



**2015/0000(BUD)**

23.6.2015

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Budgets

on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016 - all sections  
(2015/0000(BUD))

Rapporteur: Reimer Böge



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that adequate appropriations should be allocated to the trade-related budget lines to enable the Commission to pursue its ambitious trade agenda aimed at creating growth and jobs across Europe and attaining the Union's wider international goals as well as to step up its efforts regarding the monitoring of the implementation and the effects of trade agreements;
2. Is concerned that many Union citizens equate globalisation with a loss of European output and jobs; points to the increasing role of NGOs in shaping public opinion on trade-related matters due to the lack of an effective Union communication strategy; emphasises the need for an increase in the Commission's information and communication budget to allow for better engagement with citizens; calls on the Commission to present a study on the funding sources and the impact of NGOs active in trade issues;
3. Welcomes the slight increase in commitments for the Instrument for Macro-Financial Assistance and the European Neighbourhood Instrument; is concerned, however, that these increases will not be sufficient to respond to the needs in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhood, including possible further assistance programmes for Ukraine;
4. Emphasises that the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement reached at the 9th Ministerial Conference of the WTO will require funding support for the least developed and developing countries; deplores, therefore, the reduced appropriations for Aid for Trade;
5. Notes the moderate increase in appropriations for the Partnership Instrument; recalls the programme objective to foster international trade and investment opportunities of European SMEs; calls on the Commission to assess and improve the existing tools regarding their efficiency and effectiveness and to ensure sufficient controls and oversight of all activities.