



2019/2832(RSP)

24.9.2019

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B9-0000/2019

pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the on-going negotiations for a new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (2019/2832(RSP))

Tomas Tobé

on behalf of the Committee on Development

European Parliament resolution on the on-going negotiations for a new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (2019/2832(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to 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, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the Cotonou Agreement), and to its revisions of 2005 and 2010¹,
- having regard to the European Commission recommendation of 12 December 2017 for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on a Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the countries of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States²,
- having regard to its resolutions of 4 October 2016 on the future of ACP-EU relations beyond 2020³ and of 14 June 2018 on the upcoming negotiations for a new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States⁴,
- having regard to the question to the Council and the Commission on the on-going negotiations for a new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (O-000000/2019 – B9-0000/2019),
- having regard to Rules 136(5) and 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on Development,
- A. whereas the negotiations for a new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States are still on-going and are likely to take longer than originally anticipated;
- B. whereas the strength and *acquis* of the Cotonou Agreement are based on a number of unique characteristics that need to be maintained and reinforced;
- C. whereas the reinforcement of the parliamentary dimension between the EU and the ACP group should be a key element of the new ACP-EU partnership;
- D. whereas the frequency and variety of ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) meetings has enabled consistent dialogue over the years effectively contributing to the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy;

¹ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/03_01/pdf/mn3012634_en.pdf

² COM(2017) 763 final.

³ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2016-0371_EN.html

⁴ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0267_EN.html

1. Welcomes the progress made so far on the negotiations of the strategic priorities of the foundation and the work on the regional protocols;
2. Takes note that more time is needed to negotiate the remaining parts of the agreement and that the negotiations will not be finalised as originally anticipated by the end of October 2019;
3. In view of the expiry date of the Cotonou Agreement in February 2020, welcomes the decision made by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers to delegate to the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors the power to adopt transitional measures until the new ACP-EU partnership comes into force;
4. Firmly reconfirms the position expressed in its two resolutions on post Cotonou adopted respectively in October 2016 and June 2018 and believes that some of its essential elements need to be strongly reiterated so that they can be fully taken into account during the remaining time of the negotiations;
5. Reiterates the importance of strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the future agreement, which needs democratic accountability at all levels; stresses that the institutional framework should include an ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly; considers this demand as non-negotiable in view of the European Parliament giving its consent to the future agreement;
6. Recalls that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has a prominent role to play to ensure the democratic oversight of the future agreement and calls again for a strengthening of its consultative and scrutiny role; is convinced that regular meetings are needed at ACP-EU level to ensure a strong partnership;
7. Considers that the Joint Parliamentary Assembly shall be composed of equal numbers of EU and ACP representatives and that it shall meet twice a year in plenary session, alternately in the European Union and in an ACP State;
8. Stresses that the Regional Partnership Parliamentary Committees shall meet once a year, and should not be dependent on the meetings of the Regional Partnership Council of Ministers being convened;
9. Repeats that some of the unique characteristics of the Cotonou Agreement - respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law - need to be maintained and reinforced;
10. Reiterates the importance of political dialogue as an integral part of the partnership and calls for political dialogue to be used more effectively and systematically and in a proactive way in order to prevent political crisis;
11. Regrets the shrinking space for civil society in some countries and reiterates that the future agreement should foresee an increased role for civil society in political dialogue and at all levels;
12. Recalls that the human rights part of the future agreement should include explicit wording on fighting discrimination based on any ground including sexual orientation or gender identity;
13. Stresses the importance of gender equality and women empowerment as a driver of

development; underlines the importance of parties to commit to sexual and reproductive health and rights and to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

14. Welcomes the fact that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is considered a key objective of the future agreement and reiterates its demand for the creation of strong monitoring mechanisms to ensure that implementation of the agreement effectively contributes to and promotes the SDGs;
15. Recalls that the European Parliament shall be immediately and fully informed at all stages of the negotiating procedure, in line with EUTF 218(10), and reiterates the necessity of agreeing improved practical arrangements for cooperation and information sharing throughout the full life-cycle of international agreements;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the ACP Council, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Parliament and the Bureau of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.