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Committee on Culture and Education

2014/2228(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on International Trade

on recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the
Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
(2014/2228(INI))

Rapporteur: Helga Trüpel

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. affirming the EU's commitment to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,
 - B. recalling that, under Article 167 of the TFEU, the Union is required to take cultural aspects into account under other provisions of the Treaties, including those relating to the common commercial policy,
 - C. recognising the special role of services of general interest – in particular in education – as defined in Article 14 TFEU and Protocol No 26 to the TFEU,
 - D. recalling that it is standard practice to exclude subsidies, in particular for the cultural and educational sectors, from EU trade agreements,
1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Commission:
 - (a) ensure, via a general clause in the agreement, in full compliance with the GATS and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, that the parties to the agreement reserve the right to adopt or maintain any measure (in particular of a regulatory and/or financial nature) with respect to the protection or promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity, media pluralism and media freedom, and to preserve or develop, in accordance with the principle of technological neutrality, a regime for audiovisual services in line with democratic, social and cultural requirements;
 - (b) reaffirm that services with a strong cultural component will not be challenged by the TTIP agreement;
 - (c) clarify that the fixed book price system will not be challenged by the obligations under the TTIP agreement;
 - (d) ensure with a general clause the right to adopt or maintain any measure with regard to the provision of all educational services which receive public funding or state support in any form and ensure that privately funded foreign providers meet the same quality and accreditation requirements as domestic providers;
 - (e) specify that nothing in the agreement applies to subsidies or government support with respect to cultural, educational and audiovisual services;
 - (f) use the positive list approach in order to specify the sectors that fall within the scope of the agreement;

- (g) refrain from introducing the ISDS system in the agreement, bearing in mind that the parties to the agreement have fully developed legal systems and procedures.