

30th ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly session

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The 30th plenary session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly took place in Brussels from 7 to 9 December 2015. The session was opened formally by its Co-Presidents Louis Michel for the European Parliament and Fitz A. Jackson (Jamaica) for the ACP.

The plenary session was preceded and prepared by meetings of the three standing committees on 4 December. These were the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade, the Committee on Political Affairs and the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment. The meeting of the Bureau was held on 7 December.

Contact

Emilie TOURNIER

BXL: (+32) 2 28 30578

STR: (+33) 3 881 72649

PORT: (+32) 473 55 74 66

EMAIL: foreign-press@europarl.europa.eu

TWITTER: EP_ForeignAff

Background

What have been discussed in Brussels?

At the opening of the 30th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), migration and terrorism dominated the debate, given the attacks in Paris in November 2015 and the migration and refugees crisis that had engulfed Europe since spring 2015.

The Assembly voted three resolutions on Wednesday 9 December:

- Forty years of partnership: evaluation of the impact on trade and development in the ACP countries and prospects for enduring relations between the ACP countries and the European Union (debate Monday, co-rapporteurs: Jacob Oulanyah (Uganda) and David Martin);
- The evaluation of the African Peace Facility after ten years: effectiveness and prospects for the future (debate Tuesday, co-rapporteurs: Kombo Gberi (Cameroun) and Mariya Gabriel);
- How to improve economic and social conditions in developing countries, including the contribution of family businesses, in order to prevent health disasters (debate Wednesday, co-rapporteurs: Ibrahim R. Bundu (Sierra Leone) and Arne Gericke);

Two urgent topics were debated and wrapped up by resolutions:

- Post-election situation in Burundi (debate Monday, vote Wednesday), and
- Migration, human rights and humanitarian refugees (debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday).

On Monday 7 December the Assembly held a debate in the presence of Yves Leterme, Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, on the "State of democracy in Europe and in the ACP countries".

On Tuesday 8 December, MEPs also held a debate with Commissioner Neven Mimica and the ACP and EU Councils, represented by Mamphono Khaketla, Finance Minister of Lesotho, and Romain Schneider, Minister for Cooperation and Humanitarian Action.

On Wednesday 9 December, electrification was Africa the focus of a debate between MEPs and Jean-Louis Borloo, President of the "Energy for Africa" Foundation while the Paris Conference on Climate Change (COP21) was also widely discussed later. MEPs and their counterparts from national parliaments of the ACP countries also debated universal health coverage with Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, also on Wednesday.

Background

Programme

The whole programme of the event is available on the [website](#) of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

Further information

- ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly website

Background

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 signed in June 2000. 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

Further information

[Why a joint parliamentary assembly?](#)

Background

What tangible results were 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 agreements 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, and
- measures to reinforce the commitment to respect and defend human rights and human dignity.

Background

Venues

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

Previous JPAs:

- Wiesbaden, Germany, 23-28 June 2007,
- Rwanda 17-22 November 2007,
- Ljubljana, 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, RD Congo, 2-4 December 2010,
- Budapest, Hungary, 16-18 May 2011,
- Lomé, Togo, 21-23 November 2011,
- Horsens, Denmark, 28-30 May 2012,
- Paramaribo, Suriname, 27-29 November 2012,
- Brussels, Belgium, 17-19 June 2013,
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25-27 November 2013, and
- Strasbourg, France, 17 - 19 March 2014;
- Strasbourg, France, 1 - 3 December 2014;
- Suva, Fiji, 15-17 June 2015.

Background

Why did this Joint Parliamentary Assembly take place in Brussels, instead of an ACP country, as initially planned?

The 30th Session of the ACP-EU JPA (7 to 9 December 2015) was held in Brussels at the request of the ACP Members, on the understanding that the two sessions in 2016 would be held in ACP states.

Background

When and where will the next Joint Parliamentary Assembly be held?

The 31st ACP-EU JPA will be hosted from 13 to 15 June 2016 in Windhoek, Namibia (Southern Africa). The ACP-EU JPA's two 2016 sessions should in principle take place in ACP countries.

Background

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 Netty Baldeh from Gambia).

Background

How is the ACP-EU JPA organised?

78 MEPs (Members of European Parliament) and 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 Fitz A. Jackson from Jamaica).

24 Vice-Presidents (12 MEPs and 12 MPs from 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.

Background

What is the composition of the EP delegation?

78 members

52 MEPs were present at the meeting in Brussels:

Name of the MEPs	First names of MEPs	Political group	Languages
DELI	Andor	EPP	EN
ESTARÀS FERRAGUT	Rosa	EPP	ES
GABRIEL	Mariya	EPP	BG/FR
GÁL	Kinga	EPP	HU/EN
GAHLER	Michael	EPP	DE
HETMAN	Krzysztof	EPP	PL
JIMENEZ-BECERRIL	Teresa	EPP	ES/FR/EN
POGLIESE	Salvatore Domenico	EPP	IT
PONGA	Maurice	EPP	FR
STIER	Davor Ivo	EPP	EN
STOLOJAN	Theodor	EPP	RO/EN
THEOCHAROUS	Eleni	EPP	MT/EN
VAIDERE	Inese	EPP	LV
WENTA	Bogdan Bruno	EPP	PL/DE/ES
WIELAND	Rainer	EPP	DE
ZABORSKA	Anna	EPP	SK/FR
ZELLER	Joahim	EPP	DE
ZWIEFKA	Tadeusz	EPP	PL
ARENA	Marie	S&D	BE
CHRISTENSEN	Ole	S&D	DK
COZZOLINO	Andrea	S&D	IT
DANCE	Seb	S&D	UK
GILL	Neena	S&D	EN
GIUFFRIDA	Michela	S&D	IT
GUERRERO SALOM	Enrique	S&D	ES
KYENGE	Cécile Kashetu	S&D	IT
LEINEN	Jo	S&D	DE
LOPEZ AGUILAR	Juan Fernando	S&D	ES
MIZZI	Marlene	S&D	EN
NEUSER	Norbert	S&D	DE
NOICHL	Maria	S&D	DE
WARD	Julie	S&D	UK
ZORRINHO	Carlos	S&D	PT
CZESAK	Eward	ECR	PL
GERICK	Arne	ECR	DE
WIŚNIEWSKA	Jadwiga	ECR	PL
BEARDER	Catherine	ALDE	EN
GOERENS	Charles	ALDE	FR
GRIESBECK	Nathalie	ALDE	FR
DE SARNEZ	Marielle	ALDE	FR
FERREIRA	João	GUE/NGL	PT
SENRA RODRÍGUEZ	Maria Lidia	GUE/NGL	ES
SYLIKIOTIS	Neoklis	GUE/NGL	CY
HEUBUCH	Maria	Greens/EFA	DE
RIVASI	Michèle	Greens/EFA	FR
VALERO	Bodil	Greens/EFA	SE/ES
ADINOLFI	Isabella	EFDD	IT
AGEA	Laura	EFDD	IT

Background

CORRAO	Ignazio	EFDD	IT
SCHAFFHAUSER	Jean-Luc	ENF	FR
CHAUPRADE	Aymeric	NI	FR

Background

Which ACP countries are represented?

78 countries:

Angola - Antigua and Barbuda - Bahamas - Barbados - Belize - Benin - Botswana - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cape Verde - Cameroon - Central African Republic - Chad - Comoros - Congo - Cook Islands - Côte d'Ivoire - Cuba - Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - Djibouti - Dominica - Dominican Republic - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fiji - Gabon - The Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Republic of Guinea - Equatorial Guinea - Guinea-Bissau - Guyana - Haiti - Jamaica - Kenya - Kiribati - Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands - Mauritania - Mauritius - Micronesia - Mozambique - Namibia - Nauru - Niger - Nigeria - Niue - Palau - Papua New Guinea - Rwanda - St Kitts and Nevis - St Lucia - St Vincent and the Grenadines - Samoa - Sao Tome and Principe - Senegal - Seychelles - Sierra Leone - Solomon Islands - Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland - Tanzania - Togo - Tonga - Trinidad and Tobago - Tuvalu - Uganda - Vanuatu - Zambia - Zimbabwe

Note: **Cuba** is also an ACP country, but as it did not sign the Cotonou agreement, it is not represented in the JPA.