

ORAL QUESTION H-0477/03

for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Yasmine Boudjenah

to the Commission

Subject: Negotiation of ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements

One year after the opening of negotiations on ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements, the ACP countries confirmed their willingness to comply with the scheduled timetable, while reaffirming, however, that the first phase of the negotiations should lead to a formal undertaking by the two parties on the principles and objectives of the EPAs and the issues of common interest to all the ACP countries. With the opening of the second, 'regional negotiation', phase scheduled for September 2003, can the Commission confirm that the first phase has indeed proved sufficient 'to enable a clear definition of the future EPAs' objectives to emerge', as called for by Parliament on 26 September 2002 in the resolution I had the honour of presenting as rapporteur?

The Commission announced that it would carry out impact studies of these agreements with a view to establishing free-trade areas. Has it carried out such studies and/or helped the ACP countries to carry out their own impact assessments? The Commission undertook to keep Parliament regularly informed on the progress of the negotiations, possibly in the form of annual reports. What action has been taken on this?

Tabled: 09.07.2003

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