

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

**AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES**

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 February 2018

ACP/22/001/18

ACP-UE 2103/18

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: 67th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors
on: 17 March 2017
at: Europa Building, 155, rue de la Loi, 1048 Brussels
Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the 67th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of
Ambassadors on 17 March 2017

The 67th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors took place on 17 March 2017 under the chairmanship of H.E. Ms Marlene BONNICI, Ambassador of Malta and Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the European Union.

The meeting was co-chaired for the ACP side by H.E. Ms Mirjam BLAAK SOW, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, replacing H.E. Mr Teshome TOGA CHANAKA, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, President-in-Office of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors.

The Commission was represented by Mr Klaus RUDISCHHAUSER, Deputy Director General of DG DEVCO and Ms Sandra GALLINA, Director for Sustainable Development, Economic Partnership Agreements, Agri-food and Fisheries in DG Trade. The EEAS was represented by Mr Gunnar WIEGAND, Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in ACP/22/002/17 - ACP-UE 2106/17.

2. Adoption of the outcome of proceedings of the 66th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 4 March 2016

The Committee approved the summary record of the previous meeting [ACP/22/001/17 - ACP-UE 2101/17].

3. Preparation of the 42nd session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers

A. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The EU side expressed its commitment to continue to play a leading role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with all partners and stakeholders. It informed the Committee about the state-of-play of the EU internal discussions on the European Consensus on Development, the main deliverable to be presented at the meeting of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (10-19 July 2017 in New York).

The ACP side also underlined its readiness to take concrete steps together with the EU to align ACP and EU priorities and better position the ACP and the EU together in order to successfully implement Agenda 2030.

The Committee agreed that the ACP and the EU side should continue this discussion in an open and constructive manner.

B. Climate Change

The EU side reiterated its commitment to a successful implementation of the Paris Agreement, underlining the importance of ensuring synergies with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda throughout this process. It welcomed Fiji's Presidency of COP 23 that creates a good opportunity to reaffirm the ACP-EU joint position and expressed the EU's readiness for continued effective cooperation with a view to a successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The ACP side informed the Committee about its initiatives for 2017 to contribute to the preparation of the ACP Group for COP 23 and to continue to collaborate with partners, like the EU, to contribute to its success. It recalled the potential of the 11th EDF to develop and implement concrete actions at the regional and national levels that will contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and invited the EU side to work closely with the ACP in this regard.

The Committee agreed that the two sides maintain their commitment to working closely together on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

C. The future of the relations between ACP countries and the EU

The EU side welcomed the convergence of views that the ACP-EU relationship needs to be adapted in a way that it best responds to the new reality. It added that it is adamant to build a comprehensive development framework, embedding EU development policy into the wider framework of EU external action, notably the EU Global Strategy.

The ACP side informed the Committee of the mandate given by the 104th session of the ACP Council of Ministers to the ACP Committee of Ambassadors to immediately commence work on preparing a roadmap in readiness for negotiations with the EU for a new Agreement post-2020 and highlighted the guiding principles for any engagement with the EU.

The Committee welcomed that this issue would be discussed by Ministers in May as regular exchanges are very important to understand each other's views on this very important topic and continue the work on shaping the ACP-EU future together.

D. Migration

The EU side recalled that orderly management of migration remains a high priority in the EU agenda and called for further joint efforts regarding the implementation of the agreed Valletta Action Plan. It welcomed the regular stock taking of the implementation. It added that it had played a central role and will continue doing so in the elaboration of the Global compacts (on migration and on refugees). The EU fully supports the objective of agreeing a comprehensive framework for global governance of migration through the principle of global responsibility sharing, cooperation and partnership between countries of origin, transit and destination.

The ACP side stressed that the ACP countries remain highly motivated to closely follow the Rabat and Khartoum processes, as well as the implementation of the EU Trust Fund for Africa, as they see the many commonalities which exist between the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and the Africa –EU Partnership on Migration. The applicability of the lessons learnt from different dialogues between African countries and the EU to the wider ACP group is priceless, as the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, together with many African countries, are also faced with similar challenges, particularly in relation to human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and high cost of remittances. The ACP side also drew attention to the phenomenon of internal migration within African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries.

The Committee took note of the information provided and decided this information would be brought to the attention of Ministers.

E. Private Sector Development

The EU side welcomed the recent concrete steps towards the implementation of the Joint ACP-EU cooperation framework for Private Sector Development support in ACP countries and reaffirmed its commitment to this process. The EU expressed its wish to see the actions regarding private sector development in Africa to be linked to the External Investment Plan, which provides an integrated approach to boost investments and create jobs.

The ACP side informed of the first ACP Private Sector Development Forum held in October 2016 and the principles drawn at that occasion, namely the support to ACP organisations to implement private sector development programmes, awareness raising and capacity building regarding grants and blending, support to "home-grown" businesses, regular consultation with ACP regions and regional development banks, as well as special attention to local and regional markets.

The Committee took note of the information provided and decided to bring it to the attention of Ministers.

F. Development Finance Cooperation

- Information on the Activities of the ACP-EU Committee on Development Finance Cooperation

The Committee of Ambassadors took note of the results of the 34th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee on Development Finance Cooperation (authorised representatives) held on 10 March 2017.

G. Revision of Chapter 3 of Annex II to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement

The EU side noted with regret that the revision of chapter 3 to Annex II could not be adopted by 31 December 2016, but expressed its hope that the new revised version of the proposal can be adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers at its meeting in May.

The ACP side confirmed that internal discussions on this issue are intense within the ACP Group and expressed its hope to arrive to an agreement very soon.

The Committee took note of the continuation of the discussions at technical level, the outcome of which will be presented to the ACP-EU Committee on Development Finance Cooperation (Ministers) and the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in May.

H. Economic issues

- **Trade cooperation**
 - a. Follow-up to the 74th meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation**
 - b. State of play of EPAs**
- **European External Investment Plan**
- **Perspectives of the Investment Facility**

The ACP side gave an oral presentation of the main outcomes of the 74th meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation held in Brussels on 7 March 2017. The EU side confirmed that the report was a true reflection of the deliberations.

The Commission provided a brief overview of the state-of-play of EPAs.

The EU side informed the Committee about the ongoing negotiations regarding the External Investment Plan and External Fund for Sustainable Development.

The EIB informed the Committee on the perspectives of the Investment Facility.

The ACP side expressed its hope that the proposed implementation modalities would ensure coherence and efficiency, as well as help to achieve the ambition to establish one single coherent framework. It noted, however, that this instrument is primarily dedicated to the European Neighbourhood and African countries, and called for appropriate instruments to be proposed for Caribbean and Pacific countries. Regarding the Investment Facility, the ACP side repeated its disappointment that its request of being more closely associated to the governance of the Investment Facility has not been responded. It welcomed the upcoming assessment of the Facility in accordance with the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement and expressed its readiness to take part in the exercise.

The Committee took note of the report of the 74th meeting of the Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation and of the comments made by the ACP side and the Commission. The Committee took note of the information on the state of play of EPAs, the External Investment Plan and the perspectives of the Investment Facility and noted that the issues would be further discussed at the meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in May 2017.

I. Provisional agenda of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers

The Committee agreed the provisional agenda of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (as set out in ACP/21/001/17 - ACP-UE 2110/17).

4. Any other business

Estonia informed participants about the e-Governance Conference 2017 to be held on 30 and 31 May 2017 in Tallinn which has a specific focus on ACP countries.