

To

The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angela Merkel
The Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dirk Niebel
The Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, Rainer Brüderle
The Federal Minister of Justice, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger
The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso
The Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs
The Commissioner for Trade, Karel De Gucht

Resolution of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development on the current negotiations for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement:

The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development welcomes the clear statements of the European Commission and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Free Trade Agreement currently being negotiated between the EU and India will not restrict the supply of generic drugs to developing countries (cf. reply from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology dated 12 May 2010 to an enquiry from the German section of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on this topic, and report by the Commission on the ninth round of negotiations from 28 to 30 April 2010 in Brussels, EuB-BReg 95/2010).

The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development also welcomes the resolution of the European Parliament of 26 March 2009 on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (P6_TA(2009)0189), which calls on the European Union and India to:

- ensure that commitments contained in the Free Trade Agreement which is currently under negotiation do not restrict access to essential medicines;
- act in a coordinated and effective manner against counterfeit medicines;
- support initiatives and measures to improve access to and innovation in medicines, particularly for neglected diseases;
- support measures and initiatives in order to improve access to and innovation in medicines, particularly for neglected diseases.

Against this background, the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development calls on the Federal Government and the European Commission to:

- ensure that rules on intellectual property rights contained in the EU-India Free Trade Agreement correspond to the TRIPs standard;
- ensure that the agreement does not extend patent terms beyond the TRIPs standard of 20 years.