

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

11th Session from 19 to 22 June 2006

**VIENNA
(Austria)**

ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 8 June 2006

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE ACP COUNCIL

by Barry Faure (Seychelles)

Subject: ACP trade and aid

Given the lack of financing for the smooth integration of ACP countries into the world economy, even for an ambitious ACP-EU project like the EPAs, would the Council take the view that the ACP should delay full-scale trade reciprocity with the EU for more than 20 years, unless significant resources were to be made available by the developed countries to address the supply-side constraints of ACP countries? Are rules-based systems, which are increasingly being implemented by ACP countries, enough to attract private financing from the richer world to upgrade the international competitiveness and export capacity of the ACP?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE ACP COUNCIL

by Marie-Arlette Carlotti

Subject: Common position on migration and development

The Brussels Declaration on asylum, migration and mobility, adopted by the ACP Ministers responsible for these matters on 13 April 2006, shows just how seriously the ACP States are taking the issues of development and migration.

Does the ACP Council plan to adopt a common position on migration and development in preparation for the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on international migration and development to be held in September 2006?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE ACP COUNCIL

by Frithjof Schmidt

Subject: EPA negotiations

Worried by the EPA negotiations in their current form, the EPAs being essentially free-trade agreements between unequal partners, 30 European and ACP NGOs have launched an appeal to revisit the issue of EPAs.

Given that Article 37(6) of the Cotonou Agreement provides possible alternative frameworks for ACP countries, including non-reciprocal trade arrangements, can the ACP Council inform the Assembly about ACP alternatives to the current EPA proposal?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Metsing Mothejoa (MP) (Lesotho)

Subject: European Development Fund

Given that implementation of the next financing envelope (10th EDF) will be conditional on the full ratification of the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement, can the EU Council and the ACP Council guarantee that the ratification process will be completed on schedule as envisaged at the time of signature?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Mr Dlamini (Swaziland) and Mr Dawaleh (Djibouti)

Subject: Amount of the 10th EDF and funding of the ACP-EU partnership

The Council planned to allocate € 22.682 billion to cooperation between the Union and the ACP countries over the period 2008-2013. That amount is much lower than the figure contained in the Commission proposal supported by the European Parliament (€ 24.948 bn).

Can the Council state:

- how, on the basis of this amount, the political undertakings given in 2005 (June 2005 European Council and July 2005 G8 Summit) can be honoured?
- how the ‘development’ dimension of the EPAs, which are currently being negotiated, will be funded?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Assarid Ag Imbarcaouane (Mali)

Subject: WTO negotiations

Could the Council outline the stage reached in the WTO negotiations and, more particularly, those on the issue of the abolition of export subsidies and domestic support schemes which create distortions on the international market, in particular in the case of cotton?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Barry Faure (Seychelles)

Subject: EU assistance to ACP sugar protocol countries

The European Commission has announced that the EU will provide assistance to those developing countries affected by the sugar reform. The planned allocation of € 1.24 billion between 2006 and 2013 to the 18 ACP sugar protocol countries concerned is **not** adequate, considering the severe hardship imposed upon these countries. Even if no comparison were to be made with the € 8 bn in compensation set aside for EU sugar producers, this parallel does, however, shed light on what standards and calculations were used to arrive at the measures proposed to address the plight of these countries. Could the Council clarify?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Johan Van Hecke, on behalf of the ALDE Group

Subject: China goes shopping in Africa

China has its eye on African raw materials for its rapidly expanding economy. One-third of China's oil supplies come from Africa. However, the Chinese are not just interested in oil and other raw materials. In a number of countries they are now actively involved in various sectors of the economy: telecommunications, petrochemicals, public works, timber. The fact that they have no compunction whatsoever about working with totalitarian regimes merely lends extra force to their economic and diplomatic offensive. In 2002, they began to invest in Zimbabwe after the West had imposed sanctions following President Robert Mugabe's controversial land reform. Four years later, they are firmly established in various sectors of the Zimbabwean economy.

What view does the Council take of the way China has cornered part of the African market, employing a moral code very different from that adhered to by the EU? Does the Council plan to take measures to combat this development, and, if so, what measures and when?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Max van den Berg

Subject: Peace agreement in Darfur

An initial peace agreement has been reached between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army. What measures is the Council considering to support the enforcement of this peace deal?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Ana Maria Gomes

Subject: East Timor

We were all well aware that the democratisation of East Timor would be a lengthy process and that the country would need support. Despite the undeniable successes achieved in recent years, East Timor's democratic institutions are still too weak, as the efforts to manage the recent crisis have confirmed. Did the Presidency and COHOM discuss East Timor in the wake of that crisis? What decisions were taken? What role does the EU plan to play in strengthening the democratic political institutions of this new ACP State?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Hans-Peter Mayer

Subject: Commercial sexual exploitation of children in the ACP States

Child prostitution remains a serious problem in the ACP States. The UNWTO recently noted the urgent need for projects to combat child prostitution at European level as well.

What is the current situation with regard to child prostitution in the ACP States and what progress has been made with programmes to combat this phenomenon?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Fernando Fernández Martín

Subject: Development and migration

The arrival of new flows of immigrants in the European Union confirms the need for a common approach and full cooperation inside and outside the Union.

What view does the Council take concerning the arrival of new migration flows in the European Union?

Does the Council have any specific plans and timetable to adopt a much needed common European policy on the regulation of such flows?

What measures will the Council take and what proposals will it put forward to enhance joint actions with the ACP countries and to support them in this matter?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by John Bowis

Subject: Exchange of information on floods

What meetings has the Council had with the ACP to discuss respective experiences in dealing with flooding and water contamination and how does the Council intend to exchange such information in the future?

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ORAL QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL

by Gay Mitchell

Subject: Avian flu

In January 2006, at the International Pledging Conference in Beijing, the Commission pledged € 80 million on top of any donations from Member States to fight avian flu in third countries. The Commission has reiterated its commitment to a 'global approach' to tackling bird flu and that it is prepared to stand by developing countries and address the issue in a preventative rather than a reactive manner.

According to the WHO, the H5N1 avian influenza virus, which is currently infecting and killing millions of wild birds and domestic poultry, is a 'strong candidate' to mutate into a form which spreads easily from person to person. The WHO has also emphasised the urgent need to fulfil funding pledges for pandemic preparedness, particularly for developing countries.

Given this, will the Council state whether discussions have taken place with Member States as to the speed with which pledges are fulfilled? Is the Council satisfied that the transfer of funds is taking place in a manner consistent with the EU's preventative approach to avian flu?