

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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**PORT MORESBY
(Papua New Guinea)**

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QUESTION 1

by Olle Schmidt

Subject: Effects of the financial crisis on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

The financial crisis is hitting the financial markets in the United States and in the European Union; the effects are being felt on a global level. This is affecting global growth and could threaten the achievement of the MDGs. What is the Commission's assessment of the possibility of achieving the MDGs in view of the current crisis?

Secondly, has the Commission taken any action to help offset the more difficult MDG situation caused by the financial crisis?

Finally, how does the Commission view the chances for rapid conclusion of fully fledged EPAs in view of this development?

QUESTION 2

by Assarid Imbarcaouane (Mali)

Subject: Official development assistance

Following the conclusion of the 10th EDF, the economies of the ACP countries as a whole, and particularly of the least developed countries, have been destabilised by rocketing price increases for basic essentials, in particular food products. Sooner or later, furthermore, the current financial crisis will adversely impact on the ACP countries.

What does the Commission intend to do to help the ACP countries cope with this deteriorating situation?

QUESTION 3

by Achille Tapsoba (Burkina Faso)

Subject: Financial crisis

The international financial crisis mainly hitting banks and insurance companies, which is devastating markets in the process, could bring about a slowdown in growth rates for ACP countries and increasingly volatile exchange rates.

In view of this situation, what measures have been taken or are being considered by the Commission to safeguard the fragile economies of the ACP states, most of whose banks have partnership arrangements with European banks?

QUESTION 6

by Anne Van Lancker

Subject: Mid-term review of the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)

At the recent High Level Ministerial Meeting on Aid Effectiveness in September this year in Ghana, the EU promoted a progressive agenda on aid effectiveness and improving development outcomes. The Accra Agenda for Action in particular promotes accountability to citizens, taxpayers and parliaments and acknowledges the critical role and responsibility of parliaments in ensuring country ownership of development processes.

Given the commitments by donors to support efforts of all development actors, including parliaments and civil society organisations, to take an active role in dialogue on development policy and on the role of aid in contributing to countries' development objectives, can the Commission provide information on how the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly will be consulted on the guidelines for the mid-term review of the CSPs for the 10th EDF?

QUESTION 8

by Johan Van Hecke

Subject: Credibility of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

In African countries, there is growing criticism of the ICC in The Hague. That is illustrated by the African Union's move to have the arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir cancelled.

As the arrest warrants are confined to Africa, it is increasingly thought that the ICC is applying double standards and one-sidedly focusing on human rights violations in Africa.

What is the position of the Commission on this, and what efforts is it making to give the African Union evidence to the contrary?

How can impunity be combated without creating the impression, on the African side, that African leaders are being one-sidedly targeted?

QUESTION 10

by Alain Hutchinson

Subject: Decent work

Workers in the North but also in the South, and in the ACP countries in particular, are regularly faced with relocation, pay cuts and worsening working conditions. In very many cases, furthermore, company profits are taken by shareholders to the detriment of workers' pay, and millions of workers have a standard of living and living conditions preventing them from living in dignity. These are the main reasons why the International Labour Organisation has defined the concept of decent work in order to ensure respect for workers' human and social rights. Since bringing about decent work has a crucial role to play in establishing a healthy economy and in eradicating poverty, does the Commission intend to make decent work a priority in its development policies towards the ACP countries? Does it also intend, very specifically, to establish binding mechanisms to promote and bring about decent work, in particular in the trade agreements it concludes with its ACP partners?

QUESTION 11

by Vittorio Agnoletto

Subject: Counterfeiting of medicines

With regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 July 2007 on the TRIPS Agreement and access to medicines, and specifically paragraph 16 relating to the counterfeiting of medicines, can the Commission outline which measures have been taken in relation with counterfeit and piracy issues, as defined in EU law, strengthening the regulatory capacity of national authorities without increasing levels of intellectual property protection? Could the Commission outline in particular how it is ensuring that anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy measures are not harming the implementation of the safeguard clauses as laid down in Articles 6, 8 and 30 of the TRIPS Agreement?

QUESTION 12

by John Bowis

Subject: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

At the JPA in Wiesbaden, in June 2007, I was pleased to hear of the approach the EC is taking with regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Assembly heard of the imminent plans the EC had to carry out a full legislative review, and to ensure that EC Delegations have the tools to integrate disability in the policy dialogue with partners. It was also mentioned in the oral reply from the Commissioner that 'disability contact persons' would be nominated for each Delegation.

At this point, now that the CRPD has come into force, I am interested to hear an update on progress which has been made.

Have disability contact persons already been nominated in EC Delegations?

What progress has been made in terms of revising the EC Guidance Note on Disability and Development?

Just as importantly, will the monitoring body for the CRPD include expertise on development cooperation and humanitarian action to ensure the monitoring of Articles 11 and 32?

QUESTION 13

by Marie-Arlette Carlotti

Subject: European Union involvement in combating malaria

Malaria is responsible for 247 million deaths a year; about 200 to 300 million people are infected each year. It is the primary cause of mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. Pregnant women and children under five are the primary victims.

Can the Commission state what initiatives and funding are given over by the EU to combating malaria?

What support is the Commission giving, or considering giving, to the global 'Roll Back Malaria' initiative?

QUESTION 14

by Marie H el ene Aubert

Subject: Natural resources

With its coral reefs and fish stocks, the Pacific marine environment is exceptionally rich and sustains island populations (e.g. through tourism and fishing).

However, that richness is under serious threat from what is, at times, irresponsible exploitation of resources (on land and at sea) and climate warming.

What policy does the Commission intend to conduct, within its terms of reference, so as to preserve the Pacific marine ecosystem and make European firms in the region more aware of their social and environmental responsibilities?

QUESTION 4

by Jo Leinen

Subject: Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and civil society

In the light of demonstrations by farmers and civil society groups against EPAs in some ACP countries, how is the Commission communicating the goals of the EPAs to civil society in the ACP countries, and how will it secure support from civil society for the new agreements?

QUESTION 5

by Glyn Ford

Subject: Full Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Fiji and Papua New Guinea

Now that an interim EPA with Fiji and Papua New Guinea has been agreed, what does the Commission feel are the key priority sections for further negotiations leading to the full EPA? In particular, do these priorities include services and issues concerning Aid for Trade?

QUESTION 16

by Waven William (Seychelles)

Subject: Funding for the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)

In recognition of the very important role played by the CDE, could the Commission say whether the CDE will be receiving the extra funding necessary to enable it to proceed with its work more actively?

QUESTION 7

by **Mikel Irujo Amezaga**

Subject: Re-recognition of Somaliland as a model for the Horn of Africa

The Somali Republic was formed on 1 July 1960 by uniting Somaliland (an independent nation, recognised worldwide, which had been formed in June 1960, when the British protectorate ceased to exist) and Somalia (which had been formed from the former Italian colony on 1 July 1960).

Since 1991, Somaliland has rebuilt itself, both physically and in governmental terms, on the basis of liberal, democratic and lawful practices which had existed 31 years previously. Somalia, on the other hand, has degenerated into an ungovernable no man's land.

Does the Commission not believe that an initial solution for averting a worse crisis than the current crisis in the Horn of Africa is to re-recognise the nation of Somaliland as it existed in June 1960?

Taking into account the fact that there is some willingness to recognise the independence of Somaliland de facto but not de jure, can the Commission intervene at all as regards a decision by the United Nations on the request for recognition for Somaliland?

Does the Commission really think that the proposal of the British government (i.e. "We continue to urge Somaliland authorities and the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia to engage in dialogue so that a mutually acceptable solution for their future relationship can be agreed") is feasible despite the fact that Somalia has had no real government since 1991?

QUESTION 9

by **Ana Gomes**

Subject: Human rights violations in Angola

Is the Commission addressing, in the context of the political dialogue with the Angolan authorities, the following accusations of human rights violations?

- The Angolan Government attempt to close down the Association for Justice, Peace and Democracy (AJPD), one of Angola's most active human rights organisations, through constitutional court proceedings aimed at banning the AJPD.
- The manifestly unfair trial of former Voice of America correspondent Jose Fernando Lelo, who was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment on 19 September this year and whose accusers were allegedly tortured to make them testify against him.

QUESTION 15

by Catherine Neris

Subject: European aid following the natural disasters in Haiti

The four hurricanes and tropical storms which hit Haiti in August and September this year devastated the country, with a death toll of several hundred and 600 000 other victims, destroying infrastructure and the farming sector and causing serious food shortages.

In view of this tragedy, can the Commission provide an update on the European Union's use of the existing ACP-EU finance facility under the EDF in order to mount a rapid response in such instances?

QUESTION 17

by Emanuel Jardim Fernandes

Subject: Relations with Cape Verde

What form will the strengthened partnership between the European Union and Cape Verde take?