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Reply
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The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the EU agreed to extend the application of the Cotonou agreement until 30 June 2023, until the entry into force of the new agreement, or until the provisional application of the new agreement between the EU and the ACP States, whichever comes first. This was necessary to avoid any application gap between the existing and future agreements.

Work on the new agreement is well advanced within the Council. The Council is committed to concluding the remaining steps so that the agreement can be signed soon, and its provisional application can start at the earliest opportunity.

The modernised parliamentary dimension is an important element of this new institutional framework, which has been strengthened considerably in the new agreement, with the establishment of regional assemblies.

In the new institutional framework, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly will continue to fully play its overarching role in discussing all issues of mutual interest and to enhance the mutual understanding between the EU, the OACPS and its regions' representatives and citizens.