



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

22nd SESSION

21-23 November 2011

LOMÈ
(Togo)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

TO THE COUNCIL

Nos. 1-4 to the ACP Council
Nos. 5-15 to the EU Council

QUESTIONS TO THE ACP COUNCIL

QUESTION 1

by Norbert Neuser

Subject: Universal energy access

The UN agreed on the target of universal energy access by 2030.

How do you plan to shape and prioritise your policy on universal energy access in the future, as experience shows that the best solutions to reach all parts of developing countries' population - particularly the poor and rural population - are decentralised renewable small scale, off-grid and mini-grid solutions?

What roles do improved and more energy efficient cook stoves play in your energy policy?

QUESTION 2

by Olle Schmidt

Subject: Dawit Isaak, ten years imprisoned

The journalist, playwright and author Mr Dawit Isaak has together with several other journalists and democracy proponents now spent more than ten years, without trial, in Eritrean prison.

The ACP and EU share the values of democracy and human rights. Freedom of speech and rule of law belong to the core of those values. Our shared understanding on this binds our regions together.

How does the ACP Council in this case intend to enforce its Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance, in which the principles of rule of law, freedom of expression and freedom of the press are central components?

QUESTION 3

by Michael Cashman

Subject: The ratification of the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement

The Council signed the revised Cotonou Agreement on 23 June 2010, despite concerns raised by the European Parliament regarding article 8 (4) which fails to refer specifically to sexual orientation as a ground of non-discrimination. The revised agreement is applicable as of 1 November 2010 and is now before the European Parliament for its consent.

Can both Councils inform us how the ratification procedure in the EU and ACP Member States proceeded/is proceeding?

QUESTION 4

by Catherine Bearder

Subject: Unsustainable and Illegal Hunting of Wildlife

Unsustainable and illegal hunting of wildlife is driven by numerous factors - poverty, population increase, lack of food and income alternatives, and land-use change. Wildlife decline has negative impacts on local livelihoods and national economies. It threatens the role that wildlife plays in maintaining ecosystem resulting in further impoverishment of local communities. What mechanisms are in place in ACP countries to manage the unsustainable hunting and trade of wildlife? Following calls in the 2010 EU-ACP JPA food security resolution, what action has the ACP Council taken on this issue? How does it plan to support the protein and income needs of populations currently met by this illegal and unsustainable trade?

QUESTIONS TO THE EU COUNCIL

QUESTION 5

by Assarid Ag Imbarcaouane (Mali)

Subject: Future of the next EDF or the financial protocol

What does the European Council plan to do with respect to the next EDF or the next financial protocol between the ACP countries and the EU up to 2020?

Can you update us on the position of the negotiations before the end of 2011?

QUESTION 6

by Amadou Ciré Sall (Senegal)

Subject: WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011 and concrete results for the LDCs

The European Commission has restated many times its desire to help ensure that the WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011 delivers concrete results for the Least Developed Countries. Clearly cotton must be an integral part of the definition of a package for the LDCs.

What additional contribution (in addition to the 2004 reform of support for cotton) will the European Union make to achieving this objective while implementing the principles of policy coherence for development?

QUESTION 7

by Olle Schmidt

Subject: Human rights situation in Eritrea

The human rights situation in Eritrea is, since a long time, of deep concern. The Eritrean people are deprived of most of the basic human rights, not least the political and civil rights that comprise the corner stones of democracy.

Is the Council in contact with President Esaias Afewerki on this matter?

What measures does the Council take to influence the Eritrean regime to improve the present and deplorable human rights situation?

QUESTION 8

by Horst Schnellhardt

Subject: Politicization of humanitarian aid

NGOs active in the field of humanitarian aid frequently emphasize the need to maintain neutrality as the basic principle of humanitarian aid. In conflict regions, in which the deployment of military forces is necessary, the distinction between state-building and humanitarian aid has increasingly become blurred to the detriment of development aid workers' security and safety.

1. What measures does the Council foresee to avoid a politicization of humanitarian aid in future?
2. Which measures are taken by the Council to ensure good coordination between the different instruments of humanitarian aid and state-building?

QUESTION 9

by Michael Cashman

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Can both Councils inform us how the ratification procedure in the EU and ACP Member States proceeded/is proceeding?

QUESTION 10

by Gabriele Zimmer

Subject: Land acquisition and lease in developing countries

During the last decade foreign investments in land in developing countries have highly increased. Many Non Governmental Organisations point out that the quantity of land sold or leased in developing countries strongly exceeds previous estimations. Local smallholders and communities are often expelled from their land and lose their livelihoods.

Which concrete measures does the Council propose in order to protect local smallholders and their land use rights in developing countries?

Does the Council support the adoption of strong, international standards on land tenure?

How will the Council address the problem of agrofuel production to the detriment of food security?

QUESTION 11

by Licia Ronzulli

Subject: Urban development and sustainable growth

More than a billion people now live in overcrowded suburbs, and this figure is set to double in the next 15 years, which will make living in cities unsustainable.

Forecasts show that 95% of this growth will affect urban areas in developing countries.

In Africa, more than five million people seek accommodation on the outskirts of cities each year.

The lack of projects in rural areas is causing an exodus from villages, producing urban growth that gives rise to slums – areas of self-built dwellings on public land.

What concrete action does the Council plan to take to encourage urban development that better meets the needs of local populations?

QUESTION 12

by Catherine Bearder

Subject: Illegal Toxic Waste Shipments from the EU to ACP Countries

Despite the Waste Shipments Regulation (WSR, (EC) No 1013/2006), illegal shipments of millions of tonnes of hazardous waste from EU ports to developing countries continue. Much of this waste lands in ACP countries, where local people live among the dangerous waste of their EU neighbours. Since inspections and controls vary greatly between MS, waste is smuggled through EU ports with the weakest controls. This issue was highlighted in the Parliament in May 2011. Since then what action have the Council and MS taken to improve the reporting on incidents of illegal waste shipments? What has been done to improve the inconsistent and insufficient checks carried out on shipments leaving EU ports?

QUESTION 13

by Filip Kaczmarek

Subject: The Universal Energy Access

Given that the Commission aims to put energy access firmly on the EU agenda ahead of Rio + 20, how will the Council ensure that there are tangible outcomes from Rio + 20 in terms of enhanced political will and financial commitment to the proposed UN Goal of Universal Energy Access by 2030?

QUESTION 14

by Fiona Hall

Subject: COP17 in Durban

The UN Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing's report concluded that it will be "challenging but feasible" to meet the goal made by developed countries in Cancun to mobilise jointly USD 100 billion per year to address the needs of developing countries, assuming that the EU's share could be about one third of this amount.

Given the imminent COP17 negotiations, and in particular the need to guarantee there is no financing gap post-2012, could the Council confirm what progress has been made in committing to a goal of mobilising this money to address the needs of developing countries?

QUESTION 15

by Jo Leinen

Subject: Climate negotiations in Durban

On the Climate Conference in Durban/South Africa in December 2011, the Members of UNFCCC need to commit themselves on targets to reduce climate gases. How do the EU and the ACP states intend to cooperate in order to achieve the 2°C goal that was agreed in Cancun?