Basic information

2015/2932(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the opening of FTA negotiations with Australia and New Zealand **Subject** 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations **Geographical area** Australia New Zealand	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade		
	Shadow rapporteur GRASWANDER-HAINZ Karoline (S&D) CAMPBELL BANNERMAN David (ECR) TAKKULA Hannu (ALDE) MINEUR Anne-Marie (GUE/NGL) BEGHIN Tiziana (EFDD)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/01/2016	Debate in Parliament		
25/02/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0064/2016	Summary
25/02/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
25/02/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2932(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/04884

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE575.195	13/01/2016	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0250/2016	24/02/2016	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0064/2016	25/02/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2016)269	22/06/2016	

Resolution on the opening of FTA negotiations with Australia and New Zealand

2015/2932(RSP) - 25/02/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 479 votes to 123, with 17 abstentions, a resolution tabled by its Committee on International Trade, on the opening of FTA negotiations with Australia and New Zealand.

Parliament recalled that the EU, Australia and New Zealand are engaged in plurilateral negotiations to further liberalise trade in green goods (Environmental Goods Agreement) and trade in services (TiSA).

It underlined the importance of deepening relations between the EU and the Asia-Pacific region for economic growth and commended both Australia and New Zealand for their strong and consistent commitment to the multilateral trade agenda.

Parliament believed that the negotiation of two separate, modern, ambitious, balanced and comprehensive FTAs with Australia and New Zealand is a pragmatic way of deepening the bilateral partnerships. It stated that the **outcome of the negotiations may act as a template for future free trade agreements**.

The Commission is called upon to study in depth all additional market access opportunities for European economic operators, especially SMEs, offered by the possible FTAs with Australia and New Zealand.

Members stressed that ambitious agreements between the three advanced economies must address, in a meaningful way, **investment, trade in goods and services** (drawing on recent European Parliament recommendations as regards policy space reservations and sensitive sectors), e-commerce, public procurement, energy, state-owned enterprises, competition, anticorruption, regulatory issues such as sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, technology research and, especially, the needs of SMEs.

The possible agreements should fully take into account, in a separate chapter, the needs and interests of SMEs with regard to market access facilitation issues in order to generate concrete business opportunities.

Agriculture: Parliament noted that agriculture is a very sensitive sector and that a final, balanced outcome in the agriculture and fisheries chapters must give due consideration to the interests of all European producers, e.g. meat, dairy, sugar, cereal and, textile producers and those in the outermost regions.

Parliament called for the inclusion of effective bilateral safeguard measures to prevent a surge in imports that would cause, or threaten to cause, serious injury to European producers in sensitive sectors and for the implementation of specific measures to protect sensitive products from the outermost regions. Negotiations must result in strong and enforceable provisions covering the recognition and protection of intellectual property rights, including geographical indications (GIs).

Lastly, Parliament called on the Commission to make the launch of negotiations with Australia and New Zealand conditional on all parties committing at the outset to conduct negotiations as **transparently** as possible and fully respecting best practice as established in other negotiations and through constant dialogue with the social partners and civil society.