

ACP-EU JOINT INSTITUTIONS

ACP-EU Council of Ministers

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers is composed of a representative from every ACP and EU country and a representative from the European Commission, who meet once per year. Its mission is to:

- engage in political discussions ;
- adopt policy directives ;
- take decisions regarding the implementation of Agreements on cooperation between the ACP and EU.

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was created out of a common desire to bring together the elected representatives of the European Community - the Members of the European Parliament - and the elected representatives of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states ("ACP countries") that have signed the Cotonou Agreement.

It is the only international assembly in which the representatives of various countries sit together regularly with the aim of promoting the interdependence of North and South. Since the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union and EU enlargement it has acquired a more prominent role. A substantial part of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly is directed towards promoting human rights and democracy and the common values of humanity, and this has produced joint commitments undertaken within the framework of the UN conferences.

Composition and working methods

The representatives of the 78 ACP states, who, under the Cotonou Agreement, must be members of Parliament, meet their 78 European Parliament counterparts in plenary session for one week twice a year. The Joint Parliamentary Assembly meets alternately in an ACP country and an EU country. The institution is governed by common, democratic rules.

Two co-presidents who are elected by the Assembly direct its work. Twenty-four vice-presidents (12 European and 12 ACP) who are also elected by the Assembly constitute the Bureau of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, together with the two co-presidents. The Bureau meets several times a year in order to ensure the continuity of the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and to prepare new initiatives aimed notably at reinforcing and improving cooperation. It also considers topical political questions and adopts positions on all human rights cases.

See also: <http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/acp/default.htm>

ACP-EU COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS

The Committee is composed of representatives from all EU Member-States, Heads of Mission from every ACP Embassy to the EU, and a member of the European Union.

It meets once per month to:

- monitor the implementation of cooperation agreements

- participate in meetings of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers.

CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTERPRISE (CDE)

www.cde.int

The mission assigned to the CDE under the Cotonou Agreement is to contribute to poverty reduction by fostering wealth creation by lending support to the various types of operator that make up the private sector in the ACP countries; in this role it draws extensively on the capabilities of enterprises in EU countries.

It lends support, in a variety of forms, to: the creation and development of ACP enterprises intermediary institutions such as trade and/or sector organizations, combining its operations with those of PRO€INVEST and other EU and bilateral programmes firms of consultants. It grants SMEs subsidies to meet part of the costs of support and advisory services (diagnostic analyses of businesses, feasibility studies etc.) before, during and after an investment. It does not finance the investment itself but may help enterprises to find suitable sources of funding and set up financial engineering.

Pro€Invest is a EU-ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) States partnership programme developed and undertaken by the European Commission on behalf of the ACP countries. Its implementation has been entrusted to a Management Unit within the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) which manage the programme. Pro€Invest, which has a budget of 110 million EURO, is financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) and will end on 31 December 2008 (www.proinvest-eu.org).

TECHNICAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COOPERATION (CTA)

www.cta.int

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilizes information in this area. CTA's programmes are designed to: provide a wide range of information products and services and enhance awareness of relevant information sources; promote the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensify contacts and information exchange (particularly intra-ACP); and develop ACP capacity to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate ICM strategies, including those relevant to science and technology. CTA's work incorporates new developments in methodologies and cross-cutting issues such as gender and social capital.