



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 13 December 2019
(OR. en)

14965/19

ACP 149
WTO 341
RELEX 1145

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: ACP Working Party
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 14670/19 + ADD 1 - COM((2019) 608 final

Subject: Negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and regions

- Council Decision
- Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council
- Negotiating directives

1. On 17 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions and adopted directives for those negotiations.
2. On 28 November 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council a Recommendation for a Council Decision updating the negotiating directives for the negotiations Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions ¹.

¹ Doc. 14670/19 + ADD 1 - COM(2019) 608 final.

3. The ACP Working Party examined the text and agreed on the draft Council Decision, the draft Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States and the negotiating directives on 13 December 2019.
4. The ACP Working Party also agreed, following the principles set out in a statement to the minutes of the Council of 10 March 2015² and having carefully considered the negotiating directives, that the decision to make the negotiating directives public would, in this instance, have no impact on the ability of the EU to negotiate effectively and would not undermine the EU's negotiating position in these specific negotiations. Consequently, the ACP Working Party proposed to make public the negotiating directives, as contained in document 14899/19 ADD 1. All Member State delegations expressed their common accord for the subject matters of the negotiating directives for the negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and regions, relating to their competences.
5. Subject to confirmation by Coreper, the Council is invited
 - to adopt the draft Council Decision amending the negotiating directives for the negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and regions, to the extent that they fall within the competence of the Union, as set out in document 14899/19 following legal-linguistic revision³, and the accompanying negotiating directives set out in document 14899/19 ADD 1;
 - to make the negotiating directives public after their adoption.

² Doc. 7060/1/15 REV 1.

³ The Council Decision will be published in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

6. Subject to confirmation by Coreper, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States are also invited
- to adopt the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council authorising the European Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Member States, Economic Partnership Agreements between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and regions, of the other part, to the extent that they fall within the competences of the Member States, as set out in document 14900/19 following legal-linguistic revision⁴ and to agree to make the negotiating directives public after their adoption.
7. The European Parliament will be informed and the Decisions and the negotiating directives will be transmitted to the European Parliament.
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⁴ The Decision will be published in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.