

Folketingets Europaudvalg

Christiansborg, den 25. april 2002

Europaudvalgets sekretariat

Til

udvalgets medlemmer og stedfortrædere

**Erklæring om de forestående handelsforhand-
linger mellem ACP-landene og EU**

Til orientering omdeles erklæring om de forestående handelsforhandlinger mellem ACP-landene (the African, Caribbean and Pacific states) og EU fremsat af Den Blandede Parlamentariske Forsamling ACP-EU i Cape Town den 21. marts 2002.

Med venlig hilsen

Peter Riis



THE CO-PRESIDENT

303898 16. IV 2002

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Vedlagt fremsendes en kopi af **erklæringen om de forestående handelsforhandlinger mellem AVS-EU** fremsat af Den Blandede Parlamentariske Forsamling AVS-EU i Cape Town. Initiativet til Cape Town-erklæringen blev taget af AVS-medlemmerne af Den Blandede Parlamentariske Forsamling og medlemmerne af Europa-Parlamentet bifaldt det og gav deres enstemmige tilslutning til erklæringen.

Nu, hvor forhandlerne forbereder sig på en række vanskelige og komplicerede opgaver, må det sikres, at princippet om partnerskab, som til enhver tid har været hjørnестenen i forbindelserne mellem AVS og EU, går forud for alt. Det er en fælles udfordring at sikre, at fremtidige samarbejdsordninger inden for handel og økonomi bidrager direkte til at udrydde den fattigdom, som så mange af de 638 mio. indbyggere i AVS-landene lever i.

Forhandlingerne, som efter planerne skal indledes i september 2002, er en konkret anledning til at fastlægge en overordnet ramme for omlægning af AVS-landenes økonomiske strukturer på en sådan måde, at bekæmpelsen af fattigdommen vinder frem.

Cape Town-erklæringen omfatter de prioriteter og problemer, som medlemmerne af Den Blandede Parlamentariske Forsamling har fremført med hensyn til forberedelsen, rækkevidden og gennemførelsen af de forestående handelsforhandlinger AVS-EU. Erklæringen bygger på det arbejde, som Den Blandede Parlamentariske Forsamling i forvejen har gennemført på handelsområdet.

Cape Town-erklæringen fremhæver følgende:

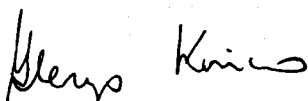
- det er vigtigt, at forhandlingerne føres åbent og på en gennemsigelig måde, der omfatter alle;
- det skal sikres, at overordnede målsætninger for udviklingen hvad angår udryddelse af fattigdom og bæredygtig udvikling står i fokus under handelsforhandlingerne;

- det skal sikres, at de nye handelsordninger bidrager til omlægning af AVS-landenes økonomiske struktur og danner grundlaget for AVS-økonomiernes integration i verdensøkonomien;
- det skal sikres, at der i forhandlingsprocessen tages hensyn til manglende ligestilling med hensyn til adgang til økonomiske ressourcer og at der findes løsninger på dette problem;
- det er vigtigt, at ingen AVS-stat i henhold til nye ordninger stilles dårligere med hensyn til markedsadgang end hvad der er tilfældet under de nuværende Cotonou-handelsbestemmelser;
- det er vigtigt, at de mindst udviklede landes ret til ikke-gensidige handelspræferencer respekteres og beskyttes;
- det er nødvendigt at forbedre AVS-staternes adgang til EU-markedet, idet der bør findes en løsning ikke blot for tarifmæssige restriktioner, men også for de begrænsninger, som små AVS-producenter er underlagt;
- det er nødvendigt at revidere de eksisterende instrumenter og institutionelle aftaler for at løse AVS-landenes problemer i forsyningsleddet og i længden at etablere generelle hjælpeprogrammer, som skal løse de forsyningsbegrænsninger, som AVS-producenter konfronteres med;
- det er vigtigt at udvikle generelle støtteprogrammer med henblik på skattemæssig diversificering som et nødvendigt led i udviklingen mod frihandel med EU;
- det er vigtigt, at drøftelser om de eksterne virkninger af den fælles landbrugspolitik inddrages i alle forhandlinger med AVS-staterne om økonomiske partnerskabsaftaler;
- det er vigtigt, at forhandlingsprocessen struktureres omhyggeligt, således at der tages hensyn til de kapacitetsbegrænsninger, som AVS-regeringerne er underlagt;
- det er nødvendigt, at Den Blandede Parlamentariske Forsamling AVS-EU fastlægger hensigtsmæssige overvågningsmekanismer for at sikre, at bæredygtig udvikling og bekæmpelse af fattigdommen prioriteres under de forestående forhandlinger.

Endvidere opfordrer Cape Town-erklæringen EU til at fastlægge en forhandlingsposition, der giver Kommissionen et klart mandat til at drøfte ordninger, som ikke kun vedrører markedsadgang, tjenester og handelsrelaterede spørgsmål, men også omfatter de eksterne virkninger af den fælles landbrugspolitik, støtte til skattereformer og en generel løsning på de forsyningsbegrænsninger, som fortsat hæmmer AVS-landene i deres udvikling.

Jeg har tillid til, at De under de kommende drøftelser om Kommissionens udkast til retningslinjer for handelsforhandlingerne mellem AVS og EU vil sikre, at Kommissionen får mandat til at drøfte og generelt at løse disse spørgsmål, som er meget vigtige for AVS-staterne.

Med venlig hilsen



Glenys Kinnock

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU 3382/02/fin.

CAPE TOWN DECLARATION¹ ON THE FORTHCOMING ACP-EU NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO NEW TRADING ARRANGEMENTS

I. Preamble

- A. The purpose of this Declaration is to establish developmental benchmarks against which to assess the conduct and outcome of the forthcoming ACP-EU trade negotiations mandated under the Cotonou Agreement to begin in September 2002.
- B. This initiative is undertaken in recognition of the importance of engaging all those bodies in the ACP and EU concerned with the promotion of sustainable development which focuses on poverty reduction, in the debates and discussions around future ACP-EU trade relations.
- C. The Declaration gives consideration to: the main objectives which should determine the conduct and outcome of the negotiations; the principles which should inform the negotiations; the major issues which will need to be addressed within the process of negotiations; and the approach which should be adopted to the forthcoming process of ACP-EU negotiations.
- D. The Declaration seeks to stimulate debate and discussion on the wider development concerns which will need to be addressed if any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements are to promote poverty-focussed forms of sustainable development, in the diverse realities facing ACP countries.
- E. The Declaration seeks to support the open and transparent conduct of trade negotiations in ways which are coherent with the objectives of the Cotonou Agreement and the development policies of ACP states, taking into account the regional integration processes and programmes under way within the ACP.

II. Objectives

1. The principal objective of any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should be to promote sustainable forms of development which assist in reducing poverty in ACP economies.

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 21 March 2002 in Cape Town (South Africa)

2. The aim of any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should be to contribute to the structural transformation of the economies of ACP States, as well as the basis of the integration of ACP countries into the world economy.
3. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should support and promote the structural transformation of ACP economies, so that their production structures shift away from goods with low demand growth and stagnant or declining price trends towards the production of goods and services with higher demand growth and favourable price trends.
4. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should support and promote increased levels of local value added processing in ACP countries of products for domestic, regional and international markets.
5. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should be structured in such a way as to reduce gender gaps in access to economic resources, opportunities and outcomes.

III. Principles

1. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should ensure that no ACP country is left worse off in terms of conditions of access to the EU market than under the current trade arrangements. This should apply both to the tariffs and the taking into account of rules of origin.
2. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should ensure full respect for the rights of least developed countries to non-reciprocal trade preferences.
3. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should seek to comprehensively address the needs of small island and single-commodity-dependent economies and should seek to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the introduction of any WTO-compatible trade arrangements.

Market Access

4. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should endeavour to substantively improve the real market access opportunities enjoyed by ACP exporters.
5. Where no major disruption to the functioning of EU markets can be demonstrated the EU should remove all remaining residual tariff and market access restrictions currently placed on ACP exports in those areas where ACP countries have an immediate or potential production and export interest.
6. While respecting underlying EU concerns with regard to third-country abuse of preferential trading arrangements, the application of the arrangements for rules of origin should be examined so as to encourage new investment in ACP countries.

7. While respecting EU concerns over food safety and animal disease control, regulatory measures should be established and implemented in ways which minimise the extra economic costs placed on small-scale ACP producers and exporters.
8. Upon the request of ACP governments, the EU should initiate consultations on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary standards and other regulations, which act as an impediment to ACP exports, with a view to facilitating exports from ACP countries, whilst respecting underlying EU concerns.

Addressing Supply-Side Constraints

9. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should seek to comprehensively address the various supply side constraints which diverse ACP countries face on the competitive production of internationally traded goods and service.
10. If future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements are to facilitate the structural transformation of ACP economies, then they must be accompanied by co-ordinated and integrated programmes to address the major supply-side constraints which inhibit the competitive production of internationally traded goods and services in ACP countries.
11. This calls for the establishment of co-ordinated and integrated country specific programmes of assistance to address supply-side constraints, which reach beyond the current instruments and approaches applied under existing ACP-EU co-operation arrangements.
12. This calls for a systematic review of the successes and failures of existing programmes intended to address supply-side constraints, with a view to ascertaining the effectiveness of various types of interventions under different circumstances.
13. This calls for a review of existing institutional arrangements for extending assistance to addressing supply-side constraints, so as to determine which institutional delivery mechanisms have proved most effective.
14. In many ACP countries women face particular problems in accessing the economic resources essential for their effective participation in a liberalised trading environment.
15. This calls for the establishment of programmes designed to address supply-side constraints which are gender-sensitive and seek to systematically improve access of women to economic resources.
16. While addressing supply-side constraints, account will have to be taken of the effects of the introduction of any reciprocity in trade relations with the EU on infant industries in ACP countries, so as to avoid the closing-off of areas of potential growth and structural development.

17. Consideration must be given to extending assistance with the structural adjustments which will be necessary in ACP countries to meet the increased competitive challenge from the EU under any moves towards free trade.
18. Additional assistance will also be required to enhance the human and institutional capacities of ACP countries to deal with trade-related issues, through the provision of secure and predictable financial and technical assistance.

The Fiscal Dimension

19. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements which involve the introduction of reciprocal preferential trade arrangements will have implications for ACP government revenues.
20. These fiscal effects will vary greatly from ACP country to ACP country depending on the importance of the EU as a source of imports; the structure of imports and current tariff levels; and the importance of customs duties within overall government revenues. In certain ACP countries the fiscal implications of the introduction of free trade with the EU will have a significant impact on total government revenues.
21. It needs to be recognised that the government revenue implications of programme of tariff reductions and programmes for the elimination of tariffs are quite different, with the latter inevitably leading to a decline in customs revenue.
22. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements involving the introduction of reciprocal preferential trade arrangements should make provision for the extension of assistance with fiscal adjustments in ACP countries.
23. Such assistance should include, as appropriate:
 - a) identifying expenditures of greatest importance to the poor and women with a view to insulating these areas of expenditure from budget cuts;
 - b) support for revenue incidence analysis to identify the impact of new revenue measures on the poor and women;
 - c) the extension of budgetary support where necessary and appropriate;
 - d) support for training of ACP States personnel in cost-effective forms of alternative revenue collection;
 - e) support for institutional reform of government revenue collection.

External Effects of the Common Agricultural Policy

24. Any future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should recognise that current programmes of reform of the common agricultural policy designed to enhance the price competitiveness of EU agricultural production have diverse implications for ACP countries. This calls for comprehensive assessments of the likely implications of the on-going process of reform of the common agricultural policy for diverse ACP countries.
25. Where the external effects of reform of the common agricultural policy impinge upon the essential trading interests of ACP countries, consultative mechanisms should be established so as to minimise the negative effects of reform on ACP economies.
26. Future ACP-EU development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements should be designed in ways which fully take into account the impact of the internal process of reform of the common agricultural policy on ACP countries and seek to minimise adverse effects on the development of agro-based value added processing activities in ACP countries.

IV. Approach to be Adopted

1. Any process of ACP-EU negotiations on future development, economic co-operation and trade arrangements needs to recognise the discrepancies in the human and institutional capacity for negotiations which exist between the partners.
2. Smaller ACP countries face particular problems in dealing in parallel with trade negotiations at the regional, multilateral and inter-regional levels. This calls for a careful structuring of the negotiating process, so as to clearly identify and systematically address the issues of major concern to ACP countries within realistic and clearly defined time frames.
3. Wherever possible, the process of negotiations should be structured in ways which allow the collective expertise of the ACP Group to be brought to bear on the major issues of concern.
4. In the context of the human and institutional constraints facing many ACP countries it is necessary to bring all concerned stakeholders into trade policy debates, so as to ensure that a clear assessment can be made of the likely impact of specific trade measures on economic operators in ACP countries.
5. The process of negotiations should be open and transparent with concerned stakeholders throughout the ACP having access to all relevant information and data. This calls for both parties to the negotiations to make a commitment to open, transparent and inclusive processes of trade negotiations.
6. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly will seek to establish appropriate mechanisms for ongoing monitoring of ACP-EU trade negotiations with a view to promoting an open, transparent and inclusive process of trade negotiations, geared towards ensuring that future ACP-EU development,

economic co-operation and trade arrangements lay the basis for sustainable development which focuses on reducing poverty, involving the structural transformation of the basis for the integration of ACP economies into the world economy.

7. For this purpose, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly supports the initiatives of the European Parliament to establish a worldwide WTO Parliamentary Assembly.



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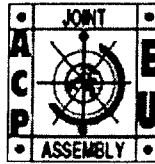
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ACP-EU JOINT ASSEMBLY

Role of the Joint Assembly

- Composition and working methods
- Initiatives taken by the Joint Assembly

The ACP-EU Joint Assembly was created out of a common desire to bring together the elected representatives of the European Community - the Members of the European Parliament - and the representatives - both elected and non-elected - of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states ("ACP countries") that have signed the Lomé Convention: it is the only institution of its kind in the world.

It is the only international assembly in which the representatives of various countries sit together regularly with the aim of promoting the interdependence of North and South.

Since the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union and EU enlargement it has acquired a more prominent role. A substantial part of the work of the Joint Assembly is directed towards promoting human rights and democracy and the common values of humanity, and this has produced joint commitments undertaken within the framework of the UN conferences.

Composition and working methods

The representatives of the 70 ACP states - most of whom are elected - meet their 70 European Parliament counterparts in plenary session for one week twice a year. The Joint Assembly meets alternately in an ACP country and an EU country. The institution is governed by common, democratic rules.

Two co-presidents who are elected by the Assembly direct its work. Twenty-four vice-presidents (12 European and 12 ACP) who are also elected by the Assembly constitute the Bureau of the Joint Assembly, together with the two co-presidents. The Bureau meets several times a year in order to ensure the continuity of the work of the Joint Assembly and to prepare new initiatives aimed notably at reinforcing and improving cooperation. It also considers topical political questions and adopts positions on all human rights cases in the 85 Lomé Convention signatory states.

Working parties are set up in order to draw up substantive proposals which are then voted on by the Joint Assembly.

The Assembly regularly forms exploratory or fact-finding missions. The members of the

Joint Assembly are thus in direct contact with the situation on the ground in the various developing countries which are members of the Lomé Convention.

The impact of the work of the Joint Assembly thus goes well beyond economic considerations and embraces the fundamental objectives of the development of mankind and the establishment of peaceful relations between the nations of the world. The ACP-EU Joint Assembly is a democratic, parliamentary institution which aims to promote and defend democratic processes in order to guarantee the right of each people to choose its own development objectives and how to attain them.

Initiatives taken by the Joint Assembly

The Joint Assembly has made an active contribution towards implementing and reinforcing successive ACP-EU Conventions; the revised Convention incorporates many proposals put forward by the Joint Assembly, and notably:

- the upgrading of the role of women in the development process;
- the integration of environment policy in development projects;
- the drawing-up of rural development programmes and micro-projects tailored to the needs of specific communities;
- the improvement of measures aimed at combating epidemics and the reinforcement of health and hygiene services;
- the creation of decentralized development policies;
- the convening of annual meetings between economic and social partners;
- the promotion of regional, political and commercial cooperation;
- closer cooperation with non-governmental organisations engaged in development;
- aid for indebted countries pursuing structural adjustment policies to allow them to maintain indispensable services;
- measures to enhance the cultural dimension in North-South cooperation;
- the acceleration of aid procedures and the increase in appropriations intended for refugees and for displaced persons (the latter is a new departure);
- measures to reinforce the commitment to respect and defend human rights and human dignity.