

32nd ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly session

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The 32nd plenary session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) will take place in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, from December 19 to 21 2016. The session will be opened formally by its Co-Presidents Louis Michel for the European Parliament, and Netty Baldeh (Gambia) for the ACP in presence of Justin Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya.

The plenary session will be preceded and prepared by meetings of the three standing committees - Economic Development, Finance and Trade; Political Affairs; and Social Affairs - on Saturday, 17 December. The Bureau will meet on Sunday, 18 December.

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Background

What will be discussed in Nairobi?

The keynote debate at the 32nd plenary session of the ACP-EU JPA, entitled "Demographic growth: challenges and opportunities" will focus on issues related to uncontrolled population growth, on the consequences of strong demographic pressure in various regions of the world but also the impact of population aging in Europe. These elements will fuel intensive discussion throughout the session.

The Assembly will vote on Wednesday 21 December on 3 resolutions:

- Constitutional limits on presidential terms (debate on Tuesday morning, co-rapporteurs: Tulia Ackson (Tanzania) and Ignazio Corrao (IT)),
- Challenges for family farming and small-scale agriculture production in ACP countries (debate on Tuesday afternoon, co-rapporteurs: Uladi Mussa (Malawi) and Maria Heubuch (DE)); and
- The impact of illicit financial flows on development finance (debate on Tuesday afternoon, co-rapporteurs: Ousmane Kaba (Guinea) and Theodor Dumitru Stolojan (RO)).

Two urgent topics will be debated and concluded by resolutions:

- The post-electoral situation in Gabon (debate on Tuesday, vote on Wednesday), and
- Impact of hurricane Matthew in Haiti (debate and vote on Wednesday).

On Tuesday, 20 December, MEPs and their counterparts from national parliaments of the ACP countries will also discuss the role of trade in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A keynote speech will be given by UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi.

Another current topic, "How to support the resettlement of migrants in their home country" will be among those debated on Wednesday, 21 December.

The formal opening session of the 32nd session of the JPA on Monday, 19 December at 11.00, will take place in the presence of Justin Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya. MEPs will also hold debates with Commissioner Neven Mimica (HR) on Monday, 19 December, and with representatives of ACP and EU Councils on Wednesday, 21 December.

Background

Why is there any need for ACP JPA meeting? What tangible results can be achieved?

The EU maintains a special partnership with the ACP countries, due to their historical links with many EU member states. This partnership is established by the Cotonou Agreement, signed in June 2000. It is essential this partnership has a parliamentary dimension, allowing democratic control of the government and executive.

See also:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/20_01/default_en.htm

Background

What tangible results have been 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:

- Improving the role of women in the development process,
- Integrating environment policy in development projects,
- Promoting 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 decentralised development policies,
- Annual meetings between economic and social partners,
- Promoting 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,
- Accelerating aid procedures and increasing funds for refugees and for displaced persons, and
- Measures to reinforce the commitment to respect and defend human rights and human dignity.

Background

How is the choice of venues made?

The JPA meets twice a year, once in the EU, traditionally in the member state who has presidency in the EU Council of Ministers, and once in an ACP country, determined by the group of ACP countries.

Previous JPA's:

- 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,
- Strasbourg, France, 17 - 19 March 2014,
- Strasbourg, France, 1 - 3 December 2014,
- Suva, Fiji, 15-17 June 2015,
- Brussels, 7-9 December 2015, and
- Windhoek, Namibia, 13-15 June 2016.

Background

When and where will the next Joint parliamentary assembly be held?

The 33rd ACP-EU JPA session should take place in Europe in the first half of 2017 (exact date and venue to be determined).

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 M. Netty Baldeh from Gambia).

Background

How is the ACP-EU JPA organized?

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 M. Netty Baldeh from Gambia).

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

Who makes up the EP delegation?

78 members

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/dacp/home.html>

50 MEPs have registered for the meeting in Nairobi so far (by 29 November 2016).

| Noms des membres | Prénoms des membres | Groupe politique | Langues |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| MICHEL | Louis | ALDE | FR |
| RIVASI | Michèle | Greens/EFA | FR |
| ARENA | Maria | S&D | FR |
| DE SARNEZ | Marielle | ALDE | FR |
| GRIESBECK | Nathalie | ALDE | FR |
| MANSCOUR | Louis-Joseph | S&D | FR |
| ALLOT | Louis | ENF | FR |
| GAHLER | Michael | EPP | DE |
| LIETZ | Arne | S&D | DE |
| NEUSER | Norbert | S&D | DE |
| NOICHL | Maria | S&D | DE |
| WERNER | Martina | S&D | DE |
| SCHUSTER | Joachim | S&D | DE |
| ZELLER | Joachim | EPP | DE |
| CASPARY | Daniel | EPP | DE |
| LEINEN | Jo | S&D | DE |
| ERTUG | Ismail | S&D | DE |
| KYENGE | Cécile Kshetu | S&D | IT |
| CORRAO | Ignazio | EFDD | IT |
| BEARDER | Catherine | ALDE | EN |
| VAUGHAN | Derek | S&D | EN |
| WARD | Julie | S&D | EN |
| GILL | Neena | S&D | EN |
| MARTIN | David | S&D | EN |
| CAMPBELL BANNERMAN | David | ECR | EN |
| GUERRERO SALOM | Enrique | S&D | ES |
| GAMBÚS | Francesc | EPP | ES |
| DIAZ DE MERA | Agustin | EPP | ES |
| ESTARÀS FERRAGUT | Rosa | EPP | ES |
| HERRANZ GARCÍA | Esther | EPP | ES |
| JIMÉNEZ-BECERRIL BARRIO | Teresa | EPP | ES |
| LÓPEZ AGUILAR | Juan Fernando | S&D | ES |
| SENRA RODRÍGUEZ | María Lidia | GUE-NGL | ES |
| SERRÃO SANTOS | Ricardo | S&D | PT |
| ZORRINHO | Carlos | S&D | PT |
| LEGUTKO | Ryszard | ECR | PL / FR / EN |
| WENTA | Bogdan | EPP | PL/DE |
| ZWIEFKA | Tadeusz | EPP | PL |
| ROSATI | Dariusz | EPP | PL |
| KŁOSOWSKI | Sławomir | ECR | PL |
| HETMAN | Krzysztof | EPP | PL |
| HÖLVÉNYI | György | EPP | HU |
| JÄÄTTEENMÄKI | Anneli | ALDE | FI |
| ZÁBORSKÁ | Anna | EPP | SK |
| CHRISTENSEN | Ole | S&D | DK |

Background

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|----------|-----------------|------------|----|
| STOLOJAN | Theodor Dumitru | EPP | RO |
| NEGRESCU | Victor | S&D | RO |
| VALERO | Bodil | Greens/EFA | SE |
| GABRIEL | Mariya | EPP | BG |

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.