

## 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, 10 May 2019  
(OR. en)**

**ACP/21/003/19**

**ACP-UE 2111/19**

### **REPORT**

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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 2018

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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, 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 2018.

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

(2018)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The year 2018 was dedicated to stock-taking and forward looking discussions in the areas of the relations between ACP countries and the EU post-2020, strengthening cooperation in international fora and climate change. 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 2018, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on political cooperation in four areas: relations between ACP countries and the EU post-2020, strengthening cooperation in international fora, climate change and migration.

Under the item on relations between ACP countries and the EU post-2020, both Parties continued to share information on the state-of-play of their internal discussions and the following steps of their preparations for the negotiations.

On the basis of the informal exchange of views held on the strengthening cooperation in international fora at the meetings of 2017, discussions continued in a formal exchange of views on this very important item, that is deemed by both sides to be central to the rationale for a new agreement.

The continued exchange on Climate change was supported by the invaluable opportunity of the UNFCCC chairmanship by Fiji (COP 23) being taken over by Poland (COP 24), thereby allowing a more robust and continued steer of the implementation process of the Paris Agreement.

The Parties continued their exchange on Migration in a comprehensive discussion on the basis of the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan and the EU Trust Fund, in light of the impetus given by Abidjan Declaration to the cooperation.

At its meeting on 31 May and 1 June 2018, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers examined the results of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly sessions which took place in 2017 in St. Julian's in Malta and in Port-au-Prince in Haiti and adopted the report to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in 2017.

## **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 the European External Investment Plan.

## **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 discussed at both Ministerial (by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee) and at senior officials' level (ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors, ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation). Trade debates focused on the Economic Partnership Agreements.

With regard to EPAs, the year 2018 took note of the increased interest among ACP countries to join their regional EPA. The focus was maintained on implementation, and in relation to some regions and countries, on the deepening and widening of the EPA.

The Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee also debated other trade-related topics: ACP-EU trade regime issues, WTO issues, Trade-related capacity building and the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.

## **4. Development finance cooperation**

In the area of development finance cooperation, the revision of Annex IC<sup>1</sup> to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the implementation of 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex IC to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement: Multi-annual Financial Framework for the period 2014 to 2020.

### 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 2018:

- ACP-EU Council of Ministers (Lomé, Togo, 31 May – 1 June 2018)<sup>2</sup>;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (Ministers) (Lomé, Togo, 31 May 2018)<sup>3</sup>;
- Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee (Brussels, 26 October 2018)<sup>4</sup>;
- ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors (Brussels, 13 April 2018)<sup>5</sup>;
- ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation (Brussels, 21 March 2018)<sup>6</sup>;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (authorised representatives) (Brussels, 4 April 2018).

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 35th session of the latter, held in Brussels from 18-20 June 2018 and at the 36th session, held in Cotonou, Benin from 3-5 December 2018.

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<sup>2</sup> Outcome of proceedings: ACP/21/001/19 - ACP-UE 2104/19

<sup>3</sup> Oral report from the meeting is annexed to the Outcome of proceedings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (ACP/21/001/19 - ACP-UE 2104/19)

<sup>4</sup> Draft Minutes: ACP/61/004/19 - ACP-UE 2101/19

<sup>5</sup> Outcome of proceedings: ACP/22/001/19 Rev.1 - ACP-UE 2103/1/19 REV 1

<sup>6</sup> Summary record: ACP/61/059/18 - ACP-UE 2115/18

## 2. Decisions

In 2018, the following Decisions were adopted in pursuit of the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement:

- Decision No 1/2018 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 31 May 2018 regarding the revision of Annex Ic to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement<sup>7</sup>;
- Decision No 1/2018 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 28 September 2018 giving a discharge to the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial years 2001, 2002 and 2003<sup>8</sup>;
- Decision No 2/2018 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 28 September 2018 giving a discharge to the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial years 2004, 2005 and 2006<sup>9</sup>;
- Decision No 3/2018 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 28 September 2018 giving a discharge to the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial years 2007-2016<sup>10</sup>;
- Decision No 4/2018 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 17 December 2018 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 2013-2016<sup>11</sup>;
- Decision No 5/2018 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 17 December 2018 appointing members to the Executive Board of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> ACP/21/005/18 - ACP-UE 2113/18

<sup>8</sup> ACP/84/064/18 - ACP-UE 2117/18

<sup>9</sup> ACP/84/065/18 - ACP-UE 2118/18

<sup>10</sup> ACP/84/066/18 - ACP-UE 2119/18

<sup>11</sup> ACP/85/059/18 - ACP-UE 2124/18

<sup>12</sup> ACP/84/093/18 - ACP-UE 2123/18



### 3. Political documents

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

- Joint ACP-EU Declaration on Climate Change<sup>13</sup>, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 1 June 2018;
- 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 2017<sup>14</sup>, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 31 May 2018.

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<sup>13</sup> ACP/21/006/18 - ACP-UE 2114/18

<sup>14</sup> ACP/21/004/18 - ACP-UE 2112/18