

Background note
ACP-EU 24th JPA
25-29 November 2012
Paramaribo

TWO PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS

From 27-29 November the 24th plenary session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly takes place. This session will be formally opened by its co-presidents Louis Michel for the European Parliament and Musikari Kombo (Kenya) for the ACP. The Surinamese National Assembly's speaker Drs Jennifer Simons will be present at the opening.

The plenary session is preceded and prepared by meetings of the three standing committees on 25 November. These are the Committee on Political Affairs, the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade, and the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment.

Separately and prior to the joint ACP-EU meeting, on 24 November, there has been the 30th plenary session of the ACP parliamentary assembly (only ACP parliamentarians attend).

Why is there any need for an ACP JPA meeting? What tangible results can be achieved?

The EU has a special partnership with the ACP countries, due to historic ties between them and many EU member states. This partnership is laid down in the Cotonou agreement. It is vital that this partnership should have a parliamentary dimension, allowing for the scrutiny of the governmental and executive dimension.

See also:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/20_01/default_en.htm

What tangible results have been achieved during previous meetings?

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has no decision-making powers as such; its importance is due to the fact that it is the only forum where ACP parliamentary representatives can voice their needs and worries to the EU and vice versa. It also allows elected representatives of ACP countries to address their concerns directly to the EU Commission and inform themselves on the state of negotiations on trade agreements with their countries. The resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU JPA have fed into current ACP-EU agreement and will continue to do so

Some examples

- upgrading of the role of women in the development process
- integration of environment policy in development projects;
- promotion of trade as a tool for development, particularly through the Economic Partnership Agreements provided for in the Cotonou Agreement;
- rural development programmes and micro-projects tailored to the needs of specific communities;
- improvement of measures to combat epidemics and reinforce health and hygiene services;
- creation of decentralized development policies;
- annual meetings between economic and social partners;
- 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 essential services;
- measures to enhance the cultural dimension in North-South cooperation;
- acceleration of aid procedures and increase in funds for refugees and for displaced persons;
- measures to reinforce the commitment to respect and defend human rights and human dignity.

How is the choice of venues made?

The JPA meets twice a year, once in the EU country holding the presidency of the Council of the EU and once in an ACP country, determined by the group of ACP countries.

Previous JPAs:

- Wiesbaden, Germany, 23-28 June 2007
- Ruanda 17-22 November 2007
- Ljubjana, Slovenia, 17-20 March 2008
- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 29 November / 1 december 2008
- Prague, Czech Republic, 4-9 April 2009
- Luanda, Angola, 30 November - 3 December 2009
- Tenerife, Spain, 29 March - 1 April 2010
- Kinshasa, RDCongo, 2-4 December 2010
- Budapest, Hungary, 16-18 May 2011
- Lomé, Togo, 21-23 November 2011
- Horsens, Denmark, 28-30 May 2012

Who chairs the ACP-EU JPA?

Two co-presidents, one from the EU (currently Louis Michel, ALDE, BE) and one from an ACP country (currently Mr Musikari Kombo from Kenya).

How is the ACP-EU JPA organized?

78 MEPs + 78 MPs from the ACP countries.

Two co-presidents, one from the EU (currently Louis Michel, ALDE, BE) and one from an ACP country (currently Mr Musikari Kombo from Kenya).

24 vice-presidents (12 MEPs + 12 from the ACP countries). They constitute the Bureau (the presidium) together with the two co-presidents

There are meetings of the three standing committees (Political affairs; Economic development, Finance and Trade; Social Affairs and Environment) and a plenary session.

What is the composition of the EP delegation?

78 members

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/dacp/home.html>

Unofficial: 53 MEPs have registered for the meeting in Suriname so far (**provisional** list, 25.11.2012)

| MEMBERS Name | First name | Group | Language |
|----------------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| MICHEL | Louis | ALDE | BE |
| GABRIEL | Mariya | EPP | BG |
| BINEV | Slavi | NI | BG |
| THEOCHAROUS | Eleni | EEP | CY |
| OUZKY | Miroslav | ECR | CZ |
| ROSBACH | Anna | ECR | DA |
| CHRISTENSEN | Ole | S&D | DA |
| GALHER | Michael | EPP | DE |
| SCHNELLHARDT | Horst | EPP | DE |
| HAUG | Jutta | S&D | DE |
| RAPKAY | Bernhard | S&D | DE |
| NEUSER | Norbert | S&D | DE |
| RAPKAY | Bernhard | S&D | DE |
| BEARDER | Catherine | ALDE | EN |
| STURDY | Robert | ECR | EN |
| MARTIN | David | S&D | EN |
| VAUGHAN | Derek | S&D | EN |
| CORTÉS LASTRA | Ricardo | S&D | ES |
| LÓPEZ AGUILAR | Juan Fernando | S&D | ES |
| MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ | Miguel Ángel | S&D | ES |
| MUÑIZ DE URQUIZA | María | S&D | ES |
| JÄÄTTEEMÄKI | Anneli | ALDE | FI |
| DE SARNEZ | Marielle | ALDE | FR |
| GRIESBECK | Nathalie | ALDE | FR |
| BICEP | Jean-Jacob | VERTS | FR |
| BOULLAND | Philippe | EPP | FR |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|
| KIIL-NIELSEN | Nicole | VERTS | FR |
| PONGA | Maurice | EPP | FR |
| STRIFFLER | Michele | EPP | FR |
| TIROLIEN | Patrice | S&D | FR |
| RIVASI | Michèle | VERTS | FR |
| BAGO | Zoltan | EPP | HU |
| GURMAI | Zita | S&D | HU |
| RINALDI | Niccolo | ALDE | IT |
| SPERONI | Francesco | EFD | IT |
| ENGEL | Frank | EPP | LU |
| ATTARD-MONTALTO | John | S&D | MT |
| OOMEN-RUIJTEN | Ria | EPP | NL |
| CZARNECKI | Ryszard | ECR | PL |
| LEGUTKO | Ryszard | ECR | PL |
| MIGALSKI | Marek | ECR | PL |
| WLOSOWICZ | Jacek | EFD | PL |
| BORYS | Piotr | EPP | PL |
| HANDZLIK | Malgorzata | EPP | PL |
| KACZMAREK | Filip | EPP | PL |
| LISEK | Krzysztof | EPP | PL |
| ŁUKACIJEWSKA | Elżbieta | EPP | PL |
| NITRAS | Slawomir Witold | EPP | PL |
| PROTASIEWICZ | Jacek | EPP | PL |
| ZWIEFKA | Tadeusz | EPP | PL |
| PREDA | Cristian | EPP | RO |
| SCHMIDT BAUER | Olle Edit | ALDE EPP | SV SK |

Which ACP countries are represented?

78 countries

Afrique du Sud - Angola - Antigua et Barbuda - Belize - Cap Vert - Comores - Bahamas - Barbades - Bénin - Botswana - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cameroun - République Centrafricaine - Congo (Brazzaville) - Congo (Kinshasa) - Iles Cook - Côte d'Ivoire - Cuba - Djibouti - République Dominicaine - Dominique - Erythrée - Ethiopie - Fidji - Gabon - Gambie - Ghana - Grenade - République de Guinée - Guinée-Bissau - Guinée Equatoriale - Guyane - Haiti -Jamaïque - Kenya - Kiribati - Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Iles Marshall - Maurice - Mauritanie - Micronésie - Mozambique - Namibie - Nauru - Niger - Nigeria - Niue - Ouganda - Palau - Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée - Rwanda - Saint Christophe et Nevis - Saint Vincent et Grenadines - Sainte Lucie - Iles Salomon - Samoa - Sao Tome et Principe - Sénégal - Seychelles - Sierra Leone - Somalie - Soudan - Suriname - Swaziland - Tanzanie - Tchad - Timor Leste - Togo - Tonga - Trinité et Tobago - Tuvalu - Vanuatu - Zambie - Zimbabwe

Note: **Cuba** belongs to the ACP countries but did not sign the Cotonou agreement - hence it is not represented in the JPA.

What projects are financed?

There is a wide variety of project in areas such as development, governance and human rights, human development, food and natural resources, economy and trade.

See also:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/index_en.htm

What will be discussed in Paramaribo?

There will be three debates wound-up by resolutions prepared by the standing committees

- Responding to the political and humanitarian crisis in Somalia: the challenges for the European Union and the ACP Group (debate Tuesday, vote Thursday)
- ICT-based entrepreneurship and its impact on development in the ACP countries (debate Tuesday, vote Thursday)
- The importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (debate Wednesday, vote Thursday)

There will also be five debates without resolutions

- Caribbean regional integration and the implementation of the Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (Tuesday)
- The role of the EU's Overseas Countries and Territories in ACP-EU relations in the Caribbean region (Tuesday)
- Beyond Cotonou (Wednesday)
- The harmonious multi-cultural Surinamese society (Wednesday)
- Follow-up on the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference

There are debates with the Deputy Director General of DG Development and Cooperation Klaus Rudichshauser (European Commission), Cyprus Foreign affairs Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Cameroon's Minister of Economy Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi.

Two urgent topics will be debated and concluded with resolutions

- The situation in Mali (debate Wednesday, vote Thursday)
- The situation of instability and insecurity in the Great Lakes Region and in particular, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (debate and vote Thursday)

On Monday two Workshops will be held

- The port of Suriname
- The State Oil Company

And on Sunday the Womens' Forum will meet to discuss "Women in decision-making"