



Council of the
European Union

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LIMITE

ACP 3
INTER-REP 1

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	Attendance of third parties at the meetings of the ACP Working Party between 1 January and 30 June 2024 - Approval

1. The draft agendas of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Working Party for meetings to be held between 1 January and 30 June 2024 are intended to include items on:
 - a) the relations with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS);
 - b) the role of civil society in the ACP-EU relations;
 - c) the constitutive meeting and the 1st session of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the constitutive meetings of the three regional parliamentary assemblies with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific;
 - d) the implementation of the joint understanding between the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) on the re-use of the ACP Investment Facility reflows;
 - e) the EIB activities in ACP countries;
 - f) food and nutrition security in ACP countries;

- g) economic partnership agreements and sustainable trade relations with ACP countries and regions;
- h) the implementation of the new framework for the EU-OACPS partnership;
- i) development cooperation in and with ACP countries.

2. Therefore, the Presidency of the ACP Working Party would like to invite

- a) representatives and members of the OACPS for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(a) and (i) above;
- b) representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(b) above;
- c) a member of the European Parliament's Secretariat as representative of the Co-Secretariat of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(c) above;
- d) representatives of the EIB for the discussions under the items mentioned in points 1(d) and (e) above;
- e) representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(f) above;
- f) representatives of the Ghent University (UGent) for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(g) above;
- g) representatives of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(h) above and
- h) representatives of the Institute of Development Policy of the University of Antwerp and of Enabel for the discussions under the item mentioned in point 1(i) above.

3. The Presidency considers that these invitations are in the interest of the Council and in line with the framework applicable to the occasional presence of third parties, including interest representatives, at meetings of the Council or of its preparatory bodies.
 4. When invited, these third parties may convey their views to inform or reply to questions from delegates concerning a subject at issue under a given agenda item. However, they cannot be allowed to intervene during the deliberations, unless their views on the operational or technical dimension of different policy options are expressly sought during the relevant meeting on specific aspects.
 5. Proceedings will be organised so that the representatives of these third parties do not participate in the drafting of written documents or in the course of the decision-making process. Whenever possible, the meetings will be organised in such way that the representatives of third parties can be requested to leave the room during the deliberation and discussion phases.
 6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the third parties mentioned under point 2 at the relevant meetings of the ACP Working Party between 1 January and 30 June 2024 for the purposes outlined above.
 7. The Council secretariat will produce an information note to the Permanent Representatives Committee specifying the guests, who have attended ACP Working Party meetings at the end of the Belgian Presidency.
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