

**Question for written answer E-007713/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Public-private sector cooperation in post-Cotonou EU-ACP relations

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement sets out bilateral relations for political dialogue, trade and development cooperation between the EU and the ACP group of countries.

The agreement stipulates that EU-ACP cooperation should also promote public-private sector dialogue and should integrate the private sector into the development process.

In a resolution adopted on 14 April 2016, Parliament highlights the fact that there is 'currently no single significant development project in the world that does not consult and work with private investors'. Furthermore, it emphasises the EU's role in encouraging companies to achieve sustainable development.

However, a recent evaluation by the Commission (July 2016) concluded that the 'support provided to private sector development via government institutions has not been particularly effective'.

The Commission is asked:

1. How will the post-Cotonou framework for EU-ACP political and economic relations concretely account for public-private sector cooperation?
2. What action is being taken to promote public-private sector dialogue? In particular, are there plans to organise forums at which this issue can be discussed?
3. What plans are there to involve the private sector in EU-ACP development projects, and how does the Commission monitor and assess the effectiveness of such involvement?