Council of the European Union

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From:	ACP Working Party
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	13147/18 + ADD 1 - COM(2017) 688 final
Subject:	Council Decision on the financial contributions to be paid by Member States to finance the European Development Fund, including the ceiling for 2020, the annual amount for 2019, the first instalment for 2019 and an indicative and non-binding forecast for the expected annual amounts of contributions for the years 2021 and 2022 - Statement by the United Kingdom

Statement by the United Kingdom

"The UK is still waiting for a response to the concerns raised at a political level in August, including via Secretary of State for International Development's letter to the Commission of 23 August 2018, on the treatment of UK entities in the tendering process of EU programmes. This issue is of critical importance and is having unnecessary negative consequences for ongoing and planned development programming. The Commission's actions risk denying the beneficiaries of EU development assistance access to the best available expertise through open and fair competition, by discouraging UK organisations from bidding to implement programmes. We have an obligation to account to the UK Parliament that UK Overseas Development Assistance is spent effectively and delivers value for money, which extends to the partners delivering UK ODA. Whilst we await the assurances sought from the Commission, the UK government feels unable to vote in favour of the Council Decision on the EDF Contributions."