



15.5.2012

## **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**(0001/2012)**

**Subject:** Attendance by MEPs of meetings of standing committees of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

The meetings of standing committees of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in March were - once again - very poorly attended by MEPs. At times, only one MEP was present. As this was not the first time that this had occurred, ACP Members again expressed their frustration, stressing that they came to Brussels to be able to hold a dialogue with their European counterparts, and not only amongst themselves.

Out of respect for our ACP counterparts who travel twice a year to come see us, thereby putting aside work in their own parliaments, I would once again encourage you, in particular those colleagues acting as rapporteur or co-chair or co-vice-chair of JPA committees, to attend these meetings which serve to discuss the content of the reports and to prepare our plenary debates.

We all have a duty to our constituents and, given the unfortunately negative press reports recently focusing on the cost of our delegation, I believe it behoves us to show that we take our work seriously.

Louis Michel