

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 17 April 2020
(OR. en)**

ACP/22/001/20

ACP-UE 2102/20

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the 69th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels, Belgium, on 12 April 2019

The 69th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors took place on 12 April 2019 under the chairmanship of H.E. Ms Luminița ODOBESCU, Ambassador of Romania and Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the European Union.

The meeting was co-chaired for the ACP side by H.E. Mr Kaire Munionganda MBUENDE, Ambassador of Namibia, President-in-Office of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors.

The Commission was represented by Mr Koen DOENS, Deputy Director-General of DG DEVCO and Ms Ewa SYNOWIEC, Director at DG TRADE Sustainable Development Economic Partnership Agreements - African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries. The EEAS was represented by Mr Alexander BAUM, Senior Adviser for Post-Cotonou.

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in ACP/22/002/19 - ACP-UE 2108/19.

2. Adoption of the outcome of proceedings of the 68th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on 13 April 2018

The Committee approved the outcome of proceedings of the previous meeting [ACP/22/001/19 Rev.1 - ACP-UE 2103/1/19 REV 1].

3. Preparation of the 44th session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers

A. Strengthening cooperation in international fora

The ACP side underlined the importance of leveraging the strength of the ACP-EU Partnership to promote the collective cause of its membership at the global level, with a view to sustain effective multilateralism. The ACP side proposed the preparation of a calendar of joint ACP-EU activities for the remaining part in 2019 and indicated the desire to make this a standing process at the beginning of the year.

The EU side agreed that the ACP-EU cooperation on global issues needs to be exploited and that 2019 would be a critical year for global public goods and it has the potential of bringing a positive energy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Committee took note of the statements and welcomed the desire by the two sides to strengthen cooperation in international fora. The Committee mandated the Co-Secretariat to propose joint activities for consideration by the Joint Council.

B. Climate change

The ACP side welcomed the adoption of the Katowice Rulebook, and put forward the areas it would focus on in 2019 for further progress, namely assisting ACP Member States further in intensifying their efforts to meet their commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. The ACP side also identified high-level events which would contribute to the visibility of the ACP-EU Partnership at global level.

The EU side agreed that the Katowice Rulebook is an important tool to implement, track and progressively enhance contributions to climate change. It stressed at the same time that further efforts are necessary to obtain results.

The Committee noted the commitments of ACP and EU Members States to continue to play a leading role in the fight against climate change. It welcomed the Katowice Rulebook, looking forward to working together to support its implementation. The Committee agreed to further cooperate in order to reiterate ACP and EU countries' commitment to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to continued collaboration in order to contribute to the success of the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 and UNFCCC COP 25 scheduled for December 2019 in Santiago, Chile.

C. Ocean governance

The ACP side underlined the role of oceans and their natural assets in the economies of many ACP states, stressing the human pressures imperilling them and putting at risk the livelihoods depending on them. Sustained and urgent actions at the international levels are necessary to address common and interconnected ocean challenges and ACP-EU cooperation is important at the international level to contribute to the improvement of governance of the oceans and ensure their productivity and resilience.

The EU side, while highlighting that ocean governance is a very important area of ACP-EU cooperation, agreed that more needs to be done. It is key to increase the visibility of the ACP-EU cooperation in international fora and attract other actors to join this endeavour.

The Committee agreed to continue treating with high priority the issue of ocean governance in order to further advance and promote the sustainable development of marine resources for the benefit of the planet and the peoples. The Committee would explore opportunities for ACP-EU cooperation at the regional and international levels where ACP-EU cooperation can make a meaningful contribution to improve the governance of the oceans and ensure its productivity and resilience.

D. Migration

The ACP side proposed to adopt a broader vision on migration, aimed at engaging in deeper reflection, from all angles, with a view to making the partnership more supportive and humane, in light of the start of the Post-Cotonou negotiations and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which places the issue of migration in the multilateral context.

The EU side welcomed the regular stock-taking of the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan, the state-of-play of the Rabat and Khartoum processes, as well as the implementation of the Abidjan Declaration. The EU side also highlighted the opportunity that the Post-Cotonou negotiations provide to bring these parallel processes together in a streamlined approach for more coherent action.

The Committee took note of the information provided which would be brought to the attention of Ministers when they meet on 23 and 24 May 2019.

E. 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 36th meeting of the ACP-EU Committee on Development Finance Cooperation (authorised representatives) held on 2 April 2019.

F. Economic issues

- **Trade cooperation**

- a) Follow-up to the 76th meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation**

The EU side gave an oral presentation of the main outcomes of the 76th meeting of the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation held in Brussels on 14 March 2019.

The ACP side confirmed that the report was a true reflection of the deliberations. It reiterated its concerns regarding the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes and its request for the establishment of a general EPA monitoring mechanism.

The Committee commended the ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation for the work carried during its 76th meeting. It took good note of the various issues discussed and requested the two sides to pursue any outstanding issues, in preparation for the 17th Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee that is possibly to take place later this year. The Secretariats would continue consultations on the date of the next JMTC. In the meantime, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers would be briefed on salient points of this report, as necessary.

b) State of play of EPAs

The EU side provided a comprehensive overview of the state-of-play of EPAs.

The ACP side welcomed the good progress made in EPA implementation, while reiterated its concerns arising from the implementation of EPAs and the EPA framework itself that may negatively affect regional integration and the economies of some ACP States. It stressed the need of adjusting the EPA framework in the light of experience, by making it more inclusive and flexible, especially in light of the withdrawal of the UK. It also reiterated its call to operationalise the all-ACP-EU EPA monitoring and evaluation mechanism under the umbrella of the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee.

The Committee took note of the state-of-play of the EPA process, and invited both the ACP and EU Parties in the EPA process to remain engaged and to cooperate in a spirit of flexibility and compromise, in order to make every effort, notably in the process of EPA implementation, to ensure that these Agreements become true instruments of development for EPA ACP States. It agreed to continue following closely the process of establishing monitoring frameworks for EPAs.

– Private sector development cooperation

a) Implementation of the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development Framework

The ACP side presented the latest developments in the implementation of the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development (PSD) Cooperation Framework and presented the objectives of the seminars it organises during the year on various subjects of this field. It called for greater involvement of ACP organisations in the implementation of and follow-up of programmes and increased effectiveness of blending.

The EU side welcomed the substantial progress made on the implementation of the Framework and the increase of commitments and contracting. It underlined the role of the EIP and the EFSD in further supporting this process. Efficiency and impact needs to be ensured when allocating the remaining resources.

The Committee reiterated the commitment of both to implementing the Joint ACP-EU Cooperation Framework for Private Sector Development and took note of the developments regarding its implementation. It agreed to continue, through the Strategic Steering Committee, to explore appropriate means to ensure greater impact of the programmes and actions.

b) Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs

The EU side underlined that the objective of the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs is to build a true and fair relationship, which focuses on mutual economic interest, thus delivering on the commitments made in Abidjan in 2017, putting job creation as the key target and investments as the main vehicle. It presented the achievement on the four strands of action.

The ACP side pointed out the usefulness of the approach and instruments proposed in the ongoing Post-Cotonou negotiations, for the regional protocols.

The Committee took note of the presentation on the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs and look forward for its effective implementation.

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/21/002/19 - ACP-UE 2110/19).

4. Any other business

No items were raised.