

ANNEX III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾**on the role of national parliaments in implementing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement**

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
 - having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾ and modified in Luxembourg on 24 June 2005, in particular Articles 6 (The actors of the partnership), 8 (Political dialogue), 9 (Essential elements and fundamental element) and 58 (Eligibility for financing) thereof,
 - having regard to its ACP-EU political dialogue guidelines (Article 8) adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers at its 28th meeting in May 2003 in Brussels,
 - having regard to its resolution on the ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement), adopted on 25 November 2004 in The Hague ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the creation at the ninth JPA session in Bamako of the ACP Consultative Assembly,
 - having regard to paragraph 171 of the 2005 United Nations World Summit outcome document — ‘Cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments’,
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Political Affairs (ACP-EU/3760/05),
- A. whereas the ACP countries’ and EU Member States’ parliaments are not at present sufficiently involved in the strategic dialogue as envisaged in the ACP-EU cooperation objectives,
- B. whereas ACP countries are not sufficiently involved in the monitoring of implementation of ACP-EU cooperation,
- C. whereas greater involvement of the ACP countries’ parliaments does not necessarily require or imply any constitutional changes on their part, but rather changes in the procedures of the governments and Commission Delegations in these countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 17.

- D. whereas the ACP countries' parliaments have legislative and scrutiny responsibilities (with a direct linkage with the creation of a favourable environment for the implementation of the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs),
- E. whereas the parliaments of the EU Member States have no formal powers of scrutiny over ACP cooperation, although they share responsibility for its political functioning, and whereas, prior to their accession, the ten new EU Member States had no opportunity to take part in ACP cooperation and gather relevant experience,
- F. whereas, in general, members of parliament have a better knowledge than the executive arm of government of the reality on the ground, thanks to their regular contacts in their constituencies and with local people,
- G. whereas the involvement of national parliaments and, wherever possible, civil society in the discussion and definition of priorities for the use of foreign aid would contribute significantly to the strengthening of democracy, good governance, and respect for human rights in ACP countries,
- H. whereas ACP parliaments believe that the separation of powers between the executive and legislative arms of government should be observed,
- I. whereas parliaments are the pillars upholding the exercise of democracy and good governance, whose increasing importance is acknowledged to be a *sine qua non* for stability and development,
- J. having regard to the need in the ACP countries for parliamentary control and scrutiny of the use of budgetary aid,
- K. whereas the parliaments should be partners in the Strategic and Political Dialogue, as was stressed in its resolution on the ACP-EU political dialogue (Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement), adopted in The Hague on 25 November 2004,
- L. whereas strengthening the powers of the ACP countries' parliaments in respect of control and monitoring of the implementation of the national budget can improve transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, and thereby help to fight corrupt practices,
- M. whereas the European Development Fund (EDF) does not fall within the budgetary prerogative of the European Parliament, and whereas it would be appropriate to correct this democratic deficit as soon as possible, albeit in a manner that ensures that ACP countries are not worse off under budgetisation,
- N. having regard to the discharge given by the European Parliament to the European Commission in respect of the implementation of the EDF despite the fact that the EDF remains outside of the budget,
- O. whereas the parliaments, in both ACP and EU countries, should be a place for public debate and a forum for dialogue, playing a facilitating role in the multi-player dialogue among civil society and non-State actors, the executive and the donors,
- P. whereas periodic elections are one of the means of ensuring the democratic expression of political pluralism and should be organised in compliance with internationally recognised standards, with a view to constituting democratic and representative parliaments,
- Q. whereas the African Union established the Pan-African Parliament to further strengthen the parliamentary dialogue within Africa, as well as between Africa and other regions of the world,
- R. having regard to the importance of the democratic control exercised by the national parliaments of the EU States over their respective governments with regard to the activities of the ACP-EU Council,
- S. whereas the decisions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and those of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly should be taken into consideration in the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement,

- T. whereas it is essential that the Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Members of the Committee of Ambassadors should act in conformity with the spirit of the separate roles and responsibilities of the three institutions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement,
- U. whereas, at sessions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the political families organise meetings and working sessions between European and ACP parliamentarians, and whereas such meetings make a major contribution to the establishment of a genuine political assembly and the emergence of parliamentary diplomacy by helping the Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to transcend national and regional allegiances and by fostering transnational political alliances,
- V. having regard to the need for ACP parliamentarians and parliaments to exchange views at national, regional and all-ACP levels on the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and for the EU parliaments to discuss regularly the issues central to ACP cooperation,
- W. having regard to the resulting additional role of EU national parliaments in the dissemination of information and in capacity building in ACP countries,
- X. having regard to the need to deepen and widen the Belgian initiative of helping ACP parliaments to improve capacity in human and institutional fields through training and seminars, especially against the background of limited human resources and institutional capacities in many ACP countries,
- Y. having regard to the need to support the regional initiative of the United Nations, with the European Parliament, the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the Pan-African Parliament and the South African Parliament, which strengthens parliaments' capacity in information exchange and management, including also through information and communication technologies (ICTs),
1. Regrets that, to date, ACP-EU cooperation and the political decision-making process in the negotiation and implementation of the EDF is largely between the executive arm of government of ACP States and the European Commission;
 2. Calls for close cooperation between the European Parliament and the parliaments of the EU Member States in connection with the implementation of the ACP-EU partnership;
 3. Believes that it is essential that the parliaments on both sides have greater access to information, and calls on the Commission, through its Delegations in ACP countries, and National Authorising Officers to exchange information on a regular basis with the parliaments of the countries concerned, including reporting on progress on the implementation of their National Indicative Programmes, and to make this information available to the EU Member State parliaments as well;
 4. Urges ACP countries to hold specific parliamentary debates on foreign aid before the annual debate on and adoption of their national budgets, thus promoting transparency, good governance and the strengthening of their democratic institutions;
 5. Believes that the parliaments of the ACP countries should be systematically involved in the programming, monitoring and assessment of the impact of cooperation and that such involvement is the best way of guaranteeing the success of the poverty reduction objective;
 6. Asks that the National Authorising Officers consult with their parliaments within the framework of a general policy debate before drawing up the Country Strategic Paper (CSP) and National Indicative Programme (NIP);
 7. Regards it as exceptionally important that members of the parliaments in both ACP and EU countries should systematically be made aware of the spirit of and the practical opportunities offered by the Cotonou Agreement, and calls, with a view to making the work of the parliaments more professional, for comprehensive sets of data to be compiled as the basis for assessing and shaping ACP cooperation;

8. Welcomes in this connection the awareness-raising and training initiatives, which have taken place in various African countries and the Pacific region, and calls on the various players involved to systematise these types of initiative;
9. Looks to the ACP governments to incorporate such initiatives to strengthen development policy capacities in the CSPs and NIPs; calls on the Commission to respond to these requests, in accordance with the commitments given in principle at the eighth session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, held in The Hague (Netherlands) from 22 to 25 November 2004, and further calls on the ACP Secretariat to alert the national authorising officers on this issue;
10. Calls on the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, the Pan-African Parliament, and the other regional and sub-regional parliaments in the ACP to promote and immediately institute exchanges of information and exemplary practice on cooperation strategies/initiatives with a view to strengthening the role of the parliaments, and calls on the Commission to facilitate such exchanges in cooperation with EU national parliaments, the European Parliament and the United Nations system;
11. Believes further that regional meetings, which should be set up within the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Cotonou Agreement, could provide an appropriate framework for developing the exchange of information on best practices with a view to strengthening the role of the parliaments;
12. Calls for a strengthening of links between national and regional parliaments, and between national parliaments and the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, and of their capacity for exchanges and dialogue, particularly with regard to seeking common positions on the issues and subjects placed on the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's agenda;
13. Believes that there is a need to envisage, wherever possible, a transition to direct budgetary aid as the way in which the EDF could best deliver assistance, as this can have a leveraging effect on the economy of the country as a whole and, in particular, make the institutions of the country concerned more responsible;
14. Calls also on the national authorising officers to be more transparent with regard to the identification of the final beneficiaries of the EDF and the interest groups that are consulted when drawing up the CSPs and NIPs;
15. Calls on the ACP national parliaments to organise public hearings on the development cooperation policy choices within the ACP-EU partnership and on the implementation of aid, and thus act as a two-way channel between the institutions and non-State actors as a whole;
16. Calls on the ACP national parliaments to ensure that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's resolutions are appropriately disseminated amongst their members, and that the results of the work of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly are properly reported to their houses in plenary sitting, and that the necessary provisions be taken to guarantee the keeping of an institutional record thereof;
17. Calls on the EU national parliaments regularly to consider all aspects of current ACP cooperation in their competent bodies and also to make that cooperation the subject of a targeted publicity campaign, with a view to ensuring that people in their countries are aware of the need for problem-oriented development cooperation;
18. Calls on the European Commission regularly to provide the national parliaments in the EU with the information required to make them grasp the fact that the European Union is the world's largest development aid donor and that, through the Cotonou Agreement, it has established the world's only model for cooperation based on the principle of partnership and shared values;
19. Calls on national parliaments in the ACP and EU to create more space for discussion and debate on issues in the EU such as racism, xenophobia and immigration policies, that could impact ACP-EU partnership;

20. Commits itself to ensure that resolutions adopted on situations in individual EU and ACP countries be sent to those countries' parliaments, which should be invited to send a response that could be debated at the next JPA session;
 21. Calls on all the institutions concerned, in particular the European Commission, to strengthen the JPA and facilitate the smooth take-off and operations of the newly created ACP Parliamentary Assembly with a view to ensuring their full participation in the ACP-EU partnership;
 22. Emphasises the importance of the political balance between joint ACP-EU institutions and ACP institutions; points out that the ACP ambassadors can intervene through the Committee of Ambassadors and urges them to respect the role played by their parliamentarians in the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly by acting as their advisors;
 23. Calls for close cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments of EU Member States on the implementation of ACP-EU partnership;
 24. Welcomes the meetings and working sessions organised by the political families; supports the proposal that the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly should gradually move over to a political group system as a means of overcoming regional allegiances and of ensuring that the division into two separate houses gives way to efforts to promote shared ideas and standpoints;
 25. Calls on every ACP parliament to ensure the creation of a specialised committee or group responsible for the monitoring of ACP-EU cooperation;
 26. Calls on the ACP-EU Council to take part in the work of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, not only in the shape of declarations and at question time in plenary sitting, but also at the level of the work of the standing committees;
 27. Instructs its Political Affairs Committee to follow up the issue of strengthening the parliaments with regard to implementing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
 28. Regards it as important that the parliaments on both sides, or their specialist bodies, should be involved in political dialogue, pursuant to Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, when such dialogue is seen as being necessary;
 29. Considers it important, in order for parliaments to be regarded as democratic, that elections be organised in compliance with internationally recognised standards, namely respect for political and civil rights, respect for freedom of expression and information, equal access to the mass media and respect for political pluralism, giving voters a real choice;
 30. Calls on the EU national parliaments to monitor closely the activities of their governments within the ACP-EU Council;
 31. Urges the committees responsible for development policy in the EU national parliaments and the European Parliament to keep each other informed and coordinate their policies, for example by means of seminars such as that organised by the Irish Parliament in May 2004;
 32. Calls on the Members of the EU national parliaments, when they travel to ACP countries, to depart from what is, unfortunately, standard practice and visit not just bilateral projects, but also measures funded from the EDF, and to take the opportunity to seek information from the Commission Delegations about the practical state of ACP cooperation;
 33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Commission, the ACP-EU Council, the parliaments of the ACP States, the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on causes and consequences of natural disasters

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
 - having regard to article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 30 (Regional Cooperation) and 32 (Environment and natural resources) thereof,
 - having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted on 9 May 1992 and which entered into force on 21 March 1994,
 - having regard to its resolution on climate change and small island developing states in the context of the ACP-EU cooperation framework, adopted on 1 April 1999 in Strasbourg ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to resolution 57/256 of 20 December 2002 of the UN General Assembly on the review of the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action for a safer world, guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, and the UN 'Barbados plus 10' International Meeting on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Mauritius in January 2005,
 - having regard to the September 2004 position of the United Nations International Secretariat for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) on hurricane risk management in developing countries,
 - having regard to its resolution on the hurricane damage in the Caribbean region, adopted in The Hague on 25 November 2004 ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution on the damage caused by cyclones in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and the need for a rapid response to natural disasters, adopted in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2004 ⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the EU Council conclusions on climate change in the context of development cooperation (15164/04),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (APP/3802/05),
- A. whereas Article 20 and Article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement set the base for an ACP-EU sustainable development policy,
- B. acknowledging that disaster risk reduction is primarily a national responsibility, but for member countries to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, there is a need for strengthened cooperation and partnership in support of disaster risk reduction at the national, regional and international levels,
- C. whereas disaster preparedness and prevention is not systematically enshrined in all EC external relations aid programmes and related legal documents,
- D. having regard to the different types of natural disasters, which include *inter alia* earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, sea encroachment, landslides, floods, hurricanes, other violent storms, droughts, epidemics and crop plagues, and whereas disaster preparedness and prevention is therefore important in all countries,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 271, 24.9.1999, p. 30.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 80, 1.4.2005, p. 36.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 120, 30.4.2004, p. 44.

- E. taking note of the United Nations' recognition of Cuba as a model for disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and post-disaster management, particularly with respect to the development of the relevant human resources and the involvement of the communities therein;
- F. having regard to the need for full participation of local communities in sustainable development policies and programmes, into which disaster preparedness and prevention activities should be fully integrated,
- G. whereas poverty eradication and disaster prevention are fundamental aspects of any development policy,
- H. whereas indigenous knowledge should be used to protect populations, habitat, subsistence means and cultural heritage against natural risks,
- I. having regard to the special vulnerability of small island states to climate change,
- J. whereas many ACP countries are heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, which have recently suffered substantial price increases,
- K. having regard to the drought and deforestation problems faced by the least developed African inland countries,
- L. whereas all environmental ACP country profiles need to be constantly updated,
- M. whereas environmental problems need to be tackled at regional level,
- N. whereas EU countries must be opposed to all forms of relocation to developing countries of their polluting industries,
- O. whereas a post-2012 agreement on the intensification in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions must be reached,
- P. whereas the Clean Development Mechanism, set in the Kyoto Protocol, has the potential to generate substantial resources for the funding of mitigation and adaptation projects in ACP countries,
- Q. having regard to the continuous process of deforestation, illegal logging and increasing fires affecting earth's forests,
- R. whereas methane is 21 times more damaging than carbon dioxide, and whereas emissions can be limited through recovery and use in waste management,
- S. whereas special attention should be given to the management of river basins,
- T. having regard to the need for special information campaigns concerning risk awareness, particularly for housing construction in risk zones,
- U. recognising that good governance within each country is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and that, at the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, gender equality, youth integration and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for disaster risk reduction,
- V. recognising that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade,
- W. recognising that ACP Member States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to taking initiatives in such areas as access to and the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in disaster risk reduction, and the continuing need for maintenance of low-tech communication solutions, such as high-frequency radio for rural and remote locations,

1. Notes that hundreds of millions of poor people are extremely vulnerable to hazards like earthquakes, tropical storms, flooding, tsunamis or severe droughts, and that major disasters put development at risk; underlines that the MDGs will be hard to attain in most low-income countries including small and vulnerable island developing states, unless disaster risk reduction are well integrated into development and poverty reduction strategies;
2. Confirms its support for all resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on natural disasters and climate change;
3. Recognises that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, not least if they have a narrow economic base with only a small range of industries;
4. Calls for adaptation to climate change to be made a priority of EU development policy and for climate change considerations to be integrated into wider development policy;
5. Concludes that, in order to complement national and regional development efforts for Member States, there is an urgent need to enhance coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, which would facilitate the participation of Member States in international financial decision-making processes and institutions and in the process of setting international rules, codes, norms and standards for disaster reduction;
6. Asks all parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change to reach an agreement on the opening of negotiations on post-2012 greenhouse gas emissions reduction and to commit to any measures necessary to keep ghg concentration under 500 ppm CO₂ eqv. and the rise in global temperature to less than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels;
7. Calls for the development of a methane reduction policy, to include information and economic incentives for rice farmers;
8. Asks the Commission to enlarge the scope of the Community exchange of quotas system and to promote innovation so as to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions;
9. Confirms the need for a truly global carbon market, including emissions trading, joint implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism;
10. Supports the creation of a concrete action plan that promotes technology and research, makes use of all the Kyoto's protocol flexible mechanisms, promotes renewable energies and energy efficiency, and adapts policies and technology transfer to developing countries;
11. Calls for appropriate technology transfer of European renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes and funding to support this; notes that more use of renewables and better energy efficiency would lessen ACP country dependence on imported oil and its derivatives;
12. Asks the EU to increase, as a matter of urgency, the promotion and financing of renewable technologies in the developing states, such as solar and wind energy and the co-generation of electricity and production of environment friendly green energy by using biomass like sugar cane by-products and thus contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions as well as of the dependency of ACP States on the importation of oil to meet their energy needs;
13. Draws attention to the problem of natural disaster-driven population migrations and asks for special attention to be given to this issue in all development-related policies;
14. Asks the Commission to condemn publicly all exports to developing countries of dangerous products that are prohibited in industrialised countries on grounds of public health, protection of ecosystems or safety, whenever such exports come to its attention;

15. Stresses the importance of climate observation; welcomes the European capacity for Global Monitoring of Environment and Safety (GMES); welcomes the creation of the EU Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory for Africa, using satellite technology, to be used by ECHO in the assistance provided in case of natural disasters or emergency situations; calls for full dissemination of early warning information from the EU Joint Research Centre and the development of methodologies for hazard and risk mapping;
16. Asks the Member States and the Commission to address the issue of deforestation and illegal logging in all bilateral agreements with forested countries, introducing plans for the promotion of sustainable forest management practices, afforestation and reforestation and a certification scheme to combat illegal logging;
17. Calls upon ACP Countries to agree regionally on the management of river basins, taking co-ordinated measures for the misuse of water, construction of dams, overfishing, pollution, fertiliser use and control of algae growth or invasive species;
18. Calls for the promotion of public education, information and risk awareness campaigns, namely on land use planning, construction on risk zones, safe building construction and on protection of critical facilities;
19. Calls upon ACP governments to incorporate disaster risk reduction into curricula at all levels of education;
20. Stresses the need to increase funding for the development of the relevant human resources (including medical personnel and evacuation, search and rescue teams) for disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and post-disaster management, as well as for strengthening South-South cooperation in these areas;
21. Calls for the design and implementation of regional adapted early warning systems on natural disasters, within the framework of Article 28 and Article 30 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement;
22. Calls on the Commission to continue its work initiated with the Communication on 'Fighting rural poverty — European Community policy and approach to rural development and sustainable natural resources management in developing countries' (COM/2002/0429 final), especially concerning the provision of safety nets and further international actions;
23. Calls for the creation by ACP countries of social safety nets to protect lives during times of crisis, and asks international funding organisations to develop financial risk sharing mechanisms that focus on vulnerable populations and communities, namely national and regional insurance funds in a partnership between them and national governments;
24. Recalls that only through capacity building and involvement of local populations and their communities in national, regional and sub-regional programmes can problems such as poverty, health and nutrition, lack of food security, migration, displacement of persons and demographic dynamics be tackled;
25. Reiterates its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and emphasises the importance of MDG7 on ensuring environmental sustainability;
26. Calls on Member States to focus on the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to provide an overarching framework for global disaster risk reduction and to look for measures to address their vulnerabilities and to build resilience;
27. Whilst appreciating the creation of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility, which it had requested during its last meeting in Bamako in April 2005, regrets the very low level of resources allocated to the Facility despite the reality of the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and calls on the EU to allocate adequate additional financial resources to the Facility under the 10th EDF and other EU budget lines;

28. Calls upon the Commission to enshrine disaster preparedness and prevention systematically in all EC external relations aid programmes, in Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes, and in other legal documents; furthermore suggests that a significant share of disaster relief funds should be allocated in support of disaster prevention and preparedness programmes;
29. Confirms that a complementarity must exist between CSPs and RSPs in order to address regional and environmental challenges and threats;
30. Calls on ACP governments to design pre-crisis emergency and contingency plans that should include evacuation strategies, emergency safety zones, insurance schemes and financing of humanitarian resources for rapid distribution;
31. Stresses the need to address environment-related issues in the current UN reform, through an ACP-EU Member States common position on restructuring of existing organisations and creation of effective fast track initiatives aimed at giving a rapid response to natural disasters;
32. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on the situation in West Africa

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the West African region,
- A. noting the numerous political, economic and development efforts and improvements made in major parts of this region of Africa,
 - B. having regard to the situation and threat of famine and malnutrition prevalent in the Sahel and in Niger in particular, and to the recurrent invasions of locust swarms, which represent a permanent threat to the countries of the Sahel, and whereas several ACP states are forced to contend with a permanent lack of food security,
 - C. deploring the heavy loss of life and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire,
 - D. concerned that the persisting internal conflict situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose a threat to peace, security and regional stability,
 - E. whereas, as a matter of urgency, the armed forces must be confined, disarmament must take place and the administration must be re-established throughout the national territory of Côte d'Ivoire,
 - F. having regard to the conclusions of the meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) held in Addis Ababa on Wednesday, 6 October 2005,
 - G. whereas presidential elections were held in Togo on 24 April 2005 under ECOWAS supervision and with the financial support of the European Union; whereas, however, the presidential election process and results were challenged,
 - H. deploring the violence that followed the provisional declaration of the results of the Togolese election on 26 April 2005, which led to deaths, injuries, destruction of property and population movements,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

- I. having regard to the report of the fact-finding mission, mandated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, responsible for investigating the acts of violence and allegations of human rights violations which took place before, during and after the presidential election of 24 April 2005, published on 29 August 2005,
- J. whereas the UN report directly criticises the entire Togolese political class, and in particular the security and enforcement apparatus of the State,
- K. whereas 40 000 Togolese nationals are still living as refugees in Ghana and Benin,
- L. whereas the Togolese President has announced that he intends to hold parliamentary elections 'as early as possible',
- M. having regard to the beginning of a resumption of dialogue between the government and opposition, as illustrated by the official launching of the inter-Togolese dialogue by the President on 18 November 2005,
- N. noting the stated will of the President of the Republic of Togo to implement all his country's commitments with the EU, with a view to consolidating democracy and the rule of law,
- O. whereas full cooperation between the EU and Togo is still subject to the fulfilment of the undertakings given,
- P. whereas a military council in Mauritania toppled President Maaouya Ould Taya, in power for 21 years, in a bloodless coup in August 2005,
- Q. whereas this change took place without bloodshed, and a national consensus has welcomed the transitional programme of the Military Council for Justice and Democracy (MCJD) and all the action it has taken since its establishment,
- R. having regard to the holding of national consultation days in Mauritania, which led to a broad national consensus, the five-month reduction in the transition period initially set at 24 months, and all the positive developments which have taken place,
- S. deeply concerned about the situation of some 500 migrants, many from Mali, abandoned in the Sahara desert without food or water,
- T. whereas the economic situation in West Africa, which is due, among other things, to the unequal distribution of the world's wealth, is the main cause of the mass exodus towards the European Union and other industrialised countries,
- U. whereas the peace agreement signed in Accra on 18 August 2003 under the aegis of ECOWAS constitutes a fundamental step towards restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia and, indeed, the whole West Africa subregion,
- V. whereas the presidential election of October 2005 represents an important part of the application of this agreement and whereas the successful conduct of these elections contributes towards peace and stability in Liberia; regretting, however, that the 400 000 refugees outside the country's borders were prevented from taking part in the vote,
- W. having regard to the holding in Guinea Bissau of presidential elections deemed by observers to be credible and transparent,
- X. having regard to the progress made towards the consolidation of peace in Guinea Bissau; having regard, however, to the volatile situation caused by unemployed ex-combatants and others,
- Y. emphasising the need for the international community to support the new democratic governments in the region and the challenges they will be facing,
- Z. having regard to the holding of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2005 in Hong Kong (People's Republic of China),

1. Welcomes major democratic improvements in some West African countries, for instance the massive participation in recent elections in Liberia, after 14 years of civil war, and also welcomes the fact that the presidential elections in Guinea Bissau were conducted in a fair manner that respected international principles;
2. Reiterates its conviction that respect for human rights and democratic principles is the cornerstone for stabilisation and peace in the region, and hopes that the former dictator Hissène Habré, arrested by the Senegalese judicial authorities, will not continue to enjoy impunity in respect of the human rights crimes of which he is accused;
3. Urges the international community urgently to adopt a plan for tackling the problem of illegal migration, especially following the dramatic events which occurred recently on the border with Morocco;

Liberia

4. Welcomes the peaceful and orderly manner in which the 11 October elections were held in the presence of observers from ECOWAS and from the European Union, for the first time since 1997, and congratulates the people of Liberia for turning out in large numbers to demonstrate a clear commitment to peace and democracy, and a desire to move on from the period of the conflict that had beset their nation;
5. Hails the successful conduct of the presidential campaign and the climate of peace and calm that prevailed;
6. Welcomes the work of General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of Nigeria, in his capacity as mediator of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to ensure that the elections would take place in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the electoral timetable;
7. Acknowledges that these elections are the result of the Accra peace agreement signed in 2003, which ended more than two decades of political instability and 14 years of brutal armed conflict;
8. Welcomes the fact that all candidates have recognised the results of these elections in the wider interest of Liberia;
9. Calls upon all political leaders to continue to demonstrate the responsibility they have shown throughout the process so far, and calls on the European Union to increase its support to Liberia in its progress towards a stable, democratic future;
10. Notes the ongoing discussions regarding a Liberia Economic Governance Action Plan, designed to ensure prompt implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;
11. Encourages the new authorities resulting from this election to work without delay, with the support of the international community, towards meeting the major challenges facing the country, namely good governance, the establishment of basic social services and public services, continued disarmament and the issue of refugees and displaced persons;
12. Welcomes the fact that, for the first time in the history of the continent of Africa, a woman has been elected President of the Republic;

Sierra Leone

13. Calls for close monitoring by the international community of the security, political, humanitarian and human rights situation in Sierra Leone;
14. Urges the international community, in particular the EU, to increase its funding for the International Criminal Tribunal, so as to enable it to accomplish its mandate relating to the crimes committed in Sierra Leone;
15. Calls on the international community, in particular the EU, to increase its economic and financial assistance to Sierra Leone so as to enable it to consolidate the peace and stabilisation process,

Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal

16. Expresses its concern about the ongoing humanitarian crisis and food availability in Niger and the Sahel countries;

17. Urges the international community not to turn its back on the continued suffering in Niger and other Sahel countries and to increase humanitarian aid to the region, ranging from food, drinking water and drugs to vaccines for children with a view to preventing epidemics, given that, while food distribution continues across the worst affected parts of the country, financial support for emergency operations shows worrying signs of tailing off;
18. Calls for priority to be given to prevention, by reducing dependence on rainfall owing to its irregularity, developing irrigation-based agriculture, increasing food productivity and boosting the capacity of local cereal reserves;
19. Calls on the international donors to coordinate their aid strategies for Niger and other Sahel countries with each other as well as with the African Union, ECOWAS, and other regional and local actors, and stresses the importance of making the aid long-term; calls for close monitoring of aid;
20. Calls on the Commission and the Council to improve the early warning system to monitor sensitive regions where famine may arise, in order to allow earlier action and to prevent disasters;
21. Calls on the EU to step up financial support for the countries of the Sahel (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Senegal and Mauritania) in order to allow them to strengthen their means of combating invasions by locust swarms, which is a recurrent danger in that part of Africa;

Côte d'Ivoire

22. Calls on the EU Council to envisage, as a matter of urgency, a European Union peace-keeping mission, along the lines of the ARTEMIS operation conducted in the DRC, with a clear mandate to support the 'Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration' programme throughout Côte d'Ivoire and to protect the civilian population, in accordance with Security Council resolutions;
23. Recommends that the UN adopt measures to be implemented over the next twelve months, to try and ensure compliance with the peace accords and adherence to a disarmament process that has been postponed for more than a year;
24. Calls on the Ivorian parties to accept the principle of holding democratic, free and transparent presidential elections as soon as possible, rather than any other means of resolving the crisis and restoring peace;
25. Calls on the UN and the EU to provide the necessary financial support to allow the swift restoration of peace in Côte d'Ivoire;
26. Calls on the international community to take all the necessary measures, including, where appropriate, the sanctions provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 1572 of November 2004, to ensure that all the Ivorian parties concerned apply the AU Peace and Security Council decision fully and without delay;

Togo

27. Notes that the presidential election process and results were challenged; calls on the Togolese authorities to implement swiftly and in good faith the 22 undertakings given in connection with the consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, in particular as regards the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
28. Hopes to see a positive outcome to the inter-Togolese dialogue launched by the President on 18 November 2005;
29. Notes the new Togolese authorities' will to implement a genuine policy of openness to the opposition and civil society as a whole, in order to meet the good governance and democracy criteria;
30. Calls on the Togolese political class to accept any initiative aimed at creating the conditions for concerted management of the institutions, for national reconciliation and for economic and social recovery in the country;

31. Endorses the main recommendations of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressing in particular the need for national reconciliation based on the principles of truth and justice; supports, therefore, her call for the main perpetrators of human rights violations to be identified and brought to justice;
32. Considers that the victims of repression have a right to justice, truth and reparation to guarantee a democratic transition for Togolese society;
33. Calls for free, transparent and democratic parliamentary elections to be organised as soon as possible, whenever the necessary conditions of transparency and pluralism are met, in particular through a consensual revision of the electoral code;

Mauritania

34. Welcomes the national consensus and notes the junta's commitment to return to elected civilian government, with presidential elections within nineteen months, and underlines that it is essential that the transition timetable be adhered to;
35. Appeals to the international community to provide support for the implementation of a democratic process and for its proper management;
36. Calls on the EU in particular to support the developments under way in Mauritania by continuing to cooperate and by providing appropriate support for the holding of a free, credible and transparent general election;
37. Calls on Mauritania to maintain its diplomatic ties and international commitments and to continue its engagement against terrorism;

Guinea Bissau

38. Welcomes the holding of presidential elections in Guinea Bissau and calls on all the candidates to recognise the results of those elections;
39. Appeals to the EU and to ECOWAS to provide support for the new authorities in order to allow them to establish the rule of law;

WTO

40. Calls on the EU to continue its efforts to eradicate all forms of subsidisation for exports of agricultural products, particularly cotton, in order to assist the economic emergence of the countries of West Africa;
 41. Hopes that the Hong Kong Conference will provide an opportunity to resolve, once and for all, agricultural and international trade problems through the application of WTO rules with a view to restoring an economic balance between developing and developed countries;
 42. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, the Chairman of ECOWAS and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo.
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RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾
on registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals (REACH)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
- having regard to Council Directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC),
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 68 thereof, that recognises the key role that commodities play in the economic stability of ACP States,
- having regard to the efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals in pursuance of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which followed the United Nations Summit of 6-8 September 2000 and was further reconfirmed during the 2005 World Summit,
- having regard to the European Commission's White Paper on the Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy ⁽³⁾ adopted on 13 July 2001, which suggests that, through REACH, the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry and the protection of human health and the environment from the risk of chemicals will be improved,
- having regard to the Monterrey Consensus of the UN Financing for Development Conference, of 22 March 2002,
- having regard to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, that calls for measures to reduce the adverse effects of the production and use of chemicals by 2020,
- having regard to the European Commission's proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals ⁽⁴⁾ and the European Parliament's first reading, of 29 October 2003 and 17 November 2005 respectively,
- having regard to the first Meeting of ACP Ministers responsible for the Environment, held in Brussels on 10 December 2004, and the Brussels Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development in ACP States,
- having regard to the resolution of the 81st Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, held in Brussels on 21-22 June 2005, regarding the position of the ACP Group on the draft European Union Legislation concerning REACH,
- having regard to the outcome of the G8 Summit held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom, on 6-8 July 2005, which reaffirmed the G8 leaders' commitment to Africa's development,
- having regard to the European Commission's proposal for a Joint Declaration by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the European Union Development Policy ⁽⁵⁾, presented on 13 July 2005,
- having regard to the international obligations of ACP States under the provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO),
- having regard to its resolution of 24 November 2005 on agricultural and mining commodities,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

⁽³⁾ COM(2001)0088

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2003)0644

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2005)0311

- A. whereas almost two-thirds of the member states of the ACP Group are mining countries and/or have mining potential, which if exploited rationally could contribute to their economic and social development,
- B. whereas commodities and raw materials, and specifically minerals, ores and concentrates, are important in the poverty alleviation strategies and sustainable development objectives of those member states of the ACP Group that depend on these materials,
- C. whereas maintaining a competitive and innovative chemicals industry in Europe is a major goal for the European Union,
- D. whereas the avoidance of chemical contamination of air, water, soil and buildings, as well as preventing damage to biodiversity, are also major goals for the European Union,
- E. whereas there is a need for further consultations on the REACH legislation with developing countries,
- F. whereas there is a need for sufficient impact analysis of the REACH legislation on developing countries, in particular with regard to the economic, social and environmental impact thereof,
- G. whereas developing countries also have problems regarding chemical management,
- H. whereas, owing to the urgent need also to address other environmental issues, developing countries may find it difficult to comply with the more stringent requirements under the REACH legislation,
- I. whereas there is a possibility that manufacturers in developing countries will switch to EU suppliers in order to export to the EU, thereby having an impact on suppliers in developing countries,
- J. whereas the REACH legislation would represent a significant departure from the existing chemicals legislation in the EU, as it would apply to all chemical substances regardless of where they were first produced or imported into the EU, and because it would require producers and/or importers of chemical substances to provide analysis of their chemicals as part of the registration process,
- K. whereas many ores and concentrates contain natural trace elements of substances considered hazardous in the EU, and as such these would potentially be subject to the registration, evaluation and authorisation provisions of the REACH legislation, thereby burdening industry with significant costs,
- L. whereas the proposed REACH legislation represents a major step toward the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks affecting chemicals across all 25 EU member economies,
- M. whereas the proposed REACH legislation could provide the incentive to develop safer products and processes over time, while enhancing the availability of information on the properties of chemicals used in a wide range of end uses,
- N. whereas concerns that need to be met on the proposed REACH legislation include: the high administrative costs on producers and importers of preparing the required registration documentation, the workability of the legislation, and the potential inconsistency between the requirements to register some naturally occurring raw materials (such as metal ores and concentrates) but not others (such as coal and oil),
- O. whereas the proposed REACH legislation represents a major step toward enhancing the protection of human health and safety and the environment, an objective that is consistent with other chemicals regulatory frameworks in many developed economies,
- P. whereas it is vital to consider whether the costs of REACH, both financial and social, are proportionate to its ultimate goal of assessing and managing the risks related to the exposure of humans and the environment to chemical substances,

- Q. whereas production and imports of mineral ores and concentrates are generally high in volume, but these volumes are not necessarily correlated with the risks relating to public health or the environment,
- R. whereas the direct costs of REACH could potentially be significant, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, but the indirect costs of the legislation are likely to be much more considerable,
- S. whereas the inclusion of minerals under the provisions of the REACH system would create an incentive to shift the production of intermediate products, such as nickel and stainless steel, as well as related end-use products for non-EU markets, to non-EU countries such as China,
- T. whereas a market access restriction placed on particular substances contained in minerals, ores and concentrates would also have a spillover effect on non-EU countries, in particular through losses related to the fall in EU imports of minerals,
1. Stresses its support for the broad objectives of REACH, which are environmental and health protection;
 2. Welcomes the REACH proposals and their aim of ensuring that more information is gained about the chemical substances being used by industry and/or placed on markets for eventual use by consumers in particular;
 3. Calls on the EU to ensure that the objectives and the implementation of its policy with regard to chemical substances and specifically its prospective REACH Regulation are consistent with the Community's policy in the sphere of development cooperation, in compliance with and complementary to the objectives and implementation of the Cotonou Agreement and other relevant obligations under international law;
 4. Urges that REACH should not lead to unintended consequences which may result in this laudable legislation becoming a technical barrier to trade and thereby negatively impacting on the export of commodities and raw materials from ACP countries;
 5. Is firmly of the view that those substances and articles that fall within the remit of REACH do so irrespective of their country of origin/manufacture if they are eventually placed on the EU or ACP markets in one form or another; given that placing on the market, and not the place of manufacture, is the key regulatory trigger,
 6. Stresses that sufficient impact analysis of the REACH legislation on the economies of affected ACP countries should be carried out;
 7. Calls on ACP member states to develop appropriate chemical management frameworks in a similar manner, in such a way as to put an end to the double standards that currently allow the European Union to export prohibited substances to ACP countries;
 8. Urges the need to articulate the costs, both direct and indirect, in the implementation of the REACH legislation, particularly with respect to ACP countries;
 9. Calls on the EU, as a matter of urgency and prior to the final vote by the European Parliament on the draft REACH legislation, to enter into dialogue with the ACP Group and to jointly decide on the modalities for conducting feasibility impact studies on the potential effects of REACH on ACP states;
 10. Calls on the EU to appropriately address the concerns expressed by developing countries and to consider, *inter alia*, the exemption from REACH of naturally occurring substances, such as ores and minerals from registration with provision for restrictions where any risk is involved, and unless they have been chemically modified;
 11. Further calls on the EU to enter into dialogue with the ACP Group and to jointly decide on the modalities for the provision of required capacities that would enable and assist affected developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa and in other ACP countries, to build necessary technical and human resource skills to ensure compliance with the REACH legislation;

12. Calls, in particular, for the Commission to establish a Chemicals Initiative Programme on the model of the Pesticides Initiative Programme, to help ACP exporters meet the requirements of EU chemical legislation;
13. Calls for the task of technical assistance and capacity building to be institutionally embedded in the European Chemicals Agency with the expertise and financial means needed to carry it out and for cooperation with and assistance to third countries to pre-date the entry into force of REACH so that industries are prepared;
14. Believes that assistance should include upgrading testing laboratories to meet OECD Good Laboratory Practice principles and that training institutes of EU Member States could also play a role in information dissemination and training;
15. Welcomes recent attempts to lessen the regulatory and administrative impact on SMEs and in particular the One Substance One Registration (OSOR) approach, and calls for substance data to be made freely available to exporters in ACP countries as part of the OSOR approach;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the ACP Ministers responsible for the Environment, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union.

RESOLUTION ⁽¹⁾

on agricultural and mining commodities

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) from 21 to 24 November 2005,
- having regard to Article 17(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 ⁽²⁾ and, in particular, to Article 68 thereof, which recognises the importance of agricultural and mining commodities for the economic stability of the ACP States, as well as to the Compendium of Cooperation Strategies approved by the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and by the European Community and its Member States,
- having regard to the Declaration and Resolution on Sugar adopted by the Fourth Summit of the Heads of State of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States held on 23 and 24 June 2004 in Maputo,
- having regard to the reforms relating to the common agricultural policy of the European Union currently under way and to the proposed reforms, in particular the Commission's Communication on the reform of the EC sugar regime,
- having regard to the conclusions of the meeting of the Council of the European Union of 27 April 2004 relating to the Commodities Action Plan and to the EU-Africa Cotonou Partnership,
- having regard to the resolution on food aid and food security adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in The Hague from 22 to 25 November 2004,
- having regard to the resolution on cotton and other commodities: problems encountered by the ACP States adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Addis Ababa from 16 to 19 February 2004,

⁽¹⁾ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 24 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

- having regard to the resolution on the promotion of the private sector under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Brazzaville from 31 March to 3 April 2003,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules,
- having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency and amending Directive 1999/45/EC and Regulation (EC) (on Persistent Organic Pollutants) and the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 67/548/EEC in order to adapt it to the Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals,
- having regard to concerns expressed by Ministers from 26 African countries at the Second African Mining Partnership Plenary meeting in Cape Town on 7 February 2005 about potential 'unintended consequences' of REACH legislation on exports to Europe of African mineral products and the need, therefore, to ensure that REACH 'will not create obstacles to economic development and poverty reduction strategies of African states', and the Communiqué of the Fourth Meeting of the African-European Troikas in Luxembourg on 11 April 2004,
- having regard to the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of 1 August 2004 whereby the members adopted frameworks and other agreements designed to focus the negotiations and to raise them to a new level in the process governing the Doha Agenda work programme,
- having regard to the negotiations for economic partnership agreements currently being conducted between the European Union and the ACP States,
- having regard to the UN Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals and the Commission's Communication on Accelerating Progress towards attaining the MDGs — Financing for Development and Aid-Effectiveness and the EU Council's conclusions of 24 May 2005 thereon,
- having regard to the communication from the European Commission dated 2 July 2002 entitled: 'Corporate Social Responsibility: A business contribution to Sustainable Development',
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade (ACP-EU/3765/05/fin.),
 - A. reaffirming the central objective of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement set out in Article 1 thereof: 'reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy',
 - B. whereas ACP states are mostly dependent on the production and export of primary commodities and the majority of the population, particularly women, live in rural areas and work with subsistence food production,
 - C. whereas, according to the 2002 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on least developed countries (LDCs), the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than doubled over the last 30 years, rising from 138 million in the 1960s to 307 million in the 1990s and, if current trends persist, the number of people living on less than USD 1 a day will rise from 307 million to 420 million by 2015,
 - D. whereas, after almost 10 years, the 1996 World Food Summit's commitment to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by the year 2015 is far from being achieved,

- E. having regard to the continuing preponderant role of agricultural and mining commodities in the economies of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the fact that outlets for these products and their prices have a major impact on employment for, and the income of, the most-disadvantaged sections of society,
- F. whereas the signing of an agreement between the EU and China to limit the exportation of some categories of textiles to the EU shows how necessary and legitimate it still is for ACP countries to protect their markets from those imports which threaten the existence or the development of their processing or service enterprises,
- G. whereas the prices of most of the raw materials exported by ACP countries have slumped drastically, while the prices of industrial products have increased continuously, which renders the economies of the ACP countries unviable in the event of mechanisms not being adopted for the regulation of raw materials prices and if they do not diversify their production by manufacturing processed products,
- H. whereas the cash crop economy can put the ACP population in a situation in which they produce for the international market and import subsidised staple food from rich countries to cover their local needs,
- I. having regard to the importance of guaranteeing a fair and stable price for commodities for the economies of the ACP States, which ranges from being a source of revenue to an element of political stability, via social cohesion and the preservation of cultural traditions, ecotourism and the campaign to halt emigration,
- J. aware of the European Union's interest in and attachment to the availability of and easy access to certain commodities which are imported principally from the ACP States and are vital to the smooth functioning of the industrial sector in Europe,
- K. whereas the internal development of the European Union and the pressure of multilateral trade negotiations make a reform of the European common agricultural policy an absolute necessity,
- L. whereas sustainable development of the agricultural and mining sectors of the ACP States may contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, including food security and the fight against poverty,
- M. recalling the need to ensure that the commitments given by the European Union and by the ACP States under the Cotonou Agreement are honoured, in particular those set out in Article 36(4) which provide for a review of the commodity protocols with a view to safeguarding the benefits for the ACP States derived therefrom, taking into account the special legal status of the Sugar Protocol,
- N. whereas cooperation in the WTO between the European Union and the ACP States may eventually lead to account being taken of the interests of the two groups and protect the commodity sectors and industries threatened, including the selection of sensitive products covered by the Commodity Protocols as well as the maintenance of the Special Safeguard Clause,
- O. recalling the overwhelming importance of banana exports to the EU market for several ACP countries; recalling also the rejection by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body of the EU's proposal for the new banana import regime to be implemented as of 1 January 2006 and the new import arrangements recently announced by the European Commission,
- P. whereas, at the WTO negotiations, discussions must focus on the reorganisation of the commodities markets and on the early abolition of export subsidies and of certain domestic support mechanisms that have a damaging impact on the production and export of certain ACP commodities,
- Q. concerned by the European Union's commercial concessions made in various fora which significantly reduce the preferences from which exports from the ACP States currently benefit, without providing the necessary assistance to improve competitiveness,

- R. recalling the commitment of the European Union and of the ACP States to conclude new trade arrangements whereby no ACP State would find itself in a situation less favourable than the one which it currently enjoys,
- S. noting the discussions currently under way in the ACP States concerning the establishment of a new framework for trade cooperation in the form of economic partnership agreements (EPAs),
- T. whereas the imposition of health and plant health standards, as well as standards relating to the use of chemical substances, should only seek to protect consumers and the environment and not to serve as barriers to the export of commodities from the ACP States to the European Union,
- U. concerned at the diversity and plethora of standards and control mechanisms applied to the same products, which reduce the ACP exporters' ability to comply with those rules and procedures, bearing in mind the limited resources and capacity at their disposal,
- V. emphasising the need to provide the ACP States with the capacities which they require if they are to be able to comply with the requirements laid down by the health and plant health standards and the standards relating to the use of chemicals,
- W. whereas short-term fluctuations in commodity prices hamper the implementation of viable and sustained economic policies in the ACP States,
- X. noting the existence, under ACP-EC cooperation arrangements, of a financing mechanism to offset short-term fluctuations in export revenue (FLEX) as well as the shortcomings which became apparent when that mechanism was implemented,
- Y. whereas the impact of such fluctuations might also be alleviated if commodities were processed locally before being exported; noting, however, that the recent adjustment to FLEX does not go far enough to accommodate the problem of addressing the adverse effect of fluctuation in export earnings and reduction in earnings arising from the reform of CAP in respect of products covered by Commodity Protocol,
- Z. whereas, in order to facilitate industrialisation and marketing, the development of public services and instruments and structures for providing support for the private sector must be mobilised in order to underpin processing, marketing, distribution and transport activities (PMDT),
- AA. emphasising the need for clearer and more concise information about mineral deposits in the ACP States and about the investment opportunities available in terms of exploration, exploitation and processing in that sector,
- AB. whereas mining commodities, for example diamond, titanium, cobalt, oil and gas resources, have been used by rebel groups and by non-elected governments to finance the illegal purchase of weapons and have, therewith, fuelled civil wars and contributed to the loss of many lives and to destruction,
- AC. emphasising, further, the importance of access to relevant up-to-date information about the development of agricultural and rural activities and about the policies either pursued in the ACP States or having an impact thereon,
- AD. welcoming the recent establishment of an ACP mining database created by the ACP Secretariat,
- AE. emphasising the important work that the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) and by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) have been carrying out for more than 20 years to promote the agricultural and mining commodities of the ACP States,
- AF. reaffirming the importance of the welfare, security and social rights of workers and their families and the need to protect the environment in which farming and mining activities are carried out,

1. Calls on the Commission and the EU-ACP Council to take new initiatives at a bilateral and multilateral level to safeguard the mechanisms for ensuring a stable and fair price for the principal raw materials, and to create other, new, mechanisms that are in keeping with the new realities;
2. Reaffirms the role of a socially and ecologically responsible private sector in stepping up the pace of sustainable development, more particularly, in processing commodities locally, marketing, distribution and transport activities;
3. Considers that the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, which stipulates the duty of states to cooperate with each other in eliminating obstacles to development and fulfil their duties by promoting a new economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence and mutual interest to encourage respect for human rights, should be implemented;
4. Reaffirms its willingness to continue its efforts to promote the production of goods and services in the ACP States by protecting and supporting certain particularly job-creating sectors of activity and developing local and regional markets as a means of reducing poverty and fostering the prosperity of the populations of those countries;
5. Calls for the EU, ACP States and other like-minded members of the WTO to work closely together in the ongoing WTO Doha Development round, in particular in the run-up to and during the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, so as to consolidate longstanding preferences as recognised in the 2004 July Framework Agreement, and to agree on a tariff reduction formula that provides a safety net for weak and vulnerable ACP States, who otherwise run the risk of being squeezed out of the multilateral trading system and in the process risk being further marginalized;
6. Considers that the European Union should use the WTO and EPA negotiations to promote development especially in ACP countries whose economies are considerably weaker and therefore require strengthening the capacity of their local and regional markets to withstand competition in the context of trade liberalisation;
7. Emphasises the importance of providing the CDE and the CTA, as joint ACP-EU institutions, with adequate resources so as to enable them to take effective action in the restructuring of the mining industry and the agricultural sector in the ACP States, through the provision, on a long-term, sustainable and predictable basis, of adequate support to make them competitive;
8. Emphasises the urgent need to develop national or regional strategies for the development of the commodities sectors including diversification within the sugar sector and PMDT with a view to reducing the ACP States' excessive dependence on the export of raw materials and the consequent vulnerability of their economies;
9. Notes that the global prices of the main agricultural products such as corn, wheat, soy, cotton and rice have fallen by over 60 % since 1996 and, within certain LDC countries, most of which are African countries, the price of coffee, cocoa, sugar and palm oil have decreased by over 60 %;
10. Deplores the fact that, for the past 20 years, many public intervention instruments in the agricultural commodities sector such as state marketing boards have been dismantled as a result of structural adjustment programmes, and this policy reduced the capacity of states to regulate the market;
11. Considers that ACP countries should have the right to protect their agriculture if necessary in order to guarantee decent income for small farmers, increase local production, guarantee food security and proceed to selective market openings, as was the case in Europe;
12. Notes that the EU's compensation and restructuring package for the EU sugar sector exceeds EUR 5 billion; insists that the 18 ACP Sugar Protocol countries, many of whose economies are almost fully dependent on sugar, be given more adequate and timely support, which should be new and fresh money;

13. Calls on the European Council and the Commission to provide, on a secure and predictable basis, at least EUR 80 million in 2006 and an adequate amount thereafter to enable the ACP States supplying sugar under the Sugar Protocol to adapt to the reform; calls for this to include the financing of diversification within the sugar cane cluster through the production of environment-friendly green energy, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability, competitiveness and profitability of their sugar cane industry;
14. Asks for an evaluation of experiences with commodity price stabilisation systems and supply side management schemes, in order to design mechanisms and policies which are primarily oriented towards guaranteeing stable prices for the range of commodities that ACP countries depend on;
15. Reaffirms the need to find solutions in the WTO and in the EPA negotiations so as to maintain the viability of the agricultural commodities sector, in compliance with the spirit of the Cotonou Agreement, in particular to safeguard the benefits derived from the Commodity Protocols as spelt out in Article 36(4) of the Cotonou Agreement;
16. Agrees to use health, food safety, chemical and other regulations as mechanisms only to protect consumers and the environment without the intention to use them as barriers to trade;
17. Calls on the EU Council and the Commission to ensure that the reform of the EC sugar regime is fair and equitable to all stakeholders, including the ACP and the LDCs, and is respectful of the EU's legal commitment under the Sugar Protocol;
18. Encourages the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to speed up the implementation of support programmes to assist ACP countries to comply with reasonable standards in the health, plant health and chemical safety fields and to initiate new ones in order to respond to the changing requirements of the international rules and regulations governing those issues;
19. Expresses its grave concern that the very low tariff recently announced for the new banana regime will not preserve remunerative market access for the ACP suppliers, in particular the most vulnerable; calls on the EU Council and the Commission, following the rejection by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body of the latest proposal relating to the level of the single tariff under the new 'tariff only' banana import regime starting on 1 January 2006, to extend the current import arrangements beyond that date so as to make it possible to negotiate, free of pressure, a balanced settlement that is acceptable to all the parties concerned, in particular Community and ACP producers;
20. Calls, in the context of ACP-EC cooperation, for a strengthening of the capacities of the authorities and various players in the ACP States so as to enable them to participate in the devising of the international standards which should serve as a reference point for rules and regulations in the health and plant health field;
21. Considers it necessary to amplify and implement tangibly and effectively the initiative of the European Parliament and of the European Commission which seeks to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and that concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), as a means of improving the welfare of workers and consumers and urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to keep a close watch on developments concerning those issues so as to prevent those initiatives from turning into non-tariff barriers to trade and to this end calls:
 - for the EU to support impact assessment studies on EU health, plant health and chemical safety regulations on industries in ACP countries;
 - for the rapid introduction of a system of exemptions from costly registration procedures for products which pose minimal risk to consumer welfare and the environment;
 - for assistance to ACP countries to meet compliance costs with reasonable health, plant health and chemical safety regulations;

22. Calls on the ACP States and on the European Union to cooperate more fully with recognised civil society organisations, local authorities, public services and private sector organisations in order to promote fair-trade initiatives which will benefit ACP producers and improve the quality of natural products from the ACP States;
 23. Calls for measures to be taken to ensure that the current reform of the FLEX mechanism, including a product by product approach for agricultural products, and the allocation of the requisite resources to enable this important instrument, established by the Cotonou Agreement, to help alleviate in good time the adverse effects of the instability of export revenues arising as a result of the reform of the CAP and, in this way, to safeguard the social and economic reforms undertaken, and policies pursued by the ACP States;
 24. Calls on the EU and the Commission to review the terms and conditions of financing under the Investment Facility in order to facilitate access to its resources to finance the restructuring and modernisation of the ACP agricultural and mining sectors;
 25. Calls on the European Commission and on the ACP Secretariat to review the possibility of establishing a Guarantee Agency in order to respond to the specific requirements of small and medium-sized enterprises with regard to the protection of their investment in the ACP States, as advocated in Chapter 5 of Annex II to the Cotonou Agreement;
 26. Underlines the importance of the control of trade in raw materials; urges all countries involved in trade in diamonds to accede to the Kimberley process certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds; underscores the importance of progressing towards independent monitoring of compliance with the guidelines concerning the trade in diamonds;
 27. Encourages the setting up and proper use of information systems such as the mining database;
 28. Calls on the ACP governments to publish extractive industry revenues and implement the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and calls on companies to publish what they pay to the government;
 29. Urges the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission to strengthen the existing instruments with a view to supporting local private sector and to create new ones in order to enhance ACP countries' private sector capacity of commodity processing, distribution systems and transport sectors, and to boost those countries' national and regional markets and the export of products to other regions;
 30. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council and to the European Commission.
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