

# **ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**19th session from 29 March - 1 April 2010**

**TENERIFE  
(Spain)**

**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**

**TO THE COUNCIL**

**Nos 1-8 to the ACP Council  
Nos 9-29 to the EU Council**

## QUESTIONS TO THE ACP COUNCIL

### QUESTION 1

by Teshome TOGA (Ethiopia)

Subject: Somalia

In view of the Urgent Resolution on Somalia that was adopted by the JPA during its 17<sup>th</sup> Session in Prague and taking into consideration the UN Security Council Resolution 1907 imposing sanctions on Eritrea for providing support to the armed groups engaged in undermining the peace and reconciliation efforts in Somalia, I would like to ask:

What concrete measures has the Council taken for the effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 1907 and for the improvement of the overall security situation in Somalia?

### QUESTION 2

by Olle SCHMIDT and Catherine BEARDER

Subject: Murray Watson and Patrick Amukhuma

The British citizen Dr Murray Watson and his Kenyan colleague Patrick Amukhuma are being held against their will somewhere in southern Somalia after they were kidnapped on 1 April 2008.

Has the ACP council taken any steps to secure the safety and release of these two men?

### QUESTION 3

by Waven WILLIAM (Seychelles)

Subject: Assistance to ACP Countries Affected by Piracy Activities

Increasing piracy activities in the Western Indian Ocean are affecting the economies of the ACP States in the region. As such, the ACP Council during its 90<sup>th</sup> Session in November 2009 decided that ways should be explored to see how these countries could be assisted.

Could the ACP Council inform us on whether steps have already been taken to identify ways of assisting the aforementioned ACP states and, if so, what has been done?

#### QUESTION 4

by Filip KACZMAREK

Subject: Powołanie Specjalnego Przedstawiciela ds. walki z przemocą seksualną wobec kobiet i dzieci podczas konfliktów

W swoim wystąpieniu, podczas 14 Szczytu Unii Afrykańskiej w Addis Abebie Sekretarz Generalny ONZ Ban Ki -moon wyraził swoje oburzenie nasilającymi się przypadkami przemocy seksualnej wobec dzieci i kobiet, wykorzystywanymi jako broń wojenna oraz powołał stanowisko Specjalnego Przedstawiciela ds. walki z przemocą seksualną wobec kobiet i dzieci podczas konfliktów. Specjalny Przedstawiciel Pani Margot Wallstrom oznajmiła, że będzie zabiegała, aby akty przemocy na tle seksualnym podczas konfliktów były postrzegane w świetle prawa międzynarodowego jako zbrodnia wojenna.

W jaki sposób Rada ACP zamierza współpracować z Specjalnym Przedstawicielem?

Czy Rada ACP popiera wniosek Pani Wallstrom?

#### QUESTION 5

by Gabriel MATO ADROVER

Subject: Refuerzo de la cooperación regional países ACP y Regiones Ultraperiféricas de la UE mediante la creación de Espacios de Cooperación

Los espacios de cooperación en fronteras que conforman regiones comunitarias con regiones de países terceros vecinos tienen un probado efecto positivo para consolidar espacios de estabilidad, paz, seguridad y prosperidad en esas fronteras de la UE.

En base a los artículos 18.3 Instrumento de Cooperación al Desarrollo, 28 Acuerdo de Cotonou, y párrafo 31 de las conclusiones de la estrategia de la UE para África de 2005 ¿qué medidas ha adoptado o tiene pensado adoptar el Consejo para efectuar una mayor inserción regional entre los países ACP y las RUP vecinas para dotar de dimensión atlántica a la cooperación UE-África?

#### QUESTION 6

by Ole CHRISTENSEN

Subject: Biobrændstoffer

Hvordan vil Ministerrådet sikre, at EU's mål om brug af biobrændstoffer i transportsektoren ikke resulterer i en "forskydningseffekt" med øget ubæredygtig opdyrkning af naturområder både indenfor og udenfor EU, der resulterer i tab af

biologisk mangfoldighed og fratager lokale befolkninger deres mulighed for udnyttelse af naturressourcerne?

#### QUESTION 7

by Marielle DE SARNEZ

Objet: Représentations régionales dans les négociations ACP-UE

Il existe aujourd'hui plusieurs incohérences au niveau des régionalisations des pays ACP. D'une part au niveau des APE et des négociations avec les régions africaines, et d'autre part au niveau des institutions régionales africaines préexistantes.

Ne serait-il pas possible d'harmoniser ces représentations, par exemple en se basant sur les institutions régionales reconnues par l'Union Africaine et en y adaptant les interlocuteurs?

La multiplication des négociations avec des interlocuteurs différents représente une lourdeur administrative et financière inutile et complexifiant l'intégration régionale.

#### QUESTION 8

by Toine MANDERS

Subject: Young football players coming from Africa to EU

A lot of young players come from Africa to the EU to seek their luck in a football career. Many of them don't make it to the top and end up in illegality. For instance, in the UK the number of young football players from Africa disappearing in illegality is very high.

Does the Council agree that the African countries should ask FIFA to change the rules for young players to come to the EU, in order to prevent child trafficking and illegality?

## QUESTIONS TO THE EU COUNCIL

### QUESTION 9

posée par Isabelle DURANT

Objet: Haïti

Des décennies d'instabilité politique, une dette externe écrasante, une agriculture détruite par une importation bon marché, une déforestation massive, etc. ont contribué, avant même le séisme, à affaiblir les institutions publiques et l'Etat haïtien. Le redressement du pays demandera une politique courageuse, cohérente et ambitieuse de la part des haïtiens eux-mêmes ainsi que de la part de la communauté internationale.

Une des réponses à la reconstruction du pays serait l'annulation totale de la dette extérieure. Quelles sont les mesures que le Conseil compte prendre pour annuler la dette haïtienne et éviter un nouvel endettement qui serait un handicap au redressement du pays.

### QUESTION 10

by Anneli JÄÄTTEENMÄKI

Subject: EU responses and coordination in crisis situations

The recent earthquake in Haiti demonstrated a pressing need for a coherent and swift EU response in helping those in need. While it is understandable that coordinating 27 member states' disaster relief efforts is not easy, the EU should do better in future.

How does the Council ensure that national responses to natural disasters are better coordinated and that more effective use of various resources is planned before disasters strike?

### QUESTION 11

by Iva ZANICCHI

Subject: Emergenza tutela dei bambini scomparsi in Haiti

Amnesty International, e altre organizzazioni umanitarie, hanno denunciato la scomparsa di decine di bambini sopravvissuti al terremoto.

L'appello é stato lanciato alla comunità internazionale, perché ponga la propria attenzione sui gravi rischi di abusi e traffici illeciti di minori.

Quali misure sono state prese, o intende prendere il Consiglio, per monitorare e tutelare i bambini in questo momento di estrema difficoltà in Haiti?

## QUESTION 12

posée par Patrice TIROLIEN

Objet: Création d'un instrument européen de protection civile

A la lumière de la catastrophe récente qui a frappé Haïti, l'Union européenne doit améliorer ses capacités de réaction face à l'urgence humanitaire.

Or, si les efforts de coordination entre Etats membres sont louables, une réponse européenne planifiée et organisée aurait eu plus d'impact que l'addition des réponses individuelles. Seule une organisation réelle des capacités de protection civile et de l'assistance consulaire des Etats membres permettra de préparer une réponse moins coûteuse et plus efficace pour l'Union européenne.

Dès lors, le Conseil est-il prêt à étudier toute proposition de création d'un instrument communautaire intégré de protection civile ?

## QUESTION 13

posée par Assarid Ag IMBARCAOUANE

Objet : Traité de Lisbonne et Accord de Cotonou

Il nous revient que le Traité de Lisbonne ne fait aucune mention de l'Accord de Cotonou qui, comme Lomé I, II, III, IV et IV bis, consacre la mention des liens privilégiés et la spécificité de la coopération entre l'UE et les Etats ACP.

Cette impasse donne l'impression d'une dilution de cette spécificité dans les relations avec l'ensemble des pays en voie de développement dans le cadre de la mondialisation.

Elle pousse également à s'interroger sur le sort du FED, instrument financier de notre coopération.

Quelles sont les implications de l'absence de la référence à l'Accord de Cotonou dans le Traité de Lisbonne ? Et quid du 11<sup>ème</sup> FED ?

## QUESTION 14

posée par Kader ARIF

Objet: Libéralisation des services financiers dans le cadre des APE

La crise actuelle a démontré à quel point le manque de régulation dans le domaine financier provoque des effets dévastateurs. Alors que la meilleure régulation des marchés financiers est une priorité mondiale, le Conseil peut-il expliquer pourquoi sont poursuivies et conclues des négociations sur la libéralisation des services financiers, parfois même sans que les pays ACP aient pu au préalable établir un cadre réglementaire et de supervision national approprié, que l'UE se doit d'accompagner et de soutenir ? Il est inadmissible de pousser en ce sens, sachant les risques encourus par les économies concernées, en l'absence de règles nationales adaptées.

## QUESTION 15

by Françoise CASTEX

Subject: MDG 5

The EU Member States have adopted strong policies for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of development cooperation. However, implementation in the field remains an issue. As a result, MDG 5, particularly its target B ‘achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health’ is still the most off track of all the MDGs and one of the world’s largest health inequities. Today, more than 200 million women still lack access to family planning and over half a million women die every year from preventable complications of pregnancy and delivery. In view of the upcoming MDGs Review Summit, what are the Council intending to do to improve the actual implementation of SRHR policies and programmes at country level, which are necessary to achieve MDG 5?

## QUESTION 16

by Michael CASHMAN

Subject: Discrimination against sexual minorities

An increasing sign of intolerance towards sexual minorities can be noted in many ACP countries (including Burundi, Malawi and Uganda).

Can the European Council explain what actions it is ready to take in order to reinforce the Human Rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people when negotiating agreements with non-EU Member States, including ACP countries?

## QUESTION 17

by Teshome TOGA (Ethiopia)

Subject: Somalia

In view of the Urgent Resolution on Somalia that was adopted by the JPA during its 17<sup>th</sup> Session in Prague and taking into consideration the UN Security Council Resolution 1907 imposing sanctions on Eritrea for providing support to the armed groups engaged in undermining the peace and reconciliation efforts in Somalia, I would like to ask:

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## QUESTION 18

by Margaret KAMAR (Kenya)

Subject: Somalia

Somalia has been under the control of Al-Shabaab (linked to Al-Qaeda). The Group has been engaged in piracy along the coast of Eastern Africa, murder and terrorism in a bid to oust the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is struggling to support the TFG in an effort to counter Al-Shabaab's incursions in Somalia but its success is limited due to inadequate funding.

What is the state of play on the pledges towards Somalia made at the international donor conference hosted by the EU in 2009?

## QUESTION 19

by Horst SCHNELLHARDT

Subject: Militärischer Einsatz an der Küste Somalias

Der erste gemeinsame Marineeinsatz der Europäischen Union, Operation ATALANTA, dient dem Schutz vor Piraterie und bewaffneter Raubüberfälle vor der Küste Somalias. Der Rat hat das Mandat bis Ende 2010 verlängert. Ich frage den Rat:

- 1) Die Erfahrungen aus dem letzten Jahr zeigen, dass ein Einsatz zur See allein die Piraten nicht stoppen kann. Welche begleitenden Maßnahmen unternimmt der Rat, um Piraterie vor der Küste Somalias einzuschränken?
- 2) Welche Maßnahmen unternimmt der Rat, um festgenommene Piraten nach rechtlich einwandfreien Standards verurteilen und inhaftieren zu lassen und damit zu einer stärkeren Abschreckung von Piraten beizutragen?

## QUESTION 20

by Olle SCHMIDT and Catherine BEARDER

Subject: Murray Watson and Patrick Amukhuma

The British citizen Dr Murray Watson and his Kenyan colleague Patrick Amukhuma are being held against their will somewhere in southern Somalia after they were kidnapped on 1 April 2008.

Has the EU Council taken any steps to secure the release and safety of these two men?

## QUESTION 21

by Jo LEINEN

Subject: ACP Climate Policy

The Copenhagen Conference failed to deliver a satisfactory result for international climate protection. At the same time, it demonstrated that the EU was not able to convince most developing countries to sign up to an ambitious agreement. The European Union obviously failed to build trust and to present sufficient offers to countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region. Therefore, what initiatives do you intend to bring forward in the run up to the Climate Conference in Mexico in order to build up trust and credibility?

How do you intend to engage developing countries and which initiatives do you intend to bring forward?

## QUESTION 22

by Waven WILLIAM (Seychelles)

Subject: Climate Change – Carbon Emission Targets

The EU and its member states have associated themselves to the Copenhagen Accord. The EU has indicated that it is willing to maintain its commitment to the 20% carbon emission cut and that if other developed countries commit themselves to further cuts, it will consider a 30% cut.

Could the Council inform us what measures the EU is willing to take to rally the support of other developed countries to:

- a) have a clear agenda plan of action to reduce further carbon emission cuts?
- b) guarantee the implementation of the Kyoto targets and arrive at a legally binding commitment to or beyond COP16?

## QUESTION 23

by Fiona HALL

Subject: Post CoP15 Climate Change action

Following the failure of CoP15 to reach a binding global agreement on climate change, what steps is the Council taking to intensify dialogue with ACP countries in order to prepare the way for the next Conference of the Parties and improve the chances of a successful outcome?

## QUESTION 24

by Ana GOMES

Subject: Ethiopia 2010 Elections

Considering that:

- a. The 2005 EU election observation mission report was rejected by the Ethiopian Government
- b. Most opposition leaders (including elected ones) were imprisoned after the 2005 elections and some remain imprisoned
- c. Birtukan Midekssa, leader of a main opposition party and an elected MP, is in prison
- d. Media freedom is limited
- e. The Parliament enacted a law that criminalises most human rights work
- f. The government is preparing a controversial code of conduct for election observers

Will the EU send an election observation mission to Ethiopia, despite glaring evidence that basic conditions for free and fair elections are not met? Please justify.

## QUESTION 25

by Gabriel MATO ADROVER

Subject: Creación de un espacio de Cooperación, "Espacio Atlántico Euroafricano", RUP (Canarias, Azores, Madeira) países ACP vecinos.

Los espacios de cooperación en fronteras que conforman regiones comunitarias con regiones de países terceros vecinos tienen un probado efecto positivo para consolidar espacios de estabilidad, paz, seguridad y prosperidad en esas fronteras de la UE facilitando, entre otros, mayor cooperación en materias sensibles como la lucha contra el terrorismo y el tráfico ilegal.

En este contexto, ¿podría el Consejo otorgar mandato a la Comisión para implementar un espacio de cooperación, Espacio Atlántico Euroafricano, con un apropiado instrumento financiero para la cooperación RUP-ACP vecinos, que complemente la dimensión euromediterránea de la UE con una dimensión atlántica a través de las RUP?

## QUESTION 26

by Licia RONZULLI

Subject: Digital divide

La diffusione di internet in Africa è limitata: il numero di utilizzatori in rapporto alla popolazione è largamente inferiore rispetto agli altri continenti.

L'Africa è lontana dal raggiungimento degli Obiettivi di Sviluppo del Millennio identificati dalle Nazioni Unite nell'accessibilità globale ai vantaggi derivanti delle telecomunicazioni e dall'informatica.

L'innovazione tecnologica costituisce mezzo di costruzione sociale, strumento per migliorare i servizi, facilitare il lavoro ed aumentare le conoscenze delle persone. Quali misure si intende adottare per favorire progetti volti a realizzare dorsali di rete e diffondere l'utilizzo di internet nel continente Africano? Come si intende favorire l'utilizzo di software open-source?

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## QUESTION 29

by Maria da Graça CARVALHO

Subject: Transport links between ultraperipheral regions and continental Europe, and neighbouring third countries

Tendo em conta a importância da integração regional das regiões ultraperiféricas nos seus respectivos ambientes geográficos e a sensibilidade e potencial recíproco que tanto as regiões ultraperiféricas como as autoridades locais, regionais e nacionais dos países ACP vizinhos outorgam às ligações aéreas e marítimas entre as suas regiões para efectivar a integração regional:

Podia o Conselho mandar a Comissão para apresentar uma proposta financeira de política de transportes integrada a favor das regiões ultraperiféricas que responda ao triplo desafio que enfrentam? Seja, da ligação insular no caso das regiões ultraperiféricas arquipélagos, seja da ligação com a Europa continental, seja da ligação com os países terceiros vizinhos?