


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2001/2093(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Openness and democracy in international trade		
Subject		
6.20 Common commercial policy in general		
6.30 Development cooperation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ITRE</b> Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		25/04/2001
		PSE <a href="#">DÉSIR Harlem</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>DEVE</b> Development and Cooperation	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
05/07/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0331/2001</a>	
24/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0574/2001</a>	Summary
25/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/05/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2093(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/14848

### Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A5-0331/2001</a>	10/10/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	<a href="#">T5-0574/2001</a> <a href="#">OJ C 112 09.05.2002, p. 0207-0326 E</a>	25/10/2001	EP	Summary

## Openness and democracy in international trade

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Looking ahead to the November 2001 ministerial meeting of the WTO, the committee adopted the own-initiative report by Harlem DÉSIR (PES, F) calling for a major overhaul of the WTO's working methods. The report stressed that the current trade system was undergoing a crisis of democratic legitimacy, due in particular to the unequal participation in, and the uneven distribution of, the benefits of world trade at global level. The committee also highlighted the ambiguity of certain WTO rules and their impact on non-trade issues as well as the lack of internal and external transparency, i.e. the low level of involvement of parliaments and civil society in the work of the WTO. The report listed a number of changes which it said should be made in the forthcoming round. These included the creation of a parliamentary assembly within the WTO with consultative powers, opening the doors to the public in dispute settlement procedures and a right for NGOs to submit analyses and proposals to the various WTO bodies as well as to send observers to WTO meetings. Given that some countries did not have the resources to negotiate effectively at WTO level, MEPs stressed the need to ensure that the WTO's technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for the least developed countries helped them to defend their interests better in negotiations and to influence the formulation of trade policies. The committee said the creation of the WTO following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994 marked a radical change in the multilateral trade system. In comparison to GATT, the WTO's jurisdiction had been extended to a wide range of new areas and its rules had been strengthened with the establishment of an effective sanction mechanism. The implementation of the Uruguay agreements had given rise to serious disappointment in developing countries. The report also mentioned the concern expressed by many ordinary citizens that WTO rules could allow trade considerations to override other legitimate public policy objectives and to undermine the democratic process itself. ?

## Openness and democracy in international trade

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The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Harlem DESIR (PES, F) on openness and democracy in international trade. (Please refer to the previous text).?