries is enhanced and their knowledge of marketing networks is improved. The Commission is asked to ensure that specific objectives in this area are laid down in national strategic documents. Parliament stressed the need to promote the self-organisation of marginal groups within society in order to enable the communities most affected by poverty to play a part in their own development. Parliament went on to ask the European Community's delegations, when drawing up national strategic documents, to hold regular consultations with local NGOs and grassroots communities on the capacity-building objectives to be achieved. Finally, the capacities of small and medium-sized businesses in developing countries should be increased to enable them to compete with products from the European Union or from other developed countries. The Commission is asked to carry out a systematic assessment of capacity-building policies and, for that purpose, to perform multi-disciplinary research, including a study of the sociological aspects. Local NGOs and grassroots communities should be consulted in connection with that process.