

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 26 October 2023
(OR. en)**

ACP/21/005/23

ACP-UE 2108/23

REPORT

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 2022-2023

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 2022-2023.

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

(2022-2023)

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I. INTRODUCTION

The year 2022 was dedicated to stock-taking and preparation of the future cooperation under the new EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement. In addition, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers in 2022 discussed current global affairs, including food and energy security and continued the dialogue on cooperation in international fora between the two sides.

In parallel, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers continued to develop ACP-EU cooperation in other areas related to its three pillars: political cooperation, economic development 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 2022, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers focused on political cooperation in three main areas: current global affairs, including food and energy security, the new EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement and EU-OACPS cooperation in international fora.

In the discussion on current global affairs, the Parties reaffirmed the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations, took note of their respective efforts to address food and energy security and encouraged for continued cooperation on these important matters.

The Parties discussed the state-of-play of the finalisation of the process towards the signature of the new EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement, and encouraged timely signature and preparation for its application.

Strengthening cooperation in international fora was deemed by both sides to be a key element for the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. The Parties assessed the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) and urged for preparation of COP28. They agreed to continue collaboration in order to contribute to the success of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. They took note of the initiatives of Slovenia, Spain, Barbados, Chad and Vanuatu.

At its meeting on 29 November 2022, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers examined the results of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly sessions from 2019 to 2022, which had taken place in Bucharest and Kigali in 2019, in virtual setting in 2020 and 2021, and in Strasbourg and in Maputo in 2022. It adopted the report to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in 2019-2022.

2. Economic development and trade cooperation

Economic development and trade cooperation figured highly on the agenda of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

Regarding trade cooperation, the discussions of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers focused on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), as well as a broad range of issues and EU initiatives affecting the ACP-EU trading regime. Furthermore, the Parties exchanged views on non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes and fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, acknowledged the convergence of views on the importance of these policy areas and encouraged strengthened dialogue on these matters.

3. Development finance cooperation

In the area of development finance cooperation, the Parties discussed the implementation of the EDF and NDICI-Global Europe. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers took note of the information provided on the Global Gateway Strategy, its relevance for the OACPS and implementation of NDICI-Global Europe.

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:

- ACP-EU Council of Ministers (Brussels, Belgium, 29 November 2022)¹

Details of the meeting are set out in the outcome of proceedings from the meeting.

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers also held a debate with the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly at the 43rd session of the latter, held in Brussels, Belgium, from 24-28 June 2023.

2. Decisions

In 2022-2023, the following Decisions were adopted in pursuit of the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement:

- Decision No 1/2023 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 30 June 2023 to amend Decision No 3/2019 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors to adopt transitional measures pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement²
- Decision No 2/2023 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 25 October 2023 to amend Decision No 3/2019 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors to adopt transitional measures pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement³.

¹ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/21/003/23- ACP-UE 2104/23

² ACP/21/002/23 – ACP-UE 2101/23

³ ACP/22/004/23 – ACP-UE 2105/23

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 2019-2022⁴, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 29 November 2022.
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⁴ ACP/21/003/22 - ACP-UE 2103/22