

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ACP-EU JOINT DOCUMENT

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 2016

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 2016.

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

(2016)

CONTENTS

Page

I.	Introduction	4
II.	Activities of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and its preparatory bodies in specific areas of cooperation	5
	1. Political cooperation	5
	2. Economic development	6
	3. Trade cooperation	6
	4. Development finance cooperation	6
III.	Overview of work of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and its preparatory bodies and documents adopted	7
	1. Meetings	7
	2. Decisions	8
	3. Political documents	9

I. INTRODUCTION

Following the successes of global discussions and the agreement on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the year 2016 was dedicated to stock-taking and forward looking discussions in these areas. In addition, the parties also continued their exchange on migration and development.

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

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

1. Political cooperation

In 2016, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on political cooperation in three areas: implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and migration and development.

The implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was discussed as a follow-up to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015 and the Special Summit on Sustainable Development held in New York in September 2015, with a view to reinforcing synergy and commonality of views to facilitate the implementation.

The UNFCCC was a prominent item on the agenda, providing an opportunity to discuss further grounds for ACP-EU cooperation with a view to an effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Migration and development was the third dominant theme in ACP-EU cooperation in the political sphere. It allowed for a comprehensive discussion on the basis of the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan and the EU Trust Fund.

At its April meeting, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers examined the results of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly sessions which took place in 2015 in Suva, Fiji and in Brussels and adopted the report to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in 2015.

2. Economic development

Economic development strategies figured highly on the agenda of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and its preparatory bodies, with the main topic being private sector development.

3. Trade cooperation

Trade cooperation had a prominent place 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 at senior officials' level (ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors, Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation). Trade debates focused on Economic Partnership Agreements and the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference.

With regard to EPAs, the year 2016 brought about important progress in the negotiation process. The signature process for the West Africa EPA was underway. Also, both the SADC EPA and the EAC EPA were finalised for signature.

The ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation also debated other trade-related topics: Trade for All – EU trade and investment strategy, EU's negotiations with third countries, fisheries, commodities, WTO issues – outcome of WTO MC 10 and way forward, and trade-related capacity building programmes.

4. Development finance cooperation

In the area of development finance cooperation, the revision of Annexes II¹ and III² to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa were the main focus of the discussions at the joint institutions.

¹ Annex II, Chapter 3, to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement: Terms and conditions for financing - Financing for short-term fluctuations in export earnings.

² Annex III to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement: Institutional support, CDE and CTA.

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 2016:

- ACP-EU Council of Ministers (Dakar, Senegal, 28-29 April 2016)³;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (Ministers) (Dakar, Senegal, 28 April 2016)⁴;
- Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee (Brussels, 9 December 2016)⁵;
- ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors (Brussels, 4 March 2016)⁶;
- ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation (Brussels, 23 February 2016)⁷;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (authorised representatives) (Brussels, 16 February 2016).

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

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers also held debates with the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly at the 31st session of the latter, held in Windhoek, Namibia from 13 to 15 June 2016 and at the 32nd session, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 19 to 21 December 2016.

³ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/21/002/17 - ACP-UE 2102/17

⁴ Oral report from the meeting is annexed to the Outcome of proceedings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (ACP/21/002/17 - ACP-UE 2102/17)

⁵ Draft Minutes: ACP/61/022/17 - ACP-UE 2108/17

⁶ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/22/001/17 - ACP-UE 2101/17

⁷ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/61/029/16 - ACP-UE 2117/16

2. Decisions

In 2016, the following Decisions were adopted in pursuit of the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement:

- Decision No 1/2016 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 7 March 2016 on the approval of derogations to the Financial Regulation of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)⁸;
- Decision No 2/2016 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 7 March 2016 appointing a member of the Executive Board of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)⁹;
- Decision No 3/2016 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 12 July 2016 regarding the revision of Annex III of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement¹⁰;
- Decision No 4/2016 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 30 September 2016 appointing a member to the Executive Board of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)¹¹;
- Decision No 5/2016 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 22 December 2016 giving a discharge to the Director of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) in respect of the implementation of the budgets of the Centre for the financial years 2011 and 2012¹².

⁸ ACP/85/011/16 - ACP-UE 2109/16

⁹ ACP/85/012/16 - ACP-UE 2110/16

¹⁰ ACP/22/003/16 - ACP-UE 2116/16

¹¹ ACP/84/095/16 - ACP-UE 2118/16

¹² ACP/85/046/16 - ACP-UE 2122/16

3. Political documents

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers adopted the following document of a political nature:

- 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 2015¹³, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 28 April 2016.

¹³ ACP/21/003/16 - ACP-UE 2112/16