



300259 12.01.2010

Committee on International Trade  
The Chairman

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerzy Buzek  
President  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ACCES RESERVE

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, the Committee on International Trade (INTA) held a public hearing on Tuesday 12 January 2010 with Mr. Karel De Gucht, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be in charge of International Trade Policy.

Prior to the hearing, the Committee submitted a written questionnaire with eight general and five specific questions to which the Commissioner-designate replied in writing in a satisfactory manner. During the course of the hearing, he additionally responded to oral questions asked by Members of the Committee and to two questions each from the Committees on Development and on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence.

On the basis of the reaction of the Committee to Mr De Gucht's written and oral statements and overall performance and on the results of the subsequent Coordinators' evaluation meeting, we are able to provide you with the following assessment of the candidate.

Members took note of the five priorities outlined by the Commissioner-designate for the forthcoming mandate and considered that he provided generally well prepared replies in relation to both multilateral and bilateral trade issues, although in respect of institutional matters, his commitments need to be further developed.

The Committee took note of the Commissioner-designate's view that trade is not an end in itself, but a tool to promote European values and goals, such as human rights, sustainable development, social and environmental standards, the rule of law, and the creation of jobs.

Members thought that his professional experience in trade matters as a Member of the Belgian Parliament and Government, his European experience as a member of the Commission and as a Member of the European Parliament as well as his negotiating skills and competence had been demonstrated and that he had displayed a commitment to master, as soon as possible, the complexities of this important dossier. Nevertheless, some Members felt that in relation to a number of issues, more commitment could have been

provided on antidumping, corporate influence in trade policy, impact of trade on jobs, trade union and human rights, development and climate change.

Overall, Members felt that his performance had been convincing and were prepared to accept his willingness to collaborate closely with Parliament on the basis of a new interinstitutional framework agreement. Both the written statements by the Commissioner-Designate and his oral answers to questions, led Members to the conclusion that he held a commitment to act with integrity and independence.

With regard to relations with the European Parliament, the Commissioner-Designate underlined that he will treat the European Parliament on an equal footing with the Council following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and even though he did not go as far as a majority of Members would have liked, he declared himself particularly committed to ensuring a fruitful dialogue between the two institutions and to establishing close and constructive relations with the Committee on International Trade. Furthermore, on the basis of his replies, the Committee believes that the Commissioner will give due consideration to the political recommendations made by the EP in its Resolutions and Reports. Moreover, Mr. De Gucht committed himself to be responsive to the Committee's requests with regard to a new interinstitutional framework agreement (treatment and flow of information) and association of Parliament on the negotiating and monitoring mandates for trade agreements and their provisional application.

The Hearing was generally conducted in a cordial and positive atmosphere and most of the comments made by the Commissioner-Designate made a very favourable impression upon the majority of Members present.

The elements contained in the present letter constitute the majority view of our Committee.

On behalf of the Committee on International Trade, I therefore propose that there should be an acceptance of the candidate's suitability for the post for which he has been proposed, both as a Member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vital Moreira', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vital Moreira

c.c: Mr Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Chairman of the Conference of Committee Chairs