

ACP-EU COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 21 October 2022
(OR. en)**

ACP/21/003/22

ACP-UE 2103/22

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 2019-2022

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 2019-2022.

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

(2019-2022)

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I. INTRODUCTION

Stock-taking and preparation of the future cooperation were in the centre of attention of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers during the period from 2019 to 2022.

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers in 2019 discussed the avenues to strengthen cooperation in international fora between the two sides. In addition, the parties discussed ocean governance and continued their exchange on climate change and migration.

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 2019, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors focused on political cooperation in four areas: strengthening cooperation in international fora, climate change, ocean governance and migration.

The Parties continued their discussion on strengthening cooperation in international fora, which is deemed by both sides to be a key element for the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

The Parties reaffirmed their commitments to continue to play their leading role in the fight against climate change and to collaborate to the success of UNFCCC COP25.

Under ocean governance, the Parties exchanged views on the possibilities to reinforce ACP-EU cooperation in international fora.

They continued the exchange on migration in a comprehensive discussion, and the Parties reiterated their commitment to find adequate responses to this issue.

At its meeting on 23-24 May 2019, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers examined the results of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly sessions which took place in 2018 in Brussels and in Cotonou, Benin, and adopted the report to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement in 2018.

2. Economic development and trade cooperation

Economic development strategies figured highly on the agenda of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and its preparatory bodies. The main topic of the discussions was private sector development, namely the implementation of the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development Framework and the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs.

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 (EPA).

With regard to EPAs, the year 2019 saw continued 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 existing EPAs.

The Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee exchanged views on a broad range of issues affecting the ACP-EU trading regime, at multilateral and bilateral levels, the impact of EU trade agreements with third parties and commodities.

3. Development finance cooperation

In the area of development finance cooperation, the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, Improving Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) and ACP-EU cooperation on international tax governance were the main focus of the discussions at the joint institutions.

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, 23-24 May 2019)¹;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (Ministers) (Brussels, Belgium, 23 May 2019)²;
- ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors (Brussels, 12 April 2019)³;
- ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade Cooperation (Brussels, 14 March 2019)⁴;
- ACP-EU Development Finance Cooperation Committee (authorised representatives) (Brussels, 2 April 2019).

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 37th session of the latter, held in Bucharest, Romania, from 18-20 March 2019 and at the 38th session, held in Kigali, Rwanda from 17-21 November 2019. The 39th session was held virtually on 3 and 10 December 2020 and the 40th session was held virtually on 17 and 24 June 2021. The 41st session was held in Strasbourg, France from 1-3 April 2022 and the 42nd session in Maputo, Mozambique from 29 October to 2 November 2022.

¹ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/21/001/20 - ACP-UE 2103/20

² Oral report from the meeting is annexed to the Outcome of proceedings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (ACP/21/001/20 - ACP-UE 2103/20)

³ Outcome of proceedings: ACP/22/001/20 - ACP-UE 2102/20

⁴ Summary record: ACP/61/050/19 - ACP-UE 2115/19

2. Decisions

In 2019-2022, the following Decisions were adopted in pursuit of the objectives set out in the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement:

- Decision No 1/2019 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 23 May 2019 on the delegation of powers to the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on the decision to adopt transitional measures pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement⁵
- Decision No 1/2019 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 25 February 2019 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 year 2017⁶
- Decision No 2/2019 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 17 December 2019 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 year 2018⁷
- Decision No 3/2019 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 17 December 2019 to adopt transitional measures pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement⁸
- Decision No 1/2020 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 24 February 2020 appointing the members of the Executive Board and the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)⁹

⁵ ACP/21/004/19 - ACP-UE 2112/19

⁶ ACP/84/013/19 - ACP-UE 2102/19

⁷ ACP/84/103/19 - ACP-UE 2117/19

⁸ ACP/22/003/19 - ACP-UE 2116/19

⁹ ACP/84/017/20 - ACP-UE 2101/20

- Decision No 2/2020 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 4 December 2020 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 Agreement¹⁰
- Decision No 3/2020 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 22 December 2020 extending the mandate of the members of the Executive Board of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)¹¹
- Decision No 4/2020 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 22 December 2020 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 year 2019¹²
- Decision No 1/2021 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 29 June 2021 to amend Decision No 3/2016 of the ACP- EU Committee of Ambassadors on the Centre for the Development of Enterprise¹³
- Decision No 2/2021 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 13 October 2021 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 year 2020¹⁴
- Decision No 3/2021 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 26 November 2021 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 Agreement¹⁵

¹⁰ ACP/21/004/20 - ACP-UE 2104/20

¹¹ ACP/84/071/20 - ACP-UE 2106/20

¹² ACP/84/072/20 - ACP-UE 2107/20

¹³ ACP/22/001/21 - ACP-UE 2101/21

¹⁴ ACP/84/125/21 – ACP-UE 2104/21

¹⁵ ACP/21/003/21 – ACP-UE 2105/21

- Decision No 1/2022 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors of 21 June 2022 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 Agreement¹⁶

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 2018¹⁷, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers on 23 May 2019.

¹⁶ ACP/21/001/22 – ACP-UE 2101/22

¹⁷ ACP/21/003/19 - ACP-UE 2111/19