

## ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

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**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Brussels, 4 June 2013**

**ACP/21/004/13**

**ACP-UE 2116/13**

### **ACP-EU JOINT DOCUMENT**

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Subject: Report from the ACP-EU Council of Ministers to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in 2012

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In accordance with Article 15(3) of the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, as first amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005, and amended for the second time in Ouagadougou on 23 June 2010, hereinafter referred to as "the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement", the ACP-EU Council of Ministers hereby submits to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly its report on the implementation of the Agreement in 2012.

REPORT FROM THE ACP-EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TO THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACP-EU  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

(2012)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The year 2012 was marked by reinforced cooperation between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in international fora which materialised in the joint effort to prepare a common position for the Rio+20 international conference on sustainable development.

The second dominant theme of the discussions of the joint bodies under the Agreement was the preparation of the multi-annual financial framework for ACP-EU cooperation 2014-2020.

In parallel, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, assisted by its preparatory bodies, continued to develop cooperation in other areas related to the three pillars of ACP-EU cooperation: political cooperation, trade cooperation and development finance cooperation.

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## II. ACTIVITIES OF THE ACP-EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND ITS PREPARATORY BODIES IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION

### 1. Political cooperation

In 2012, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on political cooperation in two areas: preparation of a joint position for the Rio+20 conference and migration.

The ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP-EU Council of Ministers both held extensive exchanges in preparation for the Rio+20 conference. As a result of these deliberations, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers adopted an ACP-EU Joint Declaration on Rio+20<sup>1</sup> on 15 June 2012, which served as a basis for ACP-EU cooperation at the conference.

Migration was the second dominant theme in ACP-EU cooperation in the political sphere. In 2012, the ACP and the EU continued their dialogue on migration and development. Six Ambassadors' meetings and three experts' meetings led to the elaboration of concrete and practical recommendations on visas, remittances and readmission, which were subsequently examined and endorsed by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers<sup>2</sup>.

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers approved the request for accession to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement from the Republic of South Sudan. South Sudan's accession procedure will be finalised when the authorities of South Sudan deposit an act of accession to the Agreement with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

At its June meeting, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers examined the results of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in 2011. In this context, the Council also discussed the practical implications of the provisions on increased cooperation and coherence between the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the ACP-EU Council brought about by the second revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> ACP/22/002/12 - ACP-UE 2118/12

<sup>2</sup> ACP/28/044/12 - ACP-UE 2115/12

## **2. Trade cooperation**

Trade cooperation figured high on the agenda of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and its preparatory bodies: it was debated at both Ministerial (by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee) and at senior officials' level (ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors, Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation).

Traditionally, trade debates have focused on the negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and questions related to commodities, notably sugar, kava, bananas, cotton, cocoa and tobacco.

As regards EPAs, the joint institutions followed closely not only the negotiation process, but also the implementation of the EPAs already applied, i.e. the EPA with CARIFORUM as well as the interim EPAs with Eastern and Southern Africa and the Pacific.

The ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee and the Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation also debated other trade-related topics: WTO negotiations, EU Free Trade negotiations with third countries and trade-capacity building.

## **3. Development finance cooperation**

In the area of development finance cooperation, in 2012, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on the performance review of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) and the outlook for ACP-EU development cooperation after the expiry of the 10th EDF.

The performance review, which was conducted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in accordance with Annex 1b to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, assessed the degree of realisation of commitments and disbursements as well as the results and impact of the aid provided. The results of the performance review fed into the discussion on the preparation of the multi-annual financial framework for EU-ACP cooperation 2014-2020.

The ACP-EU Development and Finance Cooperation Committee, the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP-EU Council of Ministers discussed thoroughly the perspectives for ACP-EU development cooperation after 2013, in particular the EU's Agenda for change and its impact on the multi-annual financial framework for EU-ACP cooperation 2014-2020.

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers also decided to revise Annex II to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in order to ensure the continued financing of project-related technical assistance provided by the European Investment Bank in ACP countries until the end of 2013<sup>1</sup>.

Finally, given that the remaining funds from the 10th EDF Intra-ACP proved insufficient to meet the programming requirements which emerged from the 10th EDF Intra-ACP Mid-Term Review, notably the needs of the African Peace Facility, the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors decided to replenish the Intra-ACP envelope with an amount of EUR 195 million transferred from the unallocated resources of the 10th EDF.

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<sup>1</sup> ACP/21/003/12- ACP-UE 2112/12

### III. OVERVIEW OF WORK OF THE ACP-EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND ITS PREPARATORY BODIES AND DOCUMENTS ADOPTED

#### 1. Meetings

With a view to pursuing the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the following meetings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and its preparatory bodies were held in 2012:

- ACP-EU Council of Ministers (Port-Vila, Vanuatu, 14-15 June 2012)<sup>1</sup>;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (Port-Vila, Vanuatu, 14 June 2012)<sup>2</sup>;
- ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee (Brussels, Belgium, 26 October 2012)<sup>3</sup>;
- ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors (Brussels, Belgium, 4 May 2012)<sup>4</sup>;
- ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation (Brussels, Belgium, 13 April 2012)<sup>5</sup>;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (authorised representatives) (Brussels, Belgium, 25 April 2012).

Details of the proceedings of the abovementioned institutions are set out in the outcomes of proceedings from their meetings.

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers has also held debates with the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. At the 23rd meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Horsens, Denmark from 28 to 30 May 2012, the ACP-EU Council was represented by H. E. Mr Alva Baptiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia, for the ACP Side and H.E. Mr Christian Friis Bach, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark, for the EU Side.

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<sup>1</sup> Outcome of proceedings: ACP/21/001/13 - ACP-UE 2104/13

<sup>2</sup> Oral report from the meeting is annexed to the Outcome of proceedings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (ACP/21/001/13 - ACP-UE 2104/13)

<sup>3</sup> Outcome of proceedings: ACP/61/016/13 - ACP-UE 2107/13

<sup>4</sup> Outcome of proceedings: ACP/22/002/13 - ACP-UE 2103/13

<sup>5</sup> Outcome of proceedings: ACP/61/048/12 - ACP-UE 2124/12



The Council also held a debate with the Assembly at its 24th meeting, which took place in Paramaribo, Suriname, from 27 to 29 November 2012. The Council was represented by H. E. Mr. Pierre Titi, Minister of Finance of Cameroon, for the ACP Side and H. E. Ms. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, for the EU Side.

## 2. Decisions

In 2012, the following Decisions were adopted in pursuit of the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement:

- Decision No 1/2012 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 15 June 2012 regarding the revision of terms and conditions of investment financing (Chapter 1 of Annex II to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement)<sup>1</sup>;
- Decision No 2/2012 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 15 June 2012 concerning the status of the Republic of South Sudan in relation to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part<sup>2</sup>;
- Decision No 1/2012 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 26 April 2012 on the termination of the term of office of the Director of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)<sup>3</sup>;
- Decision No 2/2012 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 26 April 2012 on the termination of the term of office of the Deputy Director of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)<sup>4</sup>;
- Decision No 3/2012 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 13 September 2012 concerning the reassignment of a part of the unallocated resources of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to Intra-ACP cooperation<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> ACP/21/003/12 - ACP-UE 2112/12

<sup>2</sup> ACP/21/002/12 - ACP-UE 2114/12

<sup>3</sup> ACP/85/019/12 - ACP-UE 2109/12

<sup>4</sup> ACP/85/020/12 - ACP-UE 2110/12

<sup>5</sup> ACP/81/040/12 - ACP-UE 2116/12

### 3. Political documents

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers endorsed the following documents of a political nature:

- ACP-EU Joint Declaration on Rio+20<sup>1</sup> adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 15 June 2012;
- Report on the 2011-2012 dialogue on migration and development<sup>2</sup> endorsed by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 15 June 2012,
- Request from the African Union for replenishment of the African Peace Facility endorsed by the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 17 October 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> ACP/22/002/12 - ACP-UE 2118/12

<sup>2</sup> ACP/28/044/12 - ACP-UE 2115/12