

35th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

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Demographics and migration are set to dominate debates at the 35th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels, starting on 18 June.

The 35th plenary session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly takes place in Brussels, Belgium from 18 to 20 June. It will be officially opened by its Co-Presidents, Louis Michel for the European Parliament and Joseph Owona Kono (Cameroon) for the ACP states.

The plenary session will be preceded and prepared by meetings of the three standing committees - on Economic Development, Finance and Trade, Political Affairs and Social Affairs and the Environment - on Saturday 16 June. A Bureau meeting will take place on Sunday 17 June.

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Background

What will be discussed in Brussels?

MPs and MEPs will debate **Demographic Growth** with Benoit Kalasa, Director at the United Nations Population Fund on the afternoon of Tuesday 19 June.

The role of the **global pact on migration** (Tuesday afternoon) and fighting xenophobia, racism and discrimination (late Monday afternoon) will also be discussed.

On 20 June at around 3pm, the Assembly will also debate and vote on three resolutions on:

- **ACP-EU relations post-Cotonou: a strong parliamentary dimension** (debate Tuesday morning, Co-Rapporteurs: Jacob Oulanyah (Uganda) and Cristian Dan Preda (RO))
- **Social and environmental consequences of urbanisation, particularly the sound management of industrial and domestic waste in ACP countries** (debate Tuesday morning, Co-rapporteurs: Khalifa Sallah (Gambia) and Eleni Theocharous (CY))
- **The impact of the illegal trade in phytosanitary products, seeds and other agricultural inputs on ACP Countries' economies** (debate Tuesday afternoon, Co-rapporteurs: Lucie Milebou Aubusson ép. Mboussou (Gabon) and Maria Arena (BE)).

Two urgent topics will be debated and wrapped up by resolutions:

- **Urgency of new measures to fight international terrorism** (debate Tuesday morning, vote Wednesday), and
- **the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan** (debate Tuesday afternoon, vote Wednesday).

The official opening of the 35th session of the JPA will be held on Monday 18 June at 11am in the presence of Yuri Sterk, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Bulgaria. MPs and MEPs will also hold debates with EU Commissioner Neven Mimica on Monday 18 June and with representatives of the rotating presidencies of the ACP and EU Councils on Wednesday 20 June.

On the fringe of the plenary session, MPs and MEPs will meet at the **Women's Forum** on the morning of Saturday 16 June. They will also meet young Belgians to debate reception and integration of migrants in Europe at a **Youth Conference** on the afternoon of Sunday 17 June from 2pm.

Background

How to follow the debates?

The entire event programme is available on the [Joint parliamentary assembly ACP-EU website](#). Live Webstreaming will be available here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/fr/other-events/schedule>

Background

Why is there a need for ACP 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.

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 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 are venues chosen?

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 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,
- Strasbourg, France, 17 - 19 March 2014,
- Strasbourg, France, 1 - 3 December 2014,

- Suva, Fiji, 15-17 June 2015,
- Brussels, 7-9 December 2015,
- Windhoek, Namibia, 13-15 June 2016, and
- Nairobi, Kenya, 19-21 December 2016,
- St Julian's, Malta, 19-21 June 2017.
- Port-au-Prince, Haïti, 18-20 December 2017.

Background

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

The 35th session of the ACP-EU JPA will take place in Brussels, Belgium, from 18 to 20 June 2018. The 36th session of the ACP-EU JPA should take place in one of the ACP countries in the second half of 2018 (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 Joseph Owona Kono, from Cameroon).

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 Joseph Owona Kono from Cameroon).

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>

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.