

**Priority question for written answer P-000675/2023  
to the Council**

Rule 138

**Younous Omarjee** (The Left)

Subject: Post-Cotonou Agreement between the ACP and the European Union and its Member States

Negotiations for a new agreement between the EU and the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) to replace the current Cotonou Agreement began in 2018. On 21 April 2021, after more than two years of intense and difficult negotiations, both parties initialled a post-Cotonou partnership agreement.

The Cotonou Agreement was due to expire in February 2020, but has been extended four times. The most recent extension will expire in June 2023.

If the new agreement, which was initialled in April 2021, is not ratified and provisionally implemented, there will be a legal vacuum. From July 2023, there will no longer be an agreement between the EU and the ACP countries and, more specifically, the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly will no longer be able to convene.

The ratification of the agreement is currently blocked in the Council, having been vetoed by a single Member State. This situation reflects extremely poorly on the EU and its commitments towards the ACP countries.

1. What action is the Council taking to speed up the ratification of the new agreement and break this deadlock?
2. In the event that the post-Cotonou agreement is not ratified after June 2023, will the Council provide an alternative? In particular, what would happen to the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly in that case?

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