

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 17 February 2016

ACP/22/001/16

ACP-UE 2102/16

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: 65th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors
on: 17 April 2015
at: Justus Lipsius Building, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels
Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the 65th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 17 April 2015

The 65th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors took place on 17 April 2015 under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr Roy Mickey JOY, Ambassador of Vanuatu and Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors.

The meeting was co-chaired for the European Union by H.E. Ms Ilze JUHANSONE, Ambassador of Latvia and Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Commission was represented by Mr Fernando FRUTUOSO DE MELO, Director General of DG International Cooperation and Development – EuropeAid, and Ms Sandra GALLINA, Acting Director for Sustainable Development; Economic Partnership Agreements - African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries in DG Trade. The EEAS was represented by Mr Nicolas James WESTCOTT, Managing Director for Africa.

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in ACP/22/002/15 - ACP-UE 2107/15.

2. Adoption of the outcome of proceedings of the 64th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 16 May 2014

The Committee approved the summary record of the previous meeting [ACP/22/001/15 - ACP-UE 2104/15].

3. Preparation of the 40th session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers

A. Post-2015 / Financing for Development

The ACP side underlined the importance of building on the Joint Declaration on the Post-2015 Agenda, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in Nairobi in 2014. It stressed the need to address the means of implementation in a comprehensive manner, ensuring that full advantage is taken from the potential variety and complementarity of all means. ODA was mentioned as remaining a critical and essential component.

The EU side expressed its conviction that the ACP and the EU sides need to defend their shared interest in the global discussions. It highlighted that a single framework with all means of implementation considered comprehensively, is of essence.

The Committee recommended that discussions at technical level should be held to identify common elements that both sides can jointly advocate at the Financing for Development Conference of Addis Ababa, with the objective of achieving an outcome that will reinforce their joint commitment to poverty eradication.

B. ACP-EU Relations Post-2020

Both parties gave an overview of their internal processes concerning the Post-2020 discussions.

The Committee took stock of the ongoing process.

C. ACP Private Sector Development

The ACP side provided an overview of the implementation of the new ACP Private Sector Development Strategy and of the Joint Framework for ACP-EU Cooperation for the Development of the Private Sector in ACP Countries. The ACP side mentioned the importance of the implementation of the Joint ACP-EU Declaration on the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), adopted in Nairobi in 2014 and proceed with the orderly closing of the CDE ensuring that the private sector support projects implemented by the CDE in ACP countries and regions are completed in full. Furthermore, the ACP side underlined the importance of the speedy implementation of the Joint ACP-EU Cooperation Framework for Private Sector Development support in ACP Countries, adopted in Nairobi in 2014. It called for joint efforts for the establishment of the light support structure to adequately respond to the needs of the ACP private sector and safeguard the CDE's gains and best practices, in accordance with the Joint ACP-EU Declaration on the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE).

The EU side confirmed the key importance of private sector development in the ACP countries for the EU. The adoption and implementation of the intra-ACP programme for the 11th EDF was emphasised as an essential element of an efficient support system.

The Committee recommended that this item be included on the ACP-EU Council agenda.

D. 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 32nd meeting of the ACP-EU Committee on Development Finance Cooperation (authorised representatives) held on 14 April 2015.

E. Trade cooperation

- Follow-up to the 72nd meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation

The Commission gave an oral presentation of the main outcomes of the 72nd meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation held in Brussels on 27 March 2015.

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

The Committee took note of the results of the 72nd meeting of the Subcommittee.

- EPAs: state of play and perspectives

The Commission provided a brief overview of the EPAs being implemented and negotiated. The Commission stressed that the implementation of EPAs which had been signed was proceeding well. There had been a lot of progress over the previous year in several regions, where EPAs were initialled and are currently under legal finalisation.

The ACP side emphasised that the ACP countries and regions had made a considerable effort to conclude EPA negotiations. In this context it called on the EU to pay greater attention to the concerns of ACP countries which prevented them from concluding negotiations, as well as to regional developments. The ACP side also called for the facilitation of the implementation of the EPAs which had been signed and ratified.

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

F. 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/21/002/15 - ACP-UE 2113/15).

4. Any other business

There is nothing to report under this item.
