

33rd ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly session

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The 33rd plenary session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) will take place in St. Julian's, Malta, from 19 to 21 June 2017.

The session will be opened formally by its Co-Presidents, including Louis Michel for the European Parliament, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Angelo Farrugia.

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 June. The Bureau will meet on Sunday, 18 June.

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Background

What will be discussed in St. Julian's?

MEPs will debate the **risk of the emergence of the most severe famine and humanitarian crisis in history** with Commissioner Stylianides on the morning of Tuesday 20 June. More than 20 million people in four African countries - South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen - are facing starvation and famine.

Another debate on **the impunity for crimes against humanity** will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 20 June with Sidiki Kaba, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and former Minister of Justice for Senegal.

Furthermore, the Assembly will debate and vote on three resolutions on Wednesday 21 June:

- the **financing of political parties in ACP and EU countries** (debate on Tuesday morning, co-rapporteurs: Worlea Saywah Dunnah (Liberia) and Cécile Kashetu Kyenge (IT)),
- **improving aid and development effectiveness in EU-ACP cooperation** (debate on Tuesday afternoon, co-rapporteurs: Sebastian C. Kopulande (Zambia) and Neoklis Sylikiotis (CY)), and
- the **role of sport as an enabler for education and poverty eradication** (debate on Wednesday morning, co-rapporteurs: Abderahmane Marrakchy (Mauritania) and Teresa Jimenez-Becerril (ES)).

Two urgent topics will be discussed and concluded by resolutions:

- the **security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region** (debate on Tuesday, vote on Wednesday), and
- the **situation in Burundi** (debate on Tuesday, vote on Wednesday).

The formal opening session of the 33rd session of the JPA on Monday, 19 June at 11.00, will take place in the presence of the President of the Republic of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Angelo Farrugia. MEPs will also hold debates with **Commissioner Neven Mimica** (HR) on Monday, 19 June, and with representatives of ACP and EU Councils on Wednesday, 21 June.

Aside from the plenary session, MEPs will gather during the **Women's Forum** in the morning of Saturday 17 June. They will also meet with young Maltese students during the **Youth Conference**, which will take place on Sunday 18 June afternoon.

Background

How to follow the debates?

The entire event programme is available on the [Joint parliamentary assembly ACP-EU website](#).

Background

Why is there a need for ACP-EU JPA meeting? What tangible results can be achieved?

The EU maintains a special partnership with the ACP countries, due to historical ties between them and 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 overview of the government and executive. Therefore parliamentary representatives of the 78 ACP countries and 78 Members of the European Parliament meet twice a year in the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, once in the EU country holding the EU Council Presidency and once in a country determined by the ACP. Apart from the full plenary sessions, Members regularly meet in committees and Bureau.

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 of 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,
- Brusses, 7-9 December 2015,
- Windhoek, Namibia, 13-15 June 2016, and
- Nairobi, Kenya, 19-21 December 2016.

Background

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

The 33rd ACP-EU JPA session will take place in St. Julian's in Malta from 19 to 21 June 2017. The 34th ACP-EU JPA session should take place in one of the ACP countries in the second 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.

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 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

44 MEPs have registered for the meeting in St. Julian's so far (by 8 June 2017):

Name of the Members	First names	Political group
ADINOLFI	Isabella	EFDD
AGEA	Laura	EFDD
BAREKOV	Nikolay	ECR
BEARDER	Catherine	ALDE
CAMPBELL BANNERMAN	David	ECR
DEVA	Nirj	ECR
ENGEL	Frank	EPP
GAHLER	Michael	EPP
GAMBUS	Francesc	EPP
GERICKE	Arne	ECR
GRIESBECK	Natalie	ALDE
GUERRERO SALOM	Enrique	S&D
HETMAN	Krzysztof	EPP
HEUBUCH	Maria	Greens/ALE
HÖLVÉNYI	György	EPP
JIMENEZ-BECERRIL BARRIO	Teresa	EPP
KARSKI	Karol	ECR
KYENGE	Kashetu Cécile	S&D
LIETZ	Arne	S&D
LOPEZ AGUILAR	Juan Fernando	S&D
MANSCOUR	Louis-Joseph	S&D
MARTIN	David	S&D
MICHEL	Louis	ALDE
NEGRESCU	Victor	S&D
NEUSER	Norbert	S&D
NOICHL	Maria	S&D
PONGA	Maurice	EPP
PREUSS	Gabriele	S&D
ROSATI	Dariusz	EPP
SENRA RODRIGUEZ	Maria Lidia	GUE/NGL
SILVA PEREIRA	Pedro	S&D
STOLOJAN	Theodor Dumitru	EPP
SYLIKOTIS	Neoklis	GUE/NGL
THEOCHAROUS	Eleni	ECR
VALERO	Bodil	Greens/ALE
VAUGHAN	Derek	S&D
WARD	Julie	S&D
WENTA	Bogdan	EPP
WERNER	Martina	S&D
WISNIEWSKA	Jadwiga	ECR
ZABORSKA	Anna	EPP
ZELLER	Joachim	EPP
ZORRINHO	Carlos	S&D
ZOVKO	Željana	EPP

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.