Basic information

2022/2611(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on a new trade instrument to ban products made by forced labour **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general 6.20.02 Export/import control, trade defence, trade barriers	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	INTA International Trade	LANGE Bernd (S&D)	22/03/2022
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	SCHMIT Nicolas	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/06/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0245/2022	Summary
09/06/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/06/2022	Debate in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2611(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p1 Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/08684

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B9-0291/2022	03/06/2022	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0245/2022	09/06/2022	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2022)554	27/10/2022	

Resolution on a new trade instrument to ban products made by forced labour

2022/2611(RSP) - 09/06/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 503, votes to 6, with 4 abstentions, a resolution on a new trade instrument to ban products made by forced labour.

According to ILO estimates, 25 million people worldwide are currently in a situation of forced labour and, of these, 20.8 million are in privately imposed forced labour and 4.1 million in state-imposed forced labour. Women and girls comprise 61 % of those in forced labour with migrant workers being especially vulnerable to forced labour. Moreover, 160 million children were estimated to be in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020.

The EU economy is connected to millions of workers around the world through global supply chains and EU consumers want to be certain that the goods they buy are produced in a sustainable and fair way that ensures decent work for those who produce them.

Given that forced labour is a complex phenomenon and a ban on forced labour products will not be sufficient to eradicate forced labour and tackle the issue at its roots, the EU should also focus on dialogue with non-EU countries, technical assistance, capacity building and awareness raising.

The resolution stated that introducing a ban on products made by forced labour is a **political priority** of both Parliament and the EU as a whole.

Parliament called for a new WTO-compatible trade instrument to complement the corporate sustainability due diligence rules, banning the import and export of products made or transported by forced labour and which should be complemented with measures for intra-EU trade. The new proposal could be based on the best practices of countries with similar legislation in place such as the US and Canada.

The new instrument should allow for bans on forced labour products from a particular site of production, a particular importer or company, those from a particular region in the case of state-sponsored forced labour and those from a particular transport vessel or fleet.

Under the new EU instrument, public authorities, on their own initiative or acting on information they have received, should **detain goods at the EU border** when they consider that there is sufficient evidence that these goods were made or transported with forced labour.

The importer whose goods have been detained should then be given the opportunity to refute this accusation by proving that the goods were not made or transported with forced labour, which may then lead to the release of the goods. The resolution stressed that the evidence to prove an absence of forced labour must be based on ILO standards.

While acknowledging that a number of EU companies are already making efforts to ensure that practices that breach human rights and labour rights do not take place in their supply chains, the resolution called on the Commission to:

- offer companies, specifically SMEs, technical and other appropriate support to comply with the new rules in order to avoid unnecessary burdens for SMEs;

- assess the implementation of the instrument and its impact on EU companies;

- ensure that the new EU instrument requires the responsible companies to provide remediation to the affected workers prior to import restrictions being lifted;

- create guidelines to assist companies in the setting up of a supply chain mapping process in order to identify what constitutes relevant information.

Parliament called for a **public database** to be created containing information on individual suppliers, the risk they pose or, on the contrary, evidence of decent work, could reduce the administrative burden on companies. The resolution also called for a **public list of sanctioned entities, regions and products** to be created and maintained.