

ACP-EC COTONOU AGREEMENT

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

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 April 2005

ACP-CE 2116/05

COVER NOTE

from : The Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and rural Cooperation
(CTA)
date of receipt : 11 March 2005
to : The Chairperson of the ACP-EC Committee of Ambassadors
Subject : CTA - Technical Centre for Agricultural and rural Cooperation
- Advisory Committee

Delegations will find attached a copy of the letter ¹ ref. CBG/26/02/05/hro dated 27 February 2005 from the CTA.

¹ Received in English and French only.

In all correspondence on this matter
please quote our ref no.: CBG/26/02/05/hro

Wageningen, 27 February 2005

H.E. Mme. Martine SCHOMMER
Co-Chairperson, ACP-EC Committee of Ambassadors
Ambassador of Luxembourg
Avenue de Cortenbergh, 75
451, Avenue Georges Henri
B-1000 BRUSSELS
Belgium

Excellency,

Re: CTA Advisory Committee

As you are aware I shall be demitting office as Director of the CTA tomorrow, 28th inst. I am in the process of completing the formalities of this exercise with management and it is in that regard that I am writing to you.

As you will note for the attached copy of a letter to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Centre will not be scheduling the mandatory meetings of the Advisory Committee this year because of a reduction in the Budget approved for 2005 by the Committee of Ambassadors. At the time of the CTA/ Commission discussion of the reduction the Commission representative argued that new Rules and Regulations would be in place during the course of the year and would involve the replacement of the AC.

At this point in time there is no indication that this prediction is about to and the regulations applicable to the CTA are still those of Lome IVbis under which the Centre has an obligation to, inter alia, submit with its annual Budget proposals and programme next June, an opinion from the AC on the proposed programme for 2006. In the light of this, I invite the Committee to consider the matter and advise the management of the Centre accordingly. It would be helpful, for example, if as has occurred on the last occasion when this problem was encountered, the Committee could give management dispensation to convene an appropriate group, under whatever aegis to consider the proposed programme. Although the Management took the initiative on the last occasion, it was a matter dogged by some initial controversy and it diverted a great deal of time and energy from important matters before it was resolved. It would help if you were to give dispensation before hand.

I take this opportunity to thank your Committee for your support to the centre during the course of my stewardship and extend to you, Excellency, my best wishes for your continued success and that of your Committee.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Carl B. Greenidge
Director

cc: - M. Jacques BEL, Director, E II, Council of the European Union
- Bernard Guillon, Head of Unit, AIDCO

In all correspondence on this matter
please quote our ref no.: CBG/21/02/05/hro

Wageningen, 27 February 2005

Mr Haniteli Fa'anunu
Director
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
PO Box 14
Nuku'alofa
Tonga

Dear Mr Fa'anunu,

Re: Advisory Committee Meetings 2005 and Transitional Arrangements for Managing the Centre

As you are aware, my term of office comes to an end on the 28th of February. The EU is in the process of appointing a successor from the EU. However, since that process is unlikely to be completed before the end of March or April, they have appointed **Mr Jean-Claude Burguet**, Head, Administrative Services, Budget and Human Resources Department, to manage the Centre until that time. In the event therefore that you have need to consult with the Centre on any of the usual matters or on the Advisory Committee (AC), please communicate with Mr. Burguet.

I should be grateful if you would note that **there are no plans for a Restricted Group meeting or indeed any other meeting of the AC in 2005.**

The CTA budget for 2005 was approved by the Committee of Ambassadors (COA) in November 2004 without amendment. That Budget captures the programme which the AC considered and recommended in June 2004. Subsequent to the decision of the COA, the Commission (AIDCO) informed CTA that for a number of reasons, the full volume of resources could not be made available to fund the budget as approved. We were therefore required to modify the budget and make the necessary changes in the programme. It may be possible for some of these amounts to be restored towards the end the year if necessary, but, no watertight guarantee was provided by the Commission in this regard.

More importantly, amongst the main adjustments was the suppression of monies for the Advisory Committee and AC Restricted Group meetings. This was done on the basis of an undertaking by the Commission that new Rules and Regulations governing the Centre's operations, which have been the subject of innumerable discussions by the AC, will be approved during the course of 2005 and that, the AC will be replaced by a Board of the type found at CDE. It needs to be said however, that the statute under which the Centre currently operates namely, Lomé 4bis, has not been modified.

I should like to take the opportunity to convey to you my sincere appreciation for the support provided to the Centre by the AC during the course of my tenure. As you are only too well aware, this was not a particularly easy period due to the combination of modified mandate and problems of an institutional nature affecting the supervision of the Centre at a number of levels. There is of course a formal process of evaluation and we must leave it to that process to judge the efficacy and the efficiency with which the Centre tackled its modified mandate. But I would like to emphasise that the flexibility of the AC and its willingness to look at each issue on its merits, allowed the management of the Centre to attain most of the main goals set out in the Strategic Plan notwithstanding the fact that the latter was only considered and approved in late 2002. In any case I do hope that you will consider the innovations and results to date worth the considerable efforts you made in this regard.

My wish is that that fate provides us with an opportunity to meet in the future. However, I will, on the assumption that the chances of meeting again are not too high, extend to each of you, my cordial wishes for your continued success and good health. I hope that you maintain an interest in rural development in ACP countries and that you will not miss an opportunity to lend your support to the work of CTA in this field, whether or not you are part of the new CTA institutional arrangement.

In closing, I would like to say a special word of thanks to the current and past Chairpersons of the Committee and to especially acknowledge their very proactive approach to their responsibilities. CTA is better for that and for my part it helped ensure that the assignment has been both challenging and rewarding.

Yours sincerely,

Carl B. Greenidge
Director
