

Information Guide



EU-ACP Relations

A guide to the European Union's relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, with hyperlinks to sources of information within European Sources Online and on external websites

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Introduction

We should see our reflections on the future of ACP-EU relations as a unique opportunity for us to establish a relevant, modern relationship that builds on the best of our existing cooperation and puts us in an even better position to join forces to beat poverty and take up the other global challenges we face.

If our partnership has taught us anything, it is that we are stronger when we take on challenges together. What we need to do now is take an honest look at the strengths and weaknesses of our partnership. In doing this we will be giving ourselves every chance of getting the full potential out of our relationship and setting it on an altogether more solid footing. The last, and perhaps most basic, question we must ask ourselves, therefore is: are we all ready to see our relationship flourish after 2020, serving as a basis for ambitious joint political cooperation and action on the world stage? All these are questions we can only answer together. The EU looks forward to seeking the right answers with you.

From: Challenges and opportunities ahead for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, [SPEECH/12/957](#), 13 December 2012.

Background and legal basis

The European Union's relations with the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries known as the ACP States comprise a significant element of the EU's development policy. Until the advent of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, development cooperation was covered by Articles 177-181 of the [Treaty Establishing the European Community](#), with Article 177 stating:

1. Community policy in the sphere of development cooperation, which shall be complementary to the policies pursued by the Member States, shall foster:
 - the sustainable economic and social development of the developing countries, and more particularly the most disadvantaged among them,
 - the smooth and gradual integration of the developing countries into the world economy,
 - the campaign against poverty in the developing countries.

Article 179(3) specifically mentioned cooperation in the framework of the ACP-EC Convention.

A special issue of The Courier magazine '50 years of ACP-EU Cooperation' (no longer available online) highlighted the role of France in proposing that the Treaty of Rome should include an 'Association Agreement' with Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).

The 1964 [Yaoundé Convention](#) (text courtesy Archive of European Integration) was an agreement to provide development assistance to 17 African countries and Madagascar – all former colonies of the six EC Member States. In 1975 the Yaoundé Convention was incorporated into the first [Lomé Convention](#) – a framework agreement which extended co-operation to the 46 members of the recently-formed ACP Group.

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009, Article 21.2 of the [Treaty on European Union](#) (TEU) states that the EU will define and pursue common policies and actions in order to achieve a number of objectives, including:

(d) foster the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty.

In the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (TFEU), Development Cooperation is addressed in Articles 208-211, with Article 208 reading:

1. Union policy in the field of development cooperation shall be conducted within the framework of the principles and objectives of the Union's external action. The Union's development cooperation policy and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other.

Union development cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries.

2. The Union and the Member States shall comply with the commitments and take account of the objectives they have approved in the context of the United Nations and other competent international organisations.

The Treaty of Lisbon also led to the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS), established under Article 27(3) of the [Treaty on European Union](#) (TEU). Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said (see Press Release [IP/10/1769](#)) that the EEAS:

will mark a new beginning for European foreign and security policy as we bring together and streamline all of the Union's existing resources, staff and instruments.

The impact of the EEAS on development issues is as yet unclear (see also [ESO Information Guide on the EEAS](#)).

The ACP Group of States

The ACP was established in 1975 by the [Georgetown Agreement](#). Its structure includes the following:

- [Secretariat](#)
- [Council of Ministers](#) (the main decision-making body)
- [Committee of Ambassadors](#) (a secondary decision-making body, acting on behalf of the Council of Ministers between ministerial sessions)
- [ACP Consultative Assembly](#) (established in 2005; also called the Parliamentary Assembly)
- [Centre for the Development of Enterprise](#) (CDE, which encourages and supports the creation, expansion and restructuring of industrial companies in the ACP countries)
- [Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation](#) (CTA, which helps improve access to, and use of, information for agricultural and rural development).

There are also a number of joint bodies, bringing together representatives of the ACP countries with those of the European Union:

- the ACP-EU Council of Ministers conducts the political dialogue, adopt guidelines and measures to implement the Agreement
- the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors assists the ACP-EU Council of Ministers
- the [Joint Parliamentary Assembly](#) is a consultative body which establishes contacts with economic and social actors and civil society.

There are currently 79 [ACP States](#) with a combined population of over 740 million people: 48 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific. Apart from Cuba (which joined in December 2000) all are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement.

Between 1975 and 2000 four Lomé Conventions were signed, setting out the principles and objectives of co-operation between the ACP States and the European Union (previously the European Community):

- Lomé I 1975-1980 ([text](#))
- Lomé II 1980-1985 ([text](#))
- Lomé III 1985-1990 ([text](#))
- Lomé IV 1990-2000 ([text](#))

Although Lomé I and Lomé II were primarily geared to promoting industrial development, Lomé III focused more on establishing self-sufficiency and food security. Lomé IV emphasised human rights, democracy and good governance, the position of women, environmental protection, decentralised co-operation, economic diversification and the private sector.

Lomé IV expired on 29 February 2000. In the context of international developments, including socio-economic and political changes in ACP countries, environmental concerns and increasing levels of poverty, its expiry was seen as an opportunity to review the future of EU-ACP relations and to address some of the less successful aspects of the Lomé agreements. In the 1999 [Santo Domingo Declaration](#), the ACP Heads of State and Government said that 'the implementation of ... co-operation has not always been as effective as we would have hoped.' Problems identified included:

- a fall in aid, from 0.33% of donors' GNP to 0.23%
- a reduction in ACP countries' share of EU markets, from 6.7% to 3%, between 1976 and 1998
- EU funding reportedly taking insufficient account of national institutions and policies
- the poorest people being excluded from the benefits of globalisation and technological change.

In November 1996 the European Commission initiated public discussions on a successor to Lomé IV when it published a Green Paper 'on relations between the European Union and the ACP countries on the eve of the 21st century – challenges and options for a new partnership' ([COM\(96\)570](#), courtesy Archive of European Integration). A year later, on the basis of the Green Paper and the associated debate, the Commission issued 'Guidelines for the negotiation of new co-operation agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries' ([COM\(97\)537](#), Archive of European Integration).

The full text of Treaties and Conventions between the EU and the ACP States, together with other materials, can be found via the Archive of European Integration section [African, Caribbean, and Pacific \(ACP\) & earlier](#).

The Cotonou Agreement

Formal negotiations on a successor agreement started in September 1998 and were concluded on 3 February 2000. The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement was signed in Cotonou, Benin, on 23 June 2000. Known as the [Cotonou Agreement](#), it was based on Article 310 EC-T (conclusion of association agreements). It will last 20 years and is broader than its predecessors, covering politics, trade and development. It is based on five interdependent pillars:

- a comprehensive political dimension
- the promotion of participatory approaches
- a strengthened focus on the objective of poverty reduction
- the setting up of a new framework for economic and trade co-operation
- a reform of financial co-operation.

The new agreement was intended to:

- refocus development policies on poverty reduction strategies
- base the allocation of future EU development aid not only on an assessment of each country's needs but also on its policy performance
- promote participatory approaches to development and ensure the consultation of civil society on the reforms and policies to be supported by EU
- improve the policy framework for trade and investment development and enhance co-operation in all areas important to trade, including issues such as labour standards and environmental concerns
- help decentralise decision-making on aid and rationalise the relevant legal instruments with a view to making co-operation more effective.

The ACP General Secretariat, in a press release (no longer available), considered the new Cotonou Partnership Agreement to be neither as generous nor 'radically different in substance' from the Lomé Conventions.

In July 2002 ACP Heads of State and Government, meeting for their Third Summit in Nadi, Fiji, signed the [Nadi Declaration: ACP Solidarity in a Globalised World](#). They expressed concern that most of their countries had not benefited from globalisation, and Fiji's Prime Minister, Laisenia Qarase, said that as far as trade liberalisation was concerned there was 'no level playing field for the ACP'. Despite such sentiments, Mr Qarase described EU-ACP relations as 'one of the most effective international aid and trade groupings ever established.' Although acknowledging the importance of trade for economic development, the Nadi Declaration called for 'policy flexibility' to help developing countries 'achieve their development objectives and to safeguard their economic interests'.

Additional information on the Cotonou Agreement can be found in: European Commission: European Commission: DG EuropeAid: [The Cotonou Agreement; Summaries of EU legislation](#).

May 2006 saw the European Commission adopt Communications on EU relations with both the Caribbean and the Pacific states. In 'An EU-Caribbean partnership for growth, stability and development' ([COM\(2006\)86](#)), the Commission said it wished 'to shape a political partnership based on shared values to take advantage of the Caribbean region's economic and environmental opportunities and promote social cohesion' (see also Press Release [IP/06/258](#), [Summaries of legislation](#), [PreLex dossier](#)).

The Communication 'Joint EU-Caribbean Partnership Strategy' of 26 June 2012 ([JOIN\(2012\)18](#)) proposed a new dimension to the EU-Caribbean relationship:

allowing the EU and the Caribbean nations to deepen dialogue and structure their cooperation in order to address together the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Based around five core areas for closer cooperation identified at the May 2010 EU-Cariforum Summit in Madrid (regional integration, reconstruction of Haiti, climate change and natural disasters, crime and security, and joint action in multilateral fora) the

proposed Strategy was endorsed at the Foreign Affairs Council of 19 November 2012 (see Press Release [16062/12](#)).

'EU relations with the Pacific Islands – A strategy for a strengthened partnership' ([COM\(2006\)248](#); see also Press Release [IP/06/688](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#), [PreLex dossier](#)) was described as 'the first formal strategy in 30 years of EU-Pacific relations' and set out proposals to:

strengthen political dialogue, provide greater focus to development cooperation and improve the effectiveness of aid delivery.

Background to the EU's relations with the Pacific Islands was also given in Press Release [MEMO/10/360](#) of 3 August 2010, ahead of the 41st meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

Building on the Cotonou Agreement and on experience gained in implementing the EU Strategy for the Pacific, the 21 March 2012 Joint Communication 'Towards a renewed EU-Pacific development partnership' ([JOIN\(2012\)6](#)) set out 11 recommendations for action intended to promote more effective EU-Pacific cooperation (see also Press Release [IP/12/364](#)).

Economic and trade co-operation

One of the five pillars of the Cotonou Agreement covers the economic and trade co-operation between the EU and the ACP states. This co-operation shall 'aim at fostering the smooth and gradual integration of the ACP States into the world economy' with the ultimate objective to 'enable the ACP States to play a full part in international trade'.

The trade system presently applied continues the preferential tariff treatment for products originating in ACP States agreed under Lomé IV. Since these provisions do not conform with the [most-favoured nation principle](#), which says that any preferential treatment must be granted to all WTO Members, the WTO has to authorise a waiver from its basic rules (Article IX-3 of the [WTO Agreement](#)). At its 2001 Ministerial in Doha (which included the [Doha Development Agenda](#), DDA), the WTO decided to accept a [waiver for the EU-ACP Partnership Agreement](#) until 2007, because of changes proposed by the EU.

In this spirit, the Cotonou Agreement stresses that EU-ACP economic and trade co-operation eventually has to conform with the provisions of the WTO, meaning that in the long run the present, non-reciprocal system, which gives favourable conditions to the developing country only, has to be replaced by an arrangement of mutually liberalised trade. According to this plan the ACP States will have to open their markets to the EU Member States and grant them the same preferential treatment they enjoy themselves. To this end, the EU opened negotiations on [Economic Partnership Agreements](#) (EPAs) with regional groupings of ACP States. Negotiations were officially launched in September 2002 after ACP Heads of State and Government had given their consent at their Third Summit in Nadi (Fiji). After initial discussions involving all ACP States (see [Joint Report](#), October 2003) negotiations were initiated with the following groupings during 2003 and 2004:

- Central African region, including the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale – [CEMAC](#)) and São Tomé and Príncipe
- West African region, including the Economic Community of West African States ([Ecowas](#)) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union ([UEMOA](#)) as well as Mauritania
- 16 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)

- The Caribbean
- Seven members of the Southern African Development Community ([SADC](#))
- The Pacific.

According to former Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, now Director-General of the WTO, the EPAs are:

intended to create a framework to meet several interlinked needs and requirements: providing a catalyst for ACP trade and development; helping these countries to foster regional integration and meet the challenges of globalisation; and putting ACP-EU trade relations on a long-term, stable basis compatible with the WTO.

There are worries in the affected countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific that symmetrical arrangements will put them in a far worse position compared to the asymmetrical treatment previously enjoyed. The EU has promised that:

the timetable for tariff dismantling and the final product coverage of trade liberalisation by the ACP countries will reflect the economic, social and environmental constraints they are facing as well as their capacity to adapt their economies to the liberalisation process. Therefore, a transitional period, compatible with the objectives of the Cotonou Agreement and WTO rules, will be applied in a flexible way, to take into account specific constraints of the ACP countries concerned.

In the case of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) the EPA initiative is not intended to result in the complete mutual dismantling of tariffs, but to allow room for more flexibility and asymmetry.

The Cotonou Agreement stipulates in Article 37(1) that the new ACP-EU trading arrangements set out in EPAs should enter into force by 1 January 2008. After that date, Cotonou Agreement trade preferences and the 2001 WTO waiver would no longer be in force. However, although it was intended to finalise the EPAs by 2008, negotiations with the different regions are proceeding at different speeds, with, for example, the first full regional EPA being signed with Cariforum at the end of 2007, but an agreement with West Africa not expected until possibly mid-2009. The reality of progress was reflected by the Commission in its 19 October 2007 Communication 'Economic Partnership Agreements' ([COM\(2007\)635](#)), which recognised that the end of 2007 deadline would not be achievable in all cases, and set out an approach for 'ensuring progress to full regional EPAs is maintained while avoiding, in so far as possible, any interruption to the trade regime for goods originating in the ACP countries.'

A 2007 report by Price Waterhouse Coopers, 'Sustainability impact assessment of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements' (see [Key findings](#) and [background](#)), included a number of recommendations to help ACP countries 'improve their competitiveness, encourage economic growth, add value to their exports, diversify their production and create employment.'

Provisions for applying the trade arrangements agreed under EPAs were set out in [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1528/2007](#) of 20 December 2007.

Further information on the state of negotiations can be found on the DG Trade page [Bilateral relations: African, Caribbean, Pacific](#).

EPAs are not seen by all parties as a good thing. Many stakeholders are critical of the EU's initiative, including Traidcraft, which has published a number of critical [Trade policy reports](#).

On 5 February 2009, the European Parliament adopted the Resolution 'Development impact of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)' (published as [2010/C 67 E/14](#)), in which it urged

the Council, the Commission and the governments of the EU Member States and ACP countries to do their utmost to re-establish an atmosphere of confidence and constructive dialogue in so far as it has been damaged in the course of negotiations and to recognise the ACP states as equal partners in the negotiation and implementation process.

Parliament also called on the Member States to:

respect their commitments to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA), even in this time of global financial crisis, which will enable an increase in Aid for Trade, and to establish accompanying measures in the form of regional Aid for Trade packages for the implementation of the EPAs contributing to the positive impact of the EPAs on development; stresses the fact that signing an EPA is not imposed as a precondition to receive Aid for Trade Funds.

During the process of signing and ratifying interim EPAs and of completing negotiations on full EPAs, the European Commission published, on 10 March 2010, a 'European Union market access offer to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States under Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)' ([2010/C 59/01](#)). In order to be WTO compatible, EPA market access arrangements must comply with Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Commission's market access offer therefore provides for duty free and quota free access for all products other than arms and ammunition.

A number of countries have neither taken the necessary steps towards ratifying an EPA nor concluded comprehensive regional negotiations. The Commission considers that those countries no longer meet the conditions of the Market Access Regulation. On 30 September 2011, the Commission therefore adopted a Proposal for a Regulation 'amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 as regards the exclusion of a number of countries from the list of regions or states which have concluded negotiations' ([COM\(2011\)598](#); check progress via the [PreLex Dossier](#)). If approved, the Regulation would apply from 1 January 2014.

Concern about the move to withdraw 18 ACP countries from the list of beneficiaries of preferences under Regulation 1528/2007 was expressed by the President-in-Office of the ACP Council of Ministers, Oryem Henry Okello, in a [speech](#) to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 23 November 2011.

An interim EPA concluded by the EU and Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe entered into effect on 14 May 2012, providing the four countries with duty- and quota-free access to the EU market. Their domestic markets will in turn be opened to EU exports over the next 15 years (see Press Release [IP/12/475](#)).

An official EU perspective on EPAs can be found via the [speeches](#) and [articles](#) by the Trade Commissioner. For additional information on EPAs see also European Commission: DG Trade: [EPAs: Means and objectives](#) (2003 brochure) and European Parliament: [Economic Partnership Agreements EU-ACP: Facts and key issues](#).

Financing under the Cotonou Agreement

EU assistance to ACP States under the Lomé Conventions was financed from the European Development Fund (EDF; see [Summaries of EU legislation](#) [archived]), established in 1957. For each new Convention a new fund was set up. The 9th EDF,

spanning 2000-2007, was associated with the Cotonou Agreement, and based on four five-year funding periods. The 10th EDF covers 2008-2013, with an overall budget of €22.6 billion, of which €21.9 billion is allocated to ACP countries (see [EuropeAid EDF page](#)).

Under the Lomé Conventions each EDF lasted, in principle, for five years, although appropriations did not have to be used within a specified period, so a number of Funds could be operating simultaneously. The EU's initial financial contribution under the Cotonou Agreement included some €9.9 billion from the EDF, which was not committed under Lomé IV.

About 80% of aid under the EDF is given as grants (subsidies or non-reimbursable aid), most of which takes the form of long-term development aid (supporting macro-economic reforms as well as sectoral programmes in ACP countries). An additional share is available for regional development aid, supporting regional economic integration among ACP countries.

In addition, the European Investment Bank (EIB) plays a double role under the EDF. Firstly, the Bank manages parts of the funds – mainly as medium and long-term loans to the private sector – providing risk capital under the so called Investment Facility. Secondly, the EIB uses its own resources to finance larger, mostly public projects in ACP countries.

Criticism of the European Commission's management of external assistance – much of it voiced in the wake of the Santer Commission's resignation – resulted in a re-structuring of the services concerned. The Common Service for External Relations (SCR) was replaced on 1 January 2001 by the EuropeAid Co-operation Office (which has since become [DG EuropeAid](#)), with a mission to 'implement the external aid instruments of the European Commission which are funded by the European Community budget and the European Development Fund' (see details of [projects involving ACP countries](#)).

The effectiveness of aid provided to the ACP is evaluated by the European Commission's [Evaluation Unit](#), located within the EuropeAid Co-operation Office. The Unit issues [evaluation reports](#).

Unlike other funding instruments the European Development Fund is not part of the European Union's budget. It is derived from five-yearly 'ad hoc' contributions from the Member States. In its October 2003 Communication 'Towards the full integration of co-operation with ACP countries in the EU budget' ([COM\(2003\)590](#)) the European Commission called for the full integration of the EDF into the EU budget – a call it had also made in 1973 and 1979, and which it renewed in 2004, during discussions on the financial framework for 2007-2013, but the December 2005 European Council did not approve the proposal (see [COM\(2004\)838](#), which includes a Communication 'on a multiannual financial framework for development finance cooperation under the ACP-EU Partnership agreement', [Summaries of EU legislation](#) [archived] and pages 26-27 of [Council document 15915/05](#)).

In September 2004, the European Commission published proposals for reforming external assistance instruments as of 2007. The proposals aimed to create four new instruments which, together with two existing ones, would replace the plethora of existing funds and budget lines. Details of the four new instruments were set out in [COM\(2004\)626](#) 'On the Instruments for External Assistance under the Future Financial Perspective 2007-2013' (see also Press Release [IP/04/1151](#)). The four were:

- an instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
- a European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument
- a Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation instrument

- an instrument for stability.

The proposed Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation instrument was adopted at the end of 2006 as [Regulation 1905/2006](#) 'establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation' (the Instrument for Development Co-operation (DCI) Regulation; see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#) [archived]). The DCI comprises three main elements, including support for 18 ACP countries affected by sugar production restructuring (covered in Article 17 on the ACP Sugar Protocol).

The other proposed instruments were also adopted at the end of 2006, including [Regulation 1717/2006](#) 'establishing an Instrument for Stability' (see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#) [archived]). Earlier in 2006, the Commission had approved seven new thematic External Cooperation Programmes to complement the Union's country and regional programmes for 2007-2013 (see Press Release [IP/06/82](#)).

The May 2007 External Relations Council adopted conclusions on a voluntary code of conduct, 'to be applied immediately and progressively' by EU Member States and the Commission, aimed at avoiding some countries being neglected while others are treated as 'aid favourites' (see Council Press Release [9471/1/07](#)).

In February 2011, the European Court of Auditors published a report on 'The Commission's management of General Budget Support in ACP, Latin American and Asian Countries' ([Special Report 11/2010](#)). It concluded, amongst other things, that:

whilst the Commission has made considerable efforts over the last decade to develop its approach to providing aid through [General Budget Support], there are still weaknesses in the methodology and the management of GBS programmes in ACP, Latin American and Asian countries, which are thus less likely to reach their full potential effectiveness.

Compensation of export earnings losses

Under the Cotonou Agreement, the STABEX and SYSMIN initiatives, which were intended to help compensate for fluctuations in commodity prices, were dropped. The European Commission's Evaluation Unit had found that STABEX had 'not been able, even with large amounts of funds, to influence significantly, or compensate for, the overall worldwide drop in producers' earnings' (see 'Global evaluation of STABEX' [summary](#)).

Annex II of the Cotonou Agreement included provisions on a new instrument: Fluctuations in Export Earnings (FLEX). Intended to 'safeguard socio-economic reforms and policies that could be affected negatively as a result of a drop in [export] revenue and to remedy the adverse effects of instability of export earnings, in particular from agricultural and mining products ...' FLEX provided additional budgetary support to ACP countries with a 10% loss in exports earnings (2% for LDCs), and a 10% worsening of the programmed public deficit. However, these eligibility criteria were found to be too stringent, and in 2004 the Commission proposed amending FLEX (see Press Release [IP/04/167](#)). The amendments were adopted by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 21 June 2004 and [Decision 2/2004](#) (2004/647/EC) was adopted by the ACP-EC Council of Ministers on 30 June 2004.

A Commission proposal concerning reassigning part of the reserve of the 9th EDF for long-term development, published in April 2006 as [COM\(2006\)185](#), was adopted by the 29-30 May Competitiveness Council (see Council Press Release [9334/06](#)) with [Decision 2/2006](#) of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers being subsequently adopted on 2 June 2006.

[Decision 1/2007](#) of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers (2007/460/EC) of May 2007 allowed additional funds to be allocated to set up an intra-ACP funding mechanism for FLEX for

2006 [sic] and 2007. Its provisions included promoting the integration of ACP countries in world trade and financing a sugar research project in the context of the Sugar Protocol reforms.

In June 2007 the Commission proposed further changes to FLEX in [COM\(2007\)337](#). A draft Decision was approved on 14 May 2008 by the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (see Press Release [8850/08](#)) and was followed in June by [Decision 1/2008](#) of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers (2008/494/EC), with revisions made to the eligibility criteria, the method of calculating and mobilising FLEX funds and the source of financing.

On 2 September 2010, the Commission announced it had approved €264 million under the Vulnerability FLEX mechanism to help 19 ACP States deal with the global economic crisis (see Press Release [IP/10/1091](#)).

Infringements to the Cotonou Agreement

Article 8 of the EU-ACP Partnership Agreement ('Political dialogue') and Article 96 ('Essential elements: consultation procedure and appropriate measures as regards human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law') seek to ensure that the parties comply with the Agreement. Article 96 provides in Section 2(a) for 'appropriate measures' to be taken if political dialogue and formal consultation procedures fail to gain compliance. It has been invoked in a number of cases, including the suspension of development assistance to Zimbabwe in 2002 (except for programmes and projects in direct support of the population, including health and education).

In February 2011, the EU concluded that Zimbabwe had made 'significant progress' in addressing some issues, and decided to lift a number of restrictive measures and to renew others for a further year. On 17 February 2012, the EU announced a further easing of restrictive measures (see Press Releases [6567/11](#) and [6458/12](#); see also [EU Relations with Zimbabwe](#) and Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, November 2006, [Zimbabwe's failure to meet the benchmarks in the Cotonou Agreement](#)).

Revisions to the Cotonou Agreement

Although the Cotonou Agreement will last for 20 years – until February 2020 – it can be revised every five years, with specific elements being reviewed annually. Negotiations for the first revision under Article 95 of the Agreement started in Gaborone (Botswana) in May 2004 and were concluded on 23 February 2005. The objective was:

not to call into question the fundamental *acquis* of the Cotonou Agreement, but rather to enhance the effectiveness and quality of the EU-ACP partnership.

The [revised agreement](#) was signed in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (see Press Release [IP/05/789](#)).

With some exceptions, the new Agreement entered into force on 1 July 2008. Its provisions can be broadly divided into:

- Political dimension
- Development strategies
- Investment facility
- Implementation and management procedures.

South Africa did not ratify the revised Agreement by the deadline of 30 June 2009; its November 2009 request to accede was formally approved by ACP-EU Council of Ministers [Decision 1/2010](#) of 21 June 2010.

On 23 February 2009, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the ACP countries on further amendments to the Cotonou Agreement. In Resolution [2010/C 305 E/01](#) of 20 January 2010, the European Parliament had stated that the second review should adjust the Agreement in the light of recent and current crises including climate change, soaring food and oil prices, financial crisis and abject poverty in Africa.

Negotiations were concluded on 19 March 2010 and resulted in [Council Decision 2010/648/EU](#) of 14 May 2010 (see also Press Releases [IP/10/327](#), [MEMO/10/89](#)). Announcing the revision, the Council said in Press Release [11329/10](#):

The second revision streamlines the text, adapting it to changes in trade and aid policies that occurred in the last five years. As part of the review, provisions against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons were strengthened as were those against new security threats, such as organised crime and trafficking of human beings, drugs and weapons.

In addition, the review facilitates assistance to ACP states for adapting to global warming and for integrating climate change into their development strategies. It also improves support to the aquaculture and fisheries sectors in ACP states and to the fight against HIV/AIDS. In addition, it will accelerate work towards mutual recognition of higher education qualifications and reinforce regional cooperation within the ACP group of states.

The Amending Agreement was signed on 22 June 2010 at the ACP-EU Council of Ministers held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, subject to its conclusion at a later date. On 26 July 2011, a proposal was made for a Council Decision to approve its conclusion on the part of the EU ([COM\(2011\)469](#); check progress via the [PreLex Dossier](#)).

The deadline for ratifying the revised Agreement is 30 October 2012. In accordance with Article 95(3) of the Cotonou Agreement on transitional measures, the revised Agreement was provisionally applied from 22 June 2010 under Decision No 2/2010 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (published in the Official Journal as [2010/650/EU](#)).

On 23 November 2011, the President-in-Office of the ACP Council of Ministers, Oryem Henry Okello, said in a [speech](#) to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly:

It is a matter of utmost concern to the ACP Group that the ratification process of the Cotonou Agreement revised in June 2010 is proceeding at such a slow pace.

On 9 July 2011, South Sudan formally declared its independence from Sudan. On 20 March 2012, South Sudan formally requested accession to the Cotonou Agreement. A draft Council Decision approving the request was adopted on 14 May 2012 as [COM\(2012\) 213](#) with [Council Decision 2012/352/EU](#) of 7 June 2012 subsequently confirming South Sudan's accession to the Cotonou Agreement.

Find more information in the ESO database on the [Cotonou Agreement](#); see also EuropeAid [Cotonou Agreement](#) page.

Support for the Least Developed and Highly Indebted Poor Countries

39 of the ACP States are classified as [Least Developed Countries](#) (LDCs). In a separate move, the European Commission announced in February 2001 the adoption of the [Everything but Arms](#) (EbA) initiative, a liberalisation programme under which exporters from all 48 LDCs – including 10 other, mainly Asian, countries – should eventually gain free access to EU markets for most of their products.

'Everything but Arms' was a response to concerns raised at the [Third WTO Ministerial Conference](#), held in Seattle in December 1999. The talks were intended to set out the future direction of world trade policy, but participants failed to reach agreement. The then European Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy, stated that one reason for the failure was developing countries' belief that they were excluded from the benefits of liberalisation. 'Everything but Arms' seeks, according to Lamy, not only to redress the perceived imbalance, but also – as a unilateral initiative – to persuade other participants of the need to use trade as a way of helping the world's poorest countries.

The 'EbA Regulation' was adopted in February 2001 as [Council Regulation 416/2001](#), granting duty-free access to imports of all products from LDCs, except arms and ammunitions, without any quantitative restrictions (with the exception of bananas, sugar and rice for a limited period). An article on EbA in *The Courier* 186, May/June 2001 ('Everything But Arms: free access for imports from Least Developed Countries' - no longer available online), stated:

As far as the ACP States are concerned, the EbA initiative is an important part of implementing the Cotonou Agreement. In addition to the EU's commitment with regard to the LDCs, as laid down in the Agreement's trade provisions, the agreed principle of differentiating between developing countries in accordance with their levels of development has been put into practice in the field of trade. This is the first step towards new ACP-EU trading arrangements compatible with WTO rules.

The EbA Regulation was, however, incorporated into Council Regulation 2501/2001 'applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2004' (the 'GSP Regulation'; see [Summaries of EU legislation](#)). Regulation 2501/2001 has itself been superseded: the current GSP Regulation (980/2005) applied until 31 December 2008, when it in turn was replaced by [Council Regulation 732/2008](#) of 22 July 2008, 'applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011'. That was extended until 31 December 2013 by [Regulation \(EU\) 512/2011](#) (the 'GSP roll-over Regulation'; further details of the changes in GSP legislation can be found on the DG Trade page [Generalised System of Preferences](#) and in [Summaries of EU legislation](#) [archived]).

The EU is also involved in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which offers additional support to ACP States. A joint initiative of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the HIPC allows countries to have debts cancelled in return for meeting certain conditions (for further information see [Summaries of EU legislation](#), the UN Conference on Trade and Development's [The Least Developed Countries Report 2008: Growth, Poverty and the Terms of Development Partnership](#), the World Bank's [The Enhanced HIPC Initiative – Overview](#) and the IMF's [HIPC documents](#) page).

Cooperation with Africa

In 1997, South Africa became the 71st ACP country to join the Lomé Convention. It is also a signatory state to the Cotonou Agreement. However, under Protocol 3 of the Cotonou Agreement, it only has 'Qualified Status', with the provisions of the October 1999 bilateral Agreement on Trade, Development and Cooperation (TDCA) between the European Community, its Member States and South Africa, taking precedence over the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement. 'Qualified Status' means that South Africa does not enjoy access to the financial instruments and preferential trade regime available under Cotonou.

Between 1986 and 1994, the EU provided assistance to South Africa under the Special Programme for Assisting the Victims of Apartheid. That was replaced by the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD; see [Summaries of EU](#)

[legislation](#)), which was itself replaced by [Regulation 1905/2006](#) 'establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation' (the DCI Regulation).

In October 1999 South Africa signed a Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement with the EU, which was provisionally applied from January 2000. On 29 April 2004 the Council decided to conclude the agreement, and to facilitate its implementation [Regulation 1934/2004](#) was adopted in October 2004.

On 4 February 2008, the Commission published a proposal for a Council Decision 'on the signing of an Agreement ... amending the Agreement on Trade, Development and Cooperation' ([COM\(2008\)50](#)). The Agreement was signed on 11 September 2009, but has not yet entered into force (see Treaties Office [summary](#) page).

In June 2006, the Commission published the Communication 'Towards an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership' ([COM\(2006\)347](#)), intended to 'move political relations between the EU and South Africa from regular dialogue to intense strategic cooperation, as both share many objectives on regional, pan-African and international issues' (Press Release [IP/06/869](#)).

A [Joint Country Strategy Paper](#) (CSP) for development cooperation over the period 2007-2013 was adopted early in 2007, addressing political, economic and trade, and development objectives. The CSP set out overall direction and priorities for the Commission and Member States to develop into a joint [multi-annual indicative programme](#) (MIP).

On 14 May 2007 the Council adopted the South Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan and on 25 July 2008 the First EU-South Africa Summit was held (see Press Release [IP/08/1208](#)).

For further information, see also EEAS [South Africa](#) pages.

In October 2005 the EU adopted the Communication 'EU Strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa's development' ([COM\(2005\)489](#); see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#)), setting out 'a comprehensive, integrated and long-term framework' for the Union's relations with the African continent. According to Press Release [IP/05/1260](#):

The strategy follows the decisions by the European Council in June to provide more and better development aid, to increase the speed of implementation and to focus aid in particular on Africa. The strategy focuses on key requirements for sustainable development such as peace and security, good and effective governance, trade, interconnectivity, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. In addition, it reaffirms the commitment to increase EU aid to Africa and to improve aid effectiveness.

The EU Strategy for Africa outlines a framework of action for all EU Member States aimed at supporting Africa's efforts to achieve the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; see [Summaries of EU legislation \[archived\]](#)).

The Commission's Communication was discussed by the 21-22 November 2005 External Relations Council (see Council Press Release [14172/05](#)). The 52-point Council conclusions on the Strategy 'noted consensus' on the following issues:

- the need for increased support for peace and security, including through substantial and long-term replenishment of the EU's African peace facility
- the importance of good governance
- the importance of trade and regional integration for growth

- establishment of an EU-Africa infrastructure facility
- strengthened assistance in the fight against AIDS
- increased aid funding to health, services and education, including through the European Development Fund
- the importance of African ownership in the context of the strategy
- the importance of implementation and delivery and the need for continuing oversight by the European Council.

In its [Presidency Conclusions](#), the Brussels European Council of 15-16 December 2005 adopted the Strategy, stressing 'the importance of enhanced EU-Africa political dialogue, including holding a second EU/Africa Summit in Lisbon as soon as possible, and agree[ing] to review regularly, starting in 2006, progress on the implementation of the Strategy, taking into account the conclusions adopted by the Council on 21 November 2005.'

The [second EU-Africa Summit](#) was subsequently held in Lisbon on 8-9 December 2007. Its main results were a [Joint Africa-EU Strategy](#) (see also [MEMO/08/601](#)) and an [Action Plan \(2008-2010\)](#). The Joint EU-Africa Strategy 'provides a long-term vision for a strategic partnership between Africa and the EU for the benefit of the people of Africa and Europe', while the Action Plan 'sets out priorities that should be implemented in the next 3 years' and establishes eight partnerships:

- Peace and Security
- Democratic Governance and Human Rights
- Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure
- Millennium Development Goals
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Migration, Mobility and Employment
- Science, Information Society and Space.

The Communication 'One year after Lisbon: The Africa-EU partnership at work' ([COM\(2008\)617](#)) was adopted on 17 October 2008. The Commission said its purpose was:

(1) to assess progress made during the first year of implementation; (2) to outline the main challenges ahead, thus serving as a basis for discussion among all stakeholders – EU Member States and institutions, African countries and institutions, parliaments, civil society and international partners, and (3) to provide input for the joint progress report for the Ministerial Troika meeting of November 2008.

On 24 March 2009, the European Parliament adopted the Resolution 'One year after Lisbon: the EU-Africa partnership at work' (published as [2010/C 117 E/02](#)) and on 26 April 2009 the Commission adopted the Communication 'Partnership between the European Union and Africa - Connecting Africa and Europe: working towards strengthening transport cooperation' ([COM\(2009\)301](#)).

Ahead of the 3rd Africa-EU Summit on 29-30 November 2010, the Commission adopted a Communication 'on the consolidation of EU Africa relations: 1.5 billion people, 80 countries, two continents, one future' ([COM\(2010\)634](#); see also Press Releases [IP/10/1605](#) and [MEMO/10/604](#)).

The countries of North Africa are covered by the EU's [European Neighbourhood Policy](#); countries in Sub-Saharan Africa fall within the scope of the Union's [Development policy](#).

Find more information in the ESO database on the [EU-Africa strategy](#) and [EU-Africa summits](#).

European Consensus on Development

Since December 2005, the EU's actions in the field of development have been based on the [European Consensus on Development](#), part one of which sets out 'The European Union vision of Development', with part two addressing 'The European Community Development Policy'. The introduction to the Consensus states that:

The Member States and the Community are equally committed to basic principles, fundamental values and the development objectives agreed at the multilateral level. Our efforts at coordination and harmonisation must contribute to increasing aid effectiveness. To this end, and building on the progress made in recent years, the 'European Consensus on Development' provides, for the first time, a common vision that guides the action of the EU, both at its Member States and Community levels, in development co-operation.

(See also [European Consensus on Development](#) website and [Summaries of EU legislation](#)).

In April 2007, the Commission issued three related Communications:

- 'From Monterrey to the European Consensus on Development: honouring our commitments' ([COM\(2007\)158](#); see also [PreLex dossier](#)) said that the EU had 'honoured its overall commitments to increase aid in 2006', but more effort would be needed to meet future targets; Aid for Trade (AFT) must increase; and EU aid quality and effectiveness must improve.
- 'Towards an EU Aid for Trade strategy - the Commission's contribution' ([COM\(2007\)163](#); see also [PreLex dossier](#))
- 'Keeping Europe's promises on Financing for Development' ([COM\(2007\)164](#); see also [PreLex dossier](#)).

In October 2007, the Council adopted an EU Strategy on Aid for Trade, with the aim of helping Member States and the European Community 'to support all developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to better integrate into the rules-based world trading system and to more effectively use trade in promoting the overarching objective of eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development' (see Council Press Release [13873/07](#)).

AFT was said to be 'an important complement' to trade negotiations, especially the Doha Development Agenda (DDA):

Recognizing the importance of an ambitio[us], comprehensive and balanced agreement on DDA, the EU notes that Aft is a complement, but not a substitute, to a successful outcome of the DDA. Aft also aims at helping ACP regions and countries to fully benefit from trade opportunities and reforms, including those of the EPAs, while the collective EU delivery of Aft does not depend on the outcome of the EPAs negotiations.

Some €2 billion is potentially available every year from 2010, half provided from the EU budget and half from the aid budgets of individual Member States. 50% of Aft spending should be reserved to support the ACP States, thus seeing a potential annual increase of €300-€400 million.

Speaking on 9 April 2008, Commission President José Manuel Barroso called on EU Member States to increase their respective Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in

order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The call followed the release of OECD development aid figures showing a fall in Member States' aid to developing countries, and coincided with the publication of 'The EU - a global partner for development: Speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals' ([COM\(2008\)177](#); see also Press Release [IP/08/548](#)) in which the Commission proposed a number of ways in which Member States could increase the volume and effectiveness of aid, and identified areas where EU policies could be better coordinated.

The Doha Round of trade talks collapsed in Geneva at the end of July 2008 'amidst a fall out between the US and emerging Asian economies such as Indonesia, China and India over farming pacts' (see [EU to seek revival of failed Doha trade talks](#)). The World Trade Organization's Director-General, Pascal Lamy, said that 'ministers had been unable to bridge their differences' on one key issue, the special safeguard mechanism in farm products for developing countries (see [Day 9: Talks collapse despite progress on a list of issues](#)).

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said (see [Mandelson regrets loss of Doha 'insurance policy'](#)):

we have lost for now an agreement that would have fundamentally reformed the way the rich world supports its farmers so that these policies no longer squeeze farmers in the developing world

adding:

We have lost for now an agreement that would have brought trade justice to the cotton trade and a solution to the banana wars after sixteen years of insecurity for banana growers.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said 'we have lost for now an agreement that would have fundamentally reformed the way the rich world supports its farmers so that these policies no longer squeeze farmers in the developing world' (see [Mandelson regrets loss of Doha 'insurance policy'](#)), adding 'We have lost for now an agreement that would have brought trade justice to the cotton trade and a solution to the banana wars after sixteen years of insecurity for banana growers.'

But not all parties were saddened at the failure of the talks: from the perspective of the Caribbean Community and Common Market ([Caricom](#)), 'the spectacle of a lowering of tariffs on ACP banana exports to Europe as one of the lynchpins on which the success of the talks seemed to depend, was not a welcome one. Caribbean banana exporters will have breathed a sigh of relief as that particular bargaining stake did not have to come into play' (see [What for us after Doha?](#)).

Further information can be found on the WTO [Doha Round](#) pages and in the [DDA news archives](#).

On 17 March 2010, the Commission adopted the Communications 'Biennial Report on the Special Framework of Assistance for Traditional ACP suppliers of Bananas' ([COM\(2010\)103](#)) and 'Banana Accompanying Measures: Supporting the Sustainable Adjustment of the Main ACP Banana-Exporting Countries to New Trade Realities' ([COM\(2010\)101](#) – amended version of 12 July 2010). It also put forward a proposal for a Regulation 'amending Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation' ([COM\(2010\)102](#)). The proposal aimed to create an ACP Banana Accompanying Measures programme (BAM) for the main ACP banana-supplying countries, as a temporary measure (2010-2013) and with a budget of €190 million (see Press Release [IP/10/287](#) and [PreLex dossier](#)). The resulting [Regulation \(EU\) 1341/2011](#) of 13 December 2011 inserts a new Article 17a into Regulation 1905/2006, establishing

the BAM programme for 2011-2013 for 10 countries: Belize, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

In November 2010, the European Parliament's DG External Policies produced the study [The EU banana regime: Evolution and implications of its recent changes](#). The study suggested that the net effects of changes to the banana regime would be positive for ACP countries, slightly negative for Latin American countries, and indifferent for EU producers.

'A twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals' ([COM\(2010\)159](#)) was adopted by the Commission on 21 April 2010 (see also Press Releases [IP/10/451](#), [MEMO/10/145](#), [MEMO/10/147](#)). In its conclusion, the Commission stated that:

The EU should continue to be the world's largest aid donor, but at the same time be determined to make even better and more efficient use of the aid that it gives. This can only be done by working in partnership with developing countries on issues such as governance and taxation, and with other donors – who need to be as ambitious as the EU. Developing countries, for their part, must be determined to ensure that aid makes a real and lasting difference.

The Green Paper 'EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development: Increasing the impact of EU development policy' was published on 10 November 2010 ([COM\(2010\)629](#); see also Press Releases [IP/10/1494](#) and [MEMO/10/565](#)). The Green Paper launched a public consultation on the future of EU development policy and on how the EU can best support developing countries' progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Following responses to the consultation, the Communication 'Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change' was adopted on 13 October 2011 as [COM\(2011\)637](#) (see also Press Releases [IP/11/1184](#) and [MEMO/11/696](#)). It stated:

The proposed Agenda for Change does not seek to re-write basic policy principles. There will be no weakening of the EU's overarching objective of poverty elimination in the context of sustainable development, as set out in the European Consensus on Development. EU commitments on financing for development, MDG achievement and aid effectiveness remain firm, as do its ambitions as a political leader and key donor.

Development strategies led by the partner country will continue to frame EU development cooperation in line with the principles of ownership and partnership. The EU is seeking greater reciprocal engagement with its partner countries, including mutual accountability for results. Dialogue at country level within a coordinated donor framework should determine exactly where and how the EU intervenes. More effective collaboration within the multilateral system will also be pursued.

The associated Communication 'The future approach to EU budget support to third countries' ([COM\(2011\)638](#)):

sets out a new policy on budget support and puts forward policy proposals for an EU coordinated approach. It aims to adapt budget support policy to the changing political and policy environment, including the Treaty of Lisbon, and to make EU budget support a more effective instrument.

Each year the Commission publishes an annual report on the European Community's development and external assistance policies and their implementation. The 2013 edition, covering 2015, is available in both a [full version](#) see also [other years](#)).

Find more information in the ESO database on the [Doha Round](#) and the [Millennium Development Goals](#).

The future of ACP-EU cooperation

Under the Treaty of Lisbon, there is no explicit mention of EU-ACP cooperation in either the [TEU](#) or [TFEU](#).

An article in The Courier, January/February 2010 ('Lisbon Treaty: the new order of cooperation' - no longer available online), highlighted concerns over the removal of any reference to the ACP.

Interviewed for the May/June 2011 issue ('Reinforcing ACP-EU partnership in the face of new vulnerabilities' - no longer available online), David Matongo, Co-chair of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, said:

It's my hope that with the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union and EU enlargement, the JPA will utilise its now more prominent role. The Lisbon Treaty has accorded the European Parliament significant co-decision powers. The EP will henceforth play a more significant role in trade, commercial and agricultural policies. It will have increased powers with regard to the final text of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). EU negotiators will have to report to the Parliament's International Trade Committee on a regular basis. The [P]arliament could be a potential ally in safeguarding ACP concerns.

On 23 November 2011, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly adopted a Resolution 'on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on the ACP-EU Partnership'. Amongst the points it made were that, given the removal of any explicit reference to the ACP countries:

both parties must redefine their common interests so as to ensure that the value of the partnership that has existed since 1975 is strengthened.

The Resolution also noted that:

whereas the Treaty of Lisbon has brought changes in the operational manner in which the EU, through its European External Action Service (EEAS), now interacts with the ACP group; whereas those changes, in particular the absence of an ACP unit within the EEAS and the internal structure of the Commission's new Directorate-General for EuropeAid Development and Cooperation, will have an impact on the special partnership with the ACP countries.

Thoughts on the future of EU-ACP relations were set out on 13 December 2012 by Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, at the 7th ACP Summit (see [SPEECH/12/957](#)). The Commissioner noted that:

There is no doubt that the EU-ACP partnership was relevant and successful in the 1970 and 1980s as a real forum that provided direction and influenced other actors. The Lomé Conventions were behind the search for alternative development models and led to the creation of some quite revolutionary instruments.

However, he also confirmed that the EU must consider the impact of recent global changes and future challenges on its relations with developing countries.

Information sources in the ESO database

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[18.12 Relations with ACP and OCT countries](#) [all categories]

- [Key Source](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Policy-making](#)
- [Report](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [News source](#)
- [Periodical article](#)
- [Textbook, monograph or reference](#)
- [Background](#)

[18.13 Africa](#)

[18.16.b Caribbean](#)

[18.15.f Pacific](#)

Further information sources on the internet

- European Commission: DG International Cooperation
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [Policy Website](#)
 - The Courier - no longer available online [magazine focusing on the ACP-EU partnership; published 1970–2003 as The ACP-EU Courier; ceased 31 March 2004; electronic version, the 'eCourier', published June 2005-July 2007; paper version re-launched July 2007, but ceased 2011]
- European Commission: DG Trade
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [Trade website](#)
 - [Bilateral relations: Africa, Caribbean, Pacific](#)
 - Trade: Wider agenda: [Development](#)
- European Commission: Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO)
 - [Homepage](#)
- European Commission: DG Eurostat
 - [International Trade](#)
 - [International statistical cooperation](#)
- European External Action Service (EEAS)
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [EEAS website](#)
- European Union Delegation to the United Nations (EU@UN)
 - [Homepage](#)
 - EU Statements at the UN by topic: [Economic & social development](#) and [Trade](#)
- Europa
 - Policy areas: [Development and Cooperation](#)
 - Summaries of EU legislation
 - [Development](#) (subsections on: [African, Caribbean and Pacific states \(ACP\)](#), [General development framework](#), [Least developed countries \(LDC\)](#),

[Overseas countries and territories \(OCT\)](#), [Sectoral development policies](#),
[South Africa](#))

- European Commission: DG Communication
 - [RAPID](#) press releases database - [Development](#) (pre-set search)
- Legislative and policy making information
 - [Treaty on the functioning of the European Union](#): Article 208-211
 - EUR-Lex: Legislation: [EU-ACP relations](#)
 - EUR-Lex: Preparatory legislation: [EU-ACP relations](#)
 - EUR-Lex: Consolidated legislation: [EU-ACP relations](#)
 - EUR-Lex: Case Law: [EU-ACP relations](#)
 - EUR-Lex: Summaries of EU Legislation: [EU-ACP relations](#)
- Court of Justice of the European Union: InfoCuria
[Homepage](#): at 'Subject-matter' box, click icon at far right to open list of subjects. Choose 'African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP)' and click 'Enter' to return to main search page. Select dates if required. Hit 'Search' at top or bottom of page.
- European Parliament: Legislative Observatory (OEIL)
[Homepage](#): Carry out a [Simple Search](#) (scroll down right-hand menu and expand 'Subject'; then expand 'External relations of the Union'; then expand 'Development cooperation' and/or 'Relations with third countries' and select appropriate sub-section).
- Council of the European Union
 - [Foreign Affairs Council](#)
- European Parliament
 - [Development Committee](#) (DEVE)
 - [ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly](#)
- European Parliament: Fact Sheets
 - Section on [The EU's external relations](#) has a subsection on General development policy, with Fact Sheets on [A general survey of development policy](#), [Trade regimes applicable to developing countries](#), [Humanitarian aid](#), [Relations with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific ...](#)
- European Parliament: Library
 - Briefings: [EU-Caribbean relations](#)
 - Keysources: [Economic growth in Africa](#)
- European Court of Auditors
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [Special Reports: External aid, development and enlargement](#) (pre-set search) and [Annual reports](#) (includes the EDF)
- Committee of the Regions
 - [Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional Affairs and External Relations](#) (CIVEX)
- European Economic and Social Committee
 - [External Relations Section](#) (REX)
- Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
 - [Homepage](#)

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - [Homepage](#)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - [Homepage](#)
- The World Bank
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative \(HIPC\)](#)
 - [Africa: Partnerships](#)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [The Doha Round](#)
 - [Who are the developing countries in the WTO?](#)
 - [Least-developed countries](#)
- ACP-EU-trade.org
 - [Homepage](#) (not updated since end 2011)
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
 - [Homepage](#)
- DevelopmentPortal.eu
 - [Homepage](#)
- European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [Europafrika.net](#)
- Europe's Forum on International Cooperation (Euforic)
 - [Homepage](#)
- Traidcraft
 - [Homepage](#)
 - [Trade policy reports](#)

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