Basic information

2005/2061(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The social dimension of globalisation **Subject** 5.03 Global economy and globalisation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	BREJC Mihael (PPE-DE)	31/03/2005

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	RASMUSSEN Poul Nyrup (PSE)	19/04/2005
DEVE Development	AUBERT Marie-Hélène (Verts/ALE)	24/05/2005
INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/05/2004	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2004)0383	Summary
12/05/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/10/2005	Vote in committee		Summary
18/10/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0308/2005	
14/11/2005	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0427/2005	Summary
15/11/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/11/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2005/2061(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/6/27597

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE360.365	28/07/2005	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE360.061	02/09/2005	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE362.724	23/09/2005	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE360.286	04/10/2005	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0308/2005	18/10/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0427/2005	15/11/2005	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2004)0383	18/05/2004	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2005)5015	15/12/2005	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0252/2005 OJ C 234 22.09.2005, p. 0041-0045	09/03/2005	

The social dimension of globalisation

2005/2061(INI) - 18/05/2004 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: presentation of a Communication on the social dimension of globalization – the EU's policy contribution on extending the benefits to all.

CONTENT: The process of globalisation has brought significant benefits to many people across the world. Higher quality – and higher earning – jobs have been created in parts of the world which have previously relied largely on agriculture to maintain their people.

While these positive aspects of globalisation are recognised by the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation (WCSDG) published in February 2004, it also notes that the benefits of globalisation are not shared equally across all countries and groups and that, without an effective system of global governance, the current model of globalisation is generating unbalanced outcomes and is not likely to lead to global sustainable development.

The EU has long pursued policies, both at home and internationally, which seek to ensure that economic and social progress go hand in hand. In particular in Lisbon in 2000, the Heads of State and Government agreed an integrated strategy for reforms which is intended to lead to Europe becoming the most competitive knowledge based society in the world, with more and better jobs and increased social cohesion, by promoting mutually reinforcing policies to address the needs of competitiveness, employment, social progress and environmental sustainability. This strategy is also the basis for the EU's policy response to the impact of globalisation on businesses, jobs and citizens in Europe.

The EU's economic and social model, and the Lisbon strategy which translates it into practice, cannot simply be transposed to other parts of the world. Nevertheless, the WCSDG has highlighted a number of aspects of the model which may be of interest to the Union's partners. This is especially true of the processes involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies which are essential to the achievement of the balance between economic and social objectives. The EU model places particular emphasis, for example, on solid institutional structures for the management of economic, employment, social and environmental issues and the interplay between them, on strong social and civil dialogue and on investment in human capital and the quality of employment.

The EU must also ensure that it exercises its external policies in a way which contributes to maximising the benefits of globalisation for all social groups in all its partner countries and regions. Its external policies have always had an important social dimension, for example in supporting universal access to basic social services in the developing world. For some time, the EU has also been promoting the effectiveness and coherence of global governance, including economic governance, through international institutions, to ensure that trade policy and bilateral relations with regions and individual countries are fully supportive of social development and to ensure that development and external co-operation contributes to maximise positive and minimise negative social consequences of globalisation. It also encourages the private sector to contribute to these objectives.

This Communication briefly describes the current range of actions undertaken in the framework of the Union regarding the social dimension of globalisation and makes proposals for certain changes. It is intended to be a first contribution to the debate which has been started by the publication of the WCSDG'sreport and in particular to the discussion on the follow-up to be held at the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 2004. The Commission believes that some of WCSDG’sproposals should also be discussed in other fora which have responsibility for financial, economic and trade issues.

In this communication the Commission sets out its initial views on some of the issues raised in the report of the WCSDG. Overall the report delivers balanced, critical but positive messages that can be the basis for future action. It recognises that some steps have already been taken at global, regional and national levels but it makes it very clear that much more should be done at all levels in a complementary and mutually reinforcing way to extend the benefits of globalisation to all. This is a challenge to both the EU and its Member States. The effective follow-up of the report, by all partners, will be of key importance.

The EU has already developed initiatives and policies to address the social dimension of globalisation both in Europe and elsewhere. It is now important that the Union, at the highest political level, expresses its commitment to taking action to strengthen this dimension in the light of the WCSDG's report and the initial proposals made in this Communication.

The social dimension of globalisation

2005/2061(INI) - 15/11/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-intitiative report drafted by Mihael **BREJC** (EPP-ED, SI) on the social dimension of globalisation (Please refer to the summary of 05/10/2005.) Parliament stated that although globalisation has many positive aspects, the process of globalisation is generating major economic and social imbalances both within and between countries, which is a matter of intense social concern, given the high unemployment and poverty afflicting large sections of society throughout the world. Globalisation increases the gulf between rich and poor. The economy is becoming increasingly global and politicised, and regulatory institutions remain largely national or regional, and none of the existing institutions provides democratic monitoring of global markets or redresses basic inequalities between countries.

Parliament felt that globalisation must be a process with a strong social dimension based on universally shared values, respect for human rights and individual dignity, and must be fair, inclusive and democratically governed, provide opportunities and tangible benefits for all countries and people, and be linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The EU can make a significant contribution to this process through both its internal and external policies, through its social model and its development at international level and through the encouragement of global cooperation based on mutual respect, constructive dialogue and recognition of our common destiny.

Globalisation should mean not just that the EU can sell more outside Europe, but that third world countries should be enabled to sell more to the EU in order to boost their growth, employment and social inclusion levels. The Common Agricultural Policy will need to be reformed if this aspect of globalisation is to be delivered and if the "Make Poverty History" campaign is to enjoy success.

Parliament called for social rights and social dialogue, human rights and the primacy of law, and the protection of the rights of the child, in particular the right to education, to be accorded greater importance in the EU's various external programmes. The Commission must ensure, through bilateral agreements, that the Core Labour Standards are respected, in order to ensure humane working conditions and avoid abuse of women and children in the countries concerned.

The Union should use its bilateral relations to promote the recommendations of the WCSDG so that jobs which are moved off-shore or relocated outside the EU do not end up being performed in sweat shops in the third world, but, instead, jobs of high quality are created which help to improve the lives of workers and their families in the countries concerned. The Commission is asked to review all its existing bilateral agreements, particularly Economic Partnership Agreements and Fisheries Partnership Agreements, to ensure that they are fully consonant with the MDGs and the principle of sustainable development.

Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposal that the Commission, the Council and the Member States seek to attain observer status for the ILO at the WTO with a view to improving the quality of interinstitutional dialogue. Decent work in line with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda should be made a priority issue at national, EU and global level.

Parliament went on to state that the EU's partnerships should incorporate a social pillar, covering, among other things, labour standards. It expected the Commission to use EU funds in order to overcome negative results and open new perspectives for the more sensitive regions and industrial sectors and weaker groups of employees. The Commission must also take adequate measures to stop companies relocating for the sole reason of obtaining structural or other funds and demands a systematic review of whether long-term objectives in the distribution of such funds are being met.

Furthermore, the social dimension of globalisation argues for a reform of the WTO regime. WTO agreements must be evaluated in the light of their economic, social and environmental impact, and the 'necessity' tests in the Technical Barriers to Trade and other Agreements need to be replaced by 'sustainability' tests.

Parliament agreed with the Commission that the private sector and private initiatives, the formation and mobilisation of joint interest groups and global measures by various social bodies (for example NGOs) can make an important contribution to promoting good social governance. It welcomed the Commission's support for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises which set benchmarks for responsible business conduct. The social and environmental responsibilities of multinationals should be clearly established, and EU action in this area should be stepped up.

Parliament invited the Commission to put forward a proposal on social labelling, based on criteria such as compliance with human and trades union rights, the working environment, training and development of employees, equal treatment and social and ethical consideration for employees and citizens in the surrounding community.

Finally, Parliament looked at migration policies, which are increasingly designed to meet the needs of domestic labour markets. It insisted that migration policies must be based on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.