



2023/0464(NLE)

07.03.2024

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Development

on the proposal for a Council decision on the Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part (COM(2023)0791 – C9-0029/2024 – 2023/0464(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Samira Rafaela

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On 15 November 2023, the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States signed the Samoa Agreement, which established the overarching framework for EU relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. It will replace the Cotonou Agreement, which was signed in 2000 for a 20-year period, and hence had to be extended. The Samoa Agreement includes six priority areas: democracy and human rights, sustainable economic growth and development, climate change, human and social development, peace and security, and migration and mobility. From the INTA perspective, the Rapporteur highlights the following points:

First, the Agreement should benefit intra-African trade and the economic integration of the African continent through the AfCFTA. Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are useful instruments and should help reach this goal.

Second, it is welcomed that the Agreement includes a pathway to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, as well as the UN principle on free, prior, and informed consent. The Agreement should foster sustainable development in both regions, where the EU trade toolbox, including EPAs, GSP and Aid for Trade, but also CBAM and the Anti-Deforestation Regulation, should be mutually reinforcing.

Third, EPAs between the EU and African countries should contribute to long-term sustainable development, reduce poverty, and boost regional integration. These EPAs should benefit the African population and intra-African trade.

Fourth, the Agreement's trade and investment provisions should benefit all parties. The EU should therefore be mindful about a potential misbalance of benefits of trade and investment relations with the OACPS countries, especially related to sustainability.

Fifth, the EU should engage in capacity building where necessary, and support activities related to science, technology, research, innovation and the digital transformation in the OACPS countries. The EU should also engage with OACPS countries about new and existing EU trade legislation, including CBAM and the Forced Labour Ban.

Sixth, it is welcomed that the Agreement includes strong human rights commitments. The Agreement should help with the fight against inequalities, and its implementation should be gender mainstreamed, which includes, among others, gender equality and trade related aspects and gender chapters in trade agreements.

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to recommend that Parliament gives its consent to the draft Council decision on the Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part.

ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT

The rapporteur has received input from the following entities or persons in the preparation of the opinion, until the adoption thereof in committee:

Entity and/or person
Dr. James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh (PhD)
Professor Robert Dussey, Togo's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad, the OACPS' Chief Negotiator and Chair of the Ministerial Central Negotiating Group
CONCORD Europe

The list above is drawn up under the exclusive responsibility of the rapporteur.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part
References	05789/2024 – C9-0029/2024 – 2023/0464(NLE)
Committee responsible	DEVE
Rapporteur for the opinion Date appointed	Samira Rafaela 24.1.2024
Date adopted	7.3.2024
Result of final vote	+: 29 –: 2 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Barry Andrews, Geert Bourgeois, Saskia Bricmont, Jordi Cañas, Danuta Maria Hübner, Karin Karlsbro, Danilo Oscar Lancini, Bernd Lange, Thierry Mariani, Margarida Marques, Emmanuel Maurel, Samira Rafaela, Catharina Rinzema, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Helmut Scholz, Dominik Tarczyński, Kathleen Van Brempt, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Jörgen Warborn, Jan Zahradil
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marek Belka, Anna Cavazzini, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Enikő Győri, Cristina Maestre Martín De Almagro, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Manuela Ripa, Witold Jan Waszczykowski
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Andrea Bocskor, Paola Ghidoni, Ivo Hristov, Virginie Joron, Ska Keller, Dace Melbārde, Wolfram Pirchner, Aušra Seibutytė

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

29	+
ECR	Geert Bourgeois, Dominik Tarczyński, Witold Jan Waszczykowski, Jan Zahradil
ID	Paola Ghidoni, Danilo Oscar Lancini
NI	Andrea Bocskor, Enikő Győri
PPE	José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Danuta Maria Hübner, Dace Melbārde, Wolfram Pirchner, Aušra Seibutytė, Jörgen Warborn
Renew	Barry Andrews, Jordi Cañas, Karin Karlsbro, Samira Rafaela, Catharina Rinzema, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Marek Belka, Ivo Hristov, Bernd Lange, Cristina Maestre Martín De Almagro, Margarida Marques, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Kathleen Van Brempt
The Left	Helmut Scholz

2	-
ID	Thierry Mariani
The Left	Emmanuel Maurel

5	0
ID	Virginie Joron
Vers/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Anna Cavazzini, Ska Keller, Manuela Ripa

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention