

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 April 2014

ACP/22/003/13

ACP-UE 2124/13

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of:	63rd meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors
on:	3 May 2013
at:	Justus Lipsius Building, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels
Subject:	Outcome of proceedings of the 63rd meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 3 May 2013

The 63rd meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors took place on 3 May 2013 under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr Samuel Otsile OUTLULE, Ambassador of Botswana and Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors.

The meeting was co-chaired for the European Union by H.E. Mr Rory MONTGOMERY, Ambassador and Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Commission was represented by Mr Klaus RUDISCHHAUSER, Deputy Director General of DG EuropeAid - Development and Cooperation, and Mr Peter THOMPSON, Director for Development and EPAs in DG Trade. The EEAS was represented by Mr Sean DOYLE, Head of Division for West Africa.

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in ACP/22/001/13 - ACP-UE 2109/13.

2. Adoption of the outcome of proceedings of the 62nd meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors held on 4 May 2012

The Committee approved the summary record of the previous meeting [ACP/22/002/13 - ACP-UE 2103/13].

3. Preparation of the 38th session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (Brussels, 6-7 June 2013)

A. Trade cooperation

- Follow-up to the 70th meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation

The ACP side gave an oral presentation of the main outcomes of the 70th meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation held in Brussels on 23 April 2013.

The Commission confirmed that the report was a true reflection of the deliberations.

The Committee took note of the results of the 70th meeting of the Subcommittee.

- Economic Partnership Agreements: state of play and perspectives

The Commission provided a brief overview of the EPAs being negotiated. The Commission stressed that negotiations on EPAs had made progress over the previous year and that in several African regions, only a handful of politically more sensitive issues remained open.

The ACP side recognised that in the Caribbean region, the Parties were making positive strides in implementing the CARIFORUM EPA. Nevertheless, this progress could be undermined by the EU policy of differentiation which could affect the region's capacity to implement the EPA. With regard to the Pacific region, the ACP Co-chair recalled the region's commitment to completing the negotiations by the end of 2013 and emphasised the importance of trade in services for the Pacific. Concerning Africa, he recalled that serious concerns persist regarding the implications of the elimination of steep tariffs and the provisions restricting policy options which may be imposed by EPAs. He therefore appealed to the EU side to convene an ACP-EU High Level Panel on EPAs which would provide an opportunity to discuss and solve the outstanding issues at the highest political level.

The Committee took note of the state of play of EPA negotiations and noted that the issue would be further discussed at the June meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

B. Migration and development

- Exchange of views on the state of play and the way forward

The EU side expressed satisfaction with the process and called for reinforced cooperation on migration, which would be geared towards putting the recommendations on visas, remittances and readmission into practice.

The Commission outlined the state of play of the dialogue, emphasising the need to ensure proper implementation of the recommendations jointly elaborated and adopted in 2012. The Commission recalled that the EU side had made a number of concrete proposals in this respect and was waiting for a reaction from the ACP side. The Commission also proposed to explore the possibility of adopting a joint ACP-EU Declaration ahead of the 2013 UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

The representative of Zimbabwe declared that the EU proposals regarding the implementation of the recommendations on visas, remittances and readmission had been communicated to the ACP States. With regard to the proposal on regional meetings on readmission, she indicated that even though no official position had been adopted on this issue yet, the ACP side would prefer to undertake an "all ACP approach". She also highlighted the need to focus on other aspects related to migration, such as the facilitation of legal migration, the fight against trafficking in persons and the protection of migrants' rights.

The Committee took note of the state of play of the dialogue and agreed on the need to continue close cooperation on the implementation of its results.

C. Post-2015 overarching framework

With a view to the Special Event on MDGs in September, both Parties expressed their willingness to work constructively towards developing a common position on the post-2015 framework.

The Committee of Ambassadors consequently recommended that this matter should be discussed at the meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers scheduled to take place on 6-7 June 2013 in Brussels.

D. Future of EU support to ACP Private Sector Development

- Exchange of views

The Parties agreed that Private Sector Development is a critical pillar of economic development in the ACP States and as such should be a priority for EU support.

In this context, the ACP side expressed concern regarding the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) and called on the EU to engage in efforts geared towards reforming the CDE.

The Committee agreed that both sides should engage in dialogue on future EU support to the ACP private sector. The Committee also recommended that the ACP-EU Council of Ministers should hold an exchange of views on this subject.

E. Annex 1c to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement: ACP-EU Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020

The Committee agreed on the importance of adopting a Decision setting out the ACP-EU Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020 by the ACP-EU Council in June 2013. The Committee agreed that the draft Decision would be discussed in detail by the Development Finance Cooperation Committee at both Authorised Representatives' and Ministerial level.

The Committee noted that a draft decision would be submitted to the ACP-EU Council for adoption, following recommendations of the ACP-EU Ministerial Development Finance Cooperation Committee (in accordance with Article 100 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement).

F. Accession of Somalia to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement

The ACP side welcomed the recent positive developments in Somalia and called on the international community including the EU to maintain the momentum to help Somalia restore peace and political stability.

The EU side expressed its support to efforts of the Government of Somalia to rebuild the country and welcomed Somalia's request for accession to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

The Committee agreed that the decision regarding Somalia's accession to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement should be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

G. Food and nutrition security

The ACP side underscored the need to strengthen long-term approaches to address the root causes of food and nutrition crises in ACP countries through revitalising the agricultural and rural development sectors in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. It therefore enquired the EU to address these issues in the current programming of the 11th EDF.

The EU side took note of the ACP request and expressed the EU's willingness to hold an open exchange of views on food and nutrition security at the upcoming ACP-EU Council.

The Commission outlined the Communication on enhancing maternal and child nutrition in external assistance and reiterated the EU's commitment to tackling food and nutrition security in ACP countries.

The Committee agreed that the ACP-EU Council of Ministers should also have an informal exchange of views on this subject.

H. 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/21/002/13 - ACP-UE 2110/13).

4. Any other business

There is nothing to report under this item.
