

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 2013

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 2013.

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

(2013)

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I. INTRODUCTION

The year 2013 was marked by the establishment of a new multiannual financial framework for the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, amounting to EUR 31 589 million, which followed the Decision of the European Union to found the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

In 2013, the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States continued to reinforce their cooperation in international fora which materialised in the joint effort to prepare a common position for the UN High Level Dialogue on International 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, 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 2013, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on political cooperation in two areas: the post-2015 framework and migration.

The post-2015 overarching framework was discussed by both the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. Following these discussions and encouraged by the positive experience from the Vanuatu session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers when the Parties adopted a joint ACP-EU declaration in the preparation for the Rio+20 conference, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers agreed that the EU and the ACP Group should work closely together with a view to developing a joint position to be adopted by the Council at its meeting in 2014.

Migration was the second dominant theme in ACP-EU cooperation in the political sphere. In 2013, the ACP and the EU continued their dialogue on migration and development. Discussions at Ambassadors' meetings, the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP-EU Council of Ministers focused on the practical implementation of recommendations on visas, remittances and readmission endorsed by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers at its meeting in Vanuatu in 2012¹. In addition, the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors, acting on the basis of a mandate granted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, adopted a joint declaration on the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development².

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers approved the request for accession to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement submitted by the Federal Republic of Somalia. Somalia's accession procedure was finalised on 5 September 2013 when the Somalian authorities filed an act of accession to the Agreement with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

¹ ACP/28/044/12 - ACP-UE 2115/12

² ACP/28/026/13 - ACP-UE 2126/13

At its June meeting, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers examined the results of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in 2012 and adopted its first report to the Assembly on the implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. Furthermore, the Council also held an informal debate on food and nutrition security.

2. Trade cooperation

Trade cooperation figured highly 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 negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and questions related to commodities, notably sugar, bananas, cotton, cocoa and tobacco.

As regards EPAs, the joint institutions closely followed 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 East and Southern Africa and with the Pacific.

The ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee and the Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation also debated other trade-related topics: WTO negotiations, non-tariff measures, EU free trade negotiations with third countries, responsible sourcing of minerals and trade-capacity building.

3. Development finance cooperation

In the area of development finance cooperation, in 2013, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on drafting the protocol on the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020 under the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. A decision establishing the new financial protocol was adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 7 June 2013³.

³ ACP/21/005/13 - ACP-UE 2117/13

The protocol provides that for the purposes set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and for a period starting on 1 January 2014, the overall amount of financial assistance available to the ACP States within this multiannual financial framework will amount to EUR 31 589 million, which includes EUR 29 089 million from the 11th EDF and EUR 2 500 million in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank's own resources.

Furthermore, the ACP-EU Council agreed on the allocation of resources for the period 2014-2020: from the overall amount of EUR 29 089 million under the 11th EDF, an amount of EUR 24 365 million will be allocated to national and regional indicative programmes, EUR 3 590 million to intra-ACP and inter-regional cooperation and EUR 1 134 million to the Investment Facility.

With a view to programming the EU assistance to ACP countries in the period 2014-2020, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors also discussed the future of EU support for ACP private-sector development.

The ACP-EU Development and Finance Cooperation Committee also discussed other topics related to financing, in particular a possible modification of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the financial situation for the transition period between the 10th and 11th EDF, the state of play regarding the end of term review of national and regional cooperation, national and regional programming of the 11th EDF, implementation of the Investment Facility and the EU's future development assistance policy, including budget support.

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 2013:

- ACP-EU Council of Ministers (Brussels, Belgium, 6-7 June 2013)⁴;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (Brussels, 6 June 2013)⁵;
- ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee (Brussels, 11 October 2013)⁶;
- ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors (Brussels, 3 May 2013)⁷;
- ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation (Brussels, 23 April 2013)⁸;
- three meetings of the ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (authorised representatives) (Brussels, 8 May 2013, 27 May 2013 and 19 December 2013).

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 also held debates with the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. At the 25th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Brussels, from 17 to 19 June 2013, the ACP-EU Council was represented by H. E. Mr Olebile Gaborone, Assistant Minister for Housing and Lands of Botswana, for the ACP and H.E. Mr Joe Costello Minister of State with responsibility for Trade and Development of Ireland, for the EU.

⁴ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/21/001/14 - ACP-UE 2101/14

⁵ Oral report from the meeting is annexed to the Outcome of proceedings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (ACP/21/001/14 - ACP-UE 2101/14)

⁶ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/61/005/14 - ACP-UE 2107/14

⁷ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/22/003/13 - ACP-UE 2124/13

⁸ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/61/045/13 - ACP-UE 2121/13

The Council also held a debate with the Assembly at its 26th meeting, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 to 27 November 2013. The Council was represented by H. E. Fonotoe Luafesili Pierre Lauofo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa, for the ACP and H. E. Mr Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, for the EU.

2. Decisions

In 2013, the following Decisions were adopted in pursuit of the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement:

- Decision No 1/2013 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 7 June 2013 adopting a protocol on the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020 under 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 part⁹;
- Decision No 2/2013 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 7 June 2013 concerning the request made by the Federal Republic of Somalia for observer status with regard to, and subsequent accession 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 part¹⁰;
- Decision No 1/2013 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 6 March 2013 appointing the members of the Executive Board of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)¹¹;
- Decision No 2/2013 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 29 May 2013 appointing members to the Executive Board of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)¹²;

⁹ ACP/21/005/13 - ACP-UE 2117/13

¹⁰ ACP/21/003/13 - ACP-UE 2118/13

¹¹ ACP/85/015/13 - ACP-UE 2105/13

¹² ACP/84/039/13 - ACP-UE 2113/13

- Decision No 3/2013 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 30 July 2013 appointing the members of the Executive Board of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)¹³;
- Decision No 4/2013 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 7 November 2013 appointing members to the Executive Board of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)¹⁴;
- Decision No 5/2013 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 7 November 2013 on the Statutes of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)¹⁵.

3. Political documents

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers adopted the following documents 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 2012¹⁶ adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 6 June 2013;
- Joint Declaration of the European Union and its Member States and the ACP countries on the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development¹⁷ adopted by the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 4 October 2013.

¹³ ACP/85/046/13 - ACP-UE 2120/13

¹⁴ ACP/84/079/13 - ACP-UE 2128/13

¹⁵ ACP/84/080/13 - ACP-UE 2129/13

¹⁶ ACP/21/004/13 - ACP-UE 2116/13

¹⁷ ACP/28/026/13 - ACP-UE 2126/13