

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES:
VYTVÁŘÍME ALTERNATIVY:**
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ADOPTED MOTION

FOR A JUST WORLD TRADE ORDER

Economic globalisation is including more and more countries, rich and poor, in the world economy and increasing competitive pressure. This process is changing the context for world trade and intensely influencing everyday lives. The development of trade - if properly managed - can be an opportunity. However, for the vast majority of world population the promises of globalisation - social welfare, peace and democratic participation - so far have not become reality. The challenges of growing differences in the level of development between countries and regions, of hunger, poverty and mass disease, exclusion of access to water and basic services demand for a fundamental change of world trade policy.

The EU's competitiveness agenda puts access to markets, energy and raw materials for European large-scale companies and investors, liberalisation, deregulation and tariff reduction at the core. These objectives are pushed forward at all levels - in the World Trade Organisation as well as in regional and bilateral negotiations of trade agreements, while the latter leave less developed countries in an even more unfavorable situation. But where trade liberalisation takes place under pressure, too quickly and without adequate regulation, it results in deindustrialization, the destruction of the environment, increasing dependence and acceleration of impoverishment. Since the Doha development round and even negotiations on regional trade agreements were stalled the EU is more and more seeking accords with 'interesting' developing countries such as India, Brazil, South Africa, China, South Korea, thereby interfering in regional trade relations.

Not only within the internal market, also globally are even basic public services such as water extraction and supply, energy distribution, health care, education jeopardised by demands for liberalisation and privatisation. In the same manner agricultural commodities are increasingly treated just as any other industrial good to be produced and sold anywhere to those who can afford it. While maintaining high subsidies for its own agribusiness and demanding specific products for import, the EU does little to support local food production and diversity in developing countries. There export monoculture, 'cash crops' such as soy beans for European livestock feeding or maize for bio fuels for the EU market, is increasing. It displaces agriculture for the local needs and leads to soil erosion. Consumer prices are rising. Food sovereignty is ever more limited. Small and medium farmers in the South and the North disappear.

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The European Left strongly rejects this 'global Europe strategy'. We urge the European Union to use its political and economic weight towards a world trade model which is based on multilateral cooperation and just relations. We advocate an approach in global policy that seeks multilateral accord on the basis of special and differential treatment according to the needs of people and society in all countries. It is essential to stop the myth of the free trade and open markets serve all ideology. EU foreign trade policy has to aim at fighting poverty and hunger, at avoiding destruction of the environment and overexploitation of natural resources. It may not contradict valuable goals of other policy fields especially development, environment and social policy.

Fair world trade relations can contribute to socio-economically, ecologically and culturally sustainable development. It should be promoted by support for cooperatives and short supply chains that do not allow unjustified profit margins for middlemen. Clear labeling and labeling criteria will help producers and consumers to identify goods that are produced without exploitation of workers and nature. The inclusion of internationally agreed labour, ecological, human rights and democratic standards into all trade agreements should be an undisputable part of the EU-Commission's negotiation mandates. New initiatives must be taken in order to stabilise raw material and commodity prices.

The term aid for trade as one of the tools mentioned in the Doha-declaration has to be taken seriously: Development aid has to be directed at capacity building and technical assistance. Less and least developed countries must be enabled to become stable economies that first serve the needs of their own people. Micro and regional economic circles of agriculture, manufacture and services as well as universally accessible public services and infrastructure have to be promoted. Industries for processing of raw materials and commodities at the place where they are grown or extracted have to be developed. Only if both requirements are met these countries will be able to compete in and benefit from the opportunities of world trade. While countries like Russia, China or India already began trade relations that support the establishment of industries within less developed countries and also invest in the local infrastructure, Europe still treats them like the storage room for natural resources.

Regional accords such as the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with ACP-countries must be devised and negotiated as development agreements as much as trade agreements, which means that they must be based on the principles of asymmetry in favor of the less developed regions, support for regional integration and the establishment and consolidation of regional markets prior to any opening up of markets to the EU.

We also urge for a reform of the agreements on intellectual property rights (TRIPS): Patenting of living organisms or of traditional knowledge and seeds by multinationals must not be allowed. Patenting of traditional seeds inhibits peasants' access to them and reinforces GMO and sterile seeds cultivation which in turn creates dependencies and inherits unpredictable effects on human and environmental health. Hampering the fight against pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria has to be avoided. Exceptions for compulsory licensing of

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pharmaceutical products granted within the TRIPS framework can only be useful if they are practically applicable without unnecessary bureaucratic barriers.

In order to reach such political changes worldwide, it is not enough to only change the EU trade policy although this would be a decisive step forward. It is also time for a structural re-think of global trade structures. The European Left calls for a democratisation of the WTO internal procedures as well as full coherence with the United Nations system and all its principles and standards.