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## “We cannot go on by simply exporting hides. We have to industrialise and develop”

Robert Njoka, Director of a Kenyan leather tannery



Many developing countries are rich in raw materials which could help fuel their development.

Carefully targeted policies enable industries to develop – generating much needed jobs and income. When the Kenyan government raised export taxes on raw hides and skins, over seven thousand jobs were created and earnings from the sector rocketed by over €8 million!

But such vital measures are being undermined by the EU. In a drive to secure

cheap access to raw materials, the EU wants to prevent developing countries using measures such as these and force them to open up to European companies before they're ready.

Traidcraft, as part of a coalition of agencies across Europe, is campaigning to ensure developing countries have the right to regulate their own trade and investment as they see fit – for the benefit of their people, businesses and the natural environment.

Join campaigners across Europe and take action now!  
Find out more at [www.traidcraft.org.uk/campaign](http://www.traidcraft.org.uk/campaign)



Stop the European Union helping itself to developing countries' raw materials



Dear: \_\_\_\_\_ MEP

Many of the world's poorest countries are rich in valuable raw materials that, if managed well, can help create jobs, develop businesses and raise vital income.

But the European Union is actively pushing trade and investment policies on poor countries that will deny them the right to choose economic policies that would ensure their raw materials are used to benefit their people and safeguard the environment.

**Please ask the European Commission to:**

**Withdraw demands from all trade negotiations that would prevent poor countries using export taxes to protect their raw materials and raise revenue.**

**Transform its position on investment to allow developing countries to regulate foreign investment and companies in the public interest.**

**Call for an international process to address how to manage raw materials in a fair and sustainable way and promote responsible consumption.**

Yours sincerely,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
attach 60p  
in postage  
stamps

\_\_\_\_\_ MEP

**European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
60 B 1047  
Brussels**

## Raw materials — raw subject

The European Union is undermining the development progress of some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries.

The EU is using trade and investment agreements to secure cheap access to raw materials and unfair preferential treatment for EU businesses. This aggressive new 'resource grab' is preventing developing countries from creating jobs, building up businesses and raising valuable revenue.

Instead the EU should defend the right of developing countries to:

- **Regulate their exports to manage their raw materials in the public interest and for their successful development.**
- **Negotiate investment agreements that reflect their economic, environmental and social needs.**

**Please send the postcard opposite to your MEP**

and help put a responsible approach to raw materials at the heart of EU trade and investment policy.

**Find out who your MEPs are by visiting  
[www.europarl.europa.eu/members.do](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members.do)**

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