

Sustainability Impact Assessment of EU-Mercosur Trade Negotiations Phase 2

Comments and Responses on Mid-term Reports (civil society)

Comment	Response
Public meeting, 15 July 2008	
1. The representative of the Association of Latin American NGOs (ALOP) asked if future reports (or at least their executive summaries) would be made available in Spanish and Portuguese. The consultants replied that this had been done for the Inception Report prior to the Montevideo workshop, and that summarised versions of future reports would be translated as early as practicable in the consultation process.	Translations will be arranged when the MTRs have been accepted
2. The ALOP representative asked whether the findings of the agriculture SIA would be updated to take account of the recent food price crisis. The consultants agreed that this was necessary, and that the update would also take account of interactions with biofuels and the financial crisis.	Updated as suggested
3. The representative of the Catalan Economic Society welcomed the distinction which the Trade Facilitation SIA drew between the impacts of the trade agreement and those of unilateral action, and asked whether the study would take account of differences between the Mercosur countries. The consultants agreed that these differences were significant, and replied that they would be examined more fully in the remainder of the study, particularly in the case studies.	This will be analysed more fully through the case studies
4. The representative of the International Trade Unions Association requested that labour issues such as wage levels and decent work standards be examined more fully. The Inception Report referred to the potential for EU-Mercosur collaboration in this area, but the Mid-Term report has not taken this further. The consultants replied that these issues would be explored more fully in the final report.	The revised MTR has expanded on these aspects
ITUC (International Trade Unions Association) 31 July	
The indicators in the SIA should reflect the need to assess the effect of trade policy on people. Therefore, social indicators are critical and should include gender analysis and Decent Work concerns. Decent work - a concept which includes employment, rights at work including freedom of association and equality between women and men, social protection and social dialogue - is in fact an essential component of sustainable development. This was briefly treated in the revised inception report from June 2008 (phase 1) as part of the significant impacts of cross-cutting issues but is inadequately addressed in the mid-term report (phase 2).	The revised MTR has expanded on these aspects
The ITUC considers that the final report should put more emphasis on Decent Work because only by integrating such considerations will it be possible to have a clearer picture of the quantitative (increase or decrease in the number of jobs) and the qualitative (e.g. wages, job security, social protection, the gender pay gap, freedom of association and industrial relations) impacts that trade negotiations could have on people. In particular, the experience of the ILO in this field should be used.	The revised MTR has expanded on these aspects
A follow-up mechanism should be established involving various European Commission DGs, the European Parliament, the European Council, trade unions and other representative civil society organisations, developing country partners and the relevant international organisations to monitor how SIAs are used and to what extent they contribute to better policy formulation.	This will be discussed in the final report
We make the above proposals for the University of Manchester to	The contribution is much

<p>incorporate in the final SIA report because trade policy formulation can be a tool for ensuring coherence and sustainable development. But considerations of poverty eradication, decent work and core labour standards must be emphasised to a larger extent in the SIA to gain a clearer picture of the quantitative and qualitative impacts these EU-Mercosur trade negotiations stand to have on workers, women, the poorest, indigenous people and so forth.</p>	<p>appreciated</p>
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