

## I

(Information)

JOINT ASSEMBLY OF THE CONVENTION CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND  
PACIFIC STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (ACP-EU)

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STRASBOURG  
(France)

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**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF MONDAY, 29 MARCH 1999**

(1999/C 271/01)

(The sitting opened at 2.30 p.m.)

**1. Formal inaugural sitting**

The following spoke: Mr Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg; Mr Mogami, Co-President; Lord Plumb, Co-President, and Mr Gutiérrez, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

(The sitting adjourned at 3.45 p.m.)

IN THE CHAIR: Lord PLUMB

*Co-President*

**2. Opening of the sitting**

The sitting opened at 4 p.m.

**3. Adoption of draft agenda and work programme  
(AP/2660/fin)**

It was agreed that the item on the revision of the Rules of Procedure would be taken on Wednesday afternoon, following the discussion on the Great Lakes Region of Africa. With this modification the draft agenda and working programme were adopted.

**4. Substitutes**

The Co-President announced the following substitute:

Fabré-Aubrespy (for Souchet).

**5. Documents received**

The Co-President announced that he had received the following documents:

— AP/2670-working document on the fight against poverty in the ACP countries and in the European Union

General Rapporteur: Mr Robles Piquer

— ACP-EU 2478/B/99/fin. and ACP-EU 2478/A/99/fin. — report by the Working Party on Climate Change and Small Island States

Rapporteur: Mrs Persad-Bissessar (Trinidad & Tobago)

— ACP-EU 2484/B/99/fin. and ACP-EU 2484/A/99/fin. — report by the Working Party on Regional Cooperation in the ACP Countries

Rapporteur: Mr Corrie

— AP/2644/fin-report on the activities of the Follow-up Group on Fisheries in the context of the Lomé Convention

— ACP-EU 2666/A/99 and 2666/B/99 — interim report (2) on the future of ACP-EU relations

Rapporteur: Mrs Kinnock

The following motions for resolution had been tabled:

— AP/2701, by Mr Rui Mendes (Guinea-Bissau), on the situation in Guinea-Bissau

- AP/2702, by Mr Vecchi, on behalf of the PSE Group, on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea
- AP/2703, by Mrs Sauquillo and Mr Pons, on behalf of the PSE Group, on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- AP/2704, by Mrs Carlotti, on behalf of the PSE Group, on disaster prevention and preparedness measures involving representatives of civil society in the development process
- AP/2705, by Mrs Gröner, on behalf of the PSE Group, on the situation of children in the ACP countries
- AP/2706, by the following Members: Chanterie, on behalf of the PPE Group, Bertens, André-Léonard and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Andrews, Girão Pereira and Aldo, on behalf of the UPE Group, Telkämper, Aelvoet and Lannoye, on behalf of the V Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Sandbæk and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on child soldiers
- AP/2707/rev., by Eritrea, on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia
- AP/2708, by Ethiopia, on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea
- AP/2709, by Baldini, on behalf of the PPE Group, Bertens, Fassa and André-Léonard, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Andrews, Aldo and Girão Pereira, on behalf of the UPE Group, Carnero and Miranda, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Telkämper, Aelvoet and Lannoye, on behalf of the V Group, Hory and Castagnède, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Souchet and Sandbæk, on behalf of the EDN Group, on the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea
- AP/2710, by Mrs Kinnock, on Sudan
- AP/2711, by the following Members: Chanterie, on behalf of the PPE Group, Bertens, André-Léonard and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Andrews and Girão Pereira, on behalf of the UPE Group, and Aelvoet and Telkämper, on behalf of the V Group, on the situation in Sudan
- AP/2712, by the Rwandan representative, on the situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa
- AP/2713, by the following members: Baldi, Corrie, Robles Piquer and Schwaiger, on behalf of the PPE Group, André-Léonard, Bertens and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Andrews and Girão Pereira, on behalf of the UPE Group, Carnero, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Aelvoet, Lannoye and Telkämper, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Sandbæk and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the situation in the Great Lakes and the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular
- AP/2714, by the ACP Group, on Congo-Brazzaville
- AP/2715, by the following Members: Corrie, on behalf of the PPE Group, André-Léonard, Bertens and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Girão Pereira and Andrews, on behalf of the UPE Group, and Telkämper and Aelvoet, on behalf of the V Group, on the situation in Congo-Brazzaville
- AP/2716, by Mrs Kinnock, on Nigeria
- AP/2717, by the following members: Majj-Weggen and Robles Piquer, on behalf of the PPE Group, André-Léonard, Bertens and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Aldo, Andrews and Girão Pereira, on behalf of the UPE Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Sandbæk and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the situation in Nigeria
- AP/2718, by Mrs Aelvoet and Mr Telkämper, on the transition from military to civilian rule in Nigeria
- AP/2719, by the following Members: Robles Piquer, on behalf of the PPE Group, Bertens, André-Léonard and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Aldo, Girão Pereira and Andrews, on behalf of the UPE Group, Carnero and Miranda, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Aelvoet, Telkämper and Lannoye, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Souchet and Sandbæk, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the situation in Sierra Leone
- AP/2720, by the following members: Cunha, on behalf of the PPE Group, Bertens and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Aelvoet, Lannoye and Telkämper, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Sandbæk and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the situation in Angola
- AP/2721, by the following Members: Girão Pereira, Andrews and Aldo, on the situation in Angola
- AP/2722, by Mr Miranda, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, on the situation in Angola
- AP/2723, by Mrs Kinnock, on South Africa
- AP/2724, by the following Members: Corrie, Majj-Weggen and Schwaiger, on behalf of the PPE Group, André-Léonard, Bertens and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Aelvoet, Lannoye and Telkämper, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Sandbæk and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the failure of the Council to approve the Draft Agreement on Trade and Cooperation with South Africa
- AP/2725, by Mrs Junker, on ACP-EU cooperation in electoral procedures and participation by the ACP countries at elections
- AP/2726, by the following Members: Corie, Lehideux, Majj-Weggen and Schwaiger, on behalf of the PPE Group, André-Léonard and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Aldo, Andrews and Girão Pereira, on behalf of the UPE Group, Aelvoet, Lannoye and Telkämper, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Sandbæk and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on ACP-EU cooperation and involvement in electoral processes in ACP countries and the role of the Joint Assembly
- AP/2727, by the ACP Group, on the WTO millennium round of negotiations with special reference to ACP rum

- AP/2728, by the ACP Group, on the WTO millennium round of negotiations with special reference to ACP sugar
- AP/2729, by Mrs Kinnock, on the WTO millennium round of negotiations with special reference to the ACP countries and the Lomé Convention
- AP/2730, by the following Members: Baldini, Gillis, Schwaiger and Maij-Weggen, on behalf of the PPE Group, Aldo, Girão Pereira and Andrews, on behalf of the UPE Group, Lannoye, Aelvoet and Telkämper, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Souchet and Sandbæk, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the 'Millennium Round' negotiations with particular reference to the ACP countries and the Lomé Convention
- AP/2731, by the ACP Group, on the WTO millennium round of negotiations with special reference to ACP bananas
- AP/2732, by the following Members: Cunha, on behalf of the PPE Group, Aldo, Girão Pereira and Andrews, on behalf of the UPE Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Souchet and Sandbæk, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the banana dispute within the WTO
- AP/2733, by Mrs Junker, on behalf of the PSE Group, on the participation of civil society in the development process
- AP/2734, by the following Members: Chanterie and Baldi, on behalf of the PPE Group, Fassa, André-Léonard and Bertens, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Andrews, Girão Pereira and Aldo, on behalf of the UPE Group, and Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, on the participation of civil society in the development process
- AP/2735, by Mrs Junker, on the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises to sustainable development in the ACP countries
- AP/2736, by the following Members: Gillis, Corrie and Schwaiger, on behalf of the PPE Group, Fassa, André-Léonard and Bertens, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Aldo, Girão Pereira and Andrews, on behalf of the UPE Group, and Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, on the importance of SMEs to sustainable development in the ACP countries
- AP/2737, by Mr Telkämper and Mrs Aelvoet, on small and medium-sized enterprises
- AP/2738, by Mrs Junker, on the cultural dimension of development cooperation, including cultural heritage and tourism
- AP/2739, by the following Members: Baldi, Escudero and Corrie, on behalf of the PPE Group, André-Léonard, Fassa and Bertens, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Girão Pereira, Andrews and Aldo, on behalf of the UPE Group, and Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, on the cultural dimension in development cooperation, including matters relating to heritage and tourism
- AP/2740, by Mrs Junker, on behalf of the PSE Group, on the contribution of science and research (including information techniques) to sustainable development

- AP/2741, by the following Members: Robles Piquer and Baldi, on behalf of the PPE Group, Bertens, André-Léonard and Fassa, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Andrews, Aldo and Girão Pereira, on behalf of the UPE Group, Lannoye, Telkämper and Aelvoet, on behalf of the Green Group, Castagnède and Hory, on behalf of the ARE Group, and Souchet and Sandbæk, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the contribution of research and science — including information technologies — to sustainable development
- AP/2742, by Mr Girão Pereira, Mr Andrews and Mr Aldo, on the imprisonment of MPs in Angola
- AP/2743, by Burundi, on support for the peace process in Burundi.

## 6. Statement by Commissioner Pinheiro

Commissioner Pinheiro made a statement. Lord Plumb greeted the young people present in the visitors' galleries and remarked that they had a unique occasion to see the representatives of the 15 EU and 71 ACP countries.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr T.D. MOGAMI

*Co-President*

## 7. Question Time to the Commission

Thirty-five questions were put to the Commission by

- Fassa (ELDR) on action by the Commission in support of fairness and solidarity in trade
- Nordmann (ELDR) on Angola
- Rui Mendes (Guinea-Bissau) on people displaced by war
- Mali on the disbursement of funds
- Mali on refugees in Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau
- Mali on political dialogue
- Shiddo (Sudan) on countries sanctioned under Lomé IV
- Shiddo (Sudan) on Sudan's entitlements under Lomé IV
- Telkämper, Aelvoet and Lannoye (Green Group) on the situation in Bougainville
- Aelvoet, Telkämper and Lannoye (Green Group) on Angola
- Telkämper, Aelvoet and Lannoye (Green Group) on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea
- Aelvoet, Telkämper and Lannoye (Green Group) on trade
- Aelvoet, Telkämper and Lannoye (Green Group) on Sierra Leone

- Aelvoet, Lannoye and Telkämper (Green Group) on the Great Lakes region
  - Weldegiorgis (Eritrea) on the Eritro-Ethiopia conflict
  - Robles Piquer (PPE) on the situation in Haiti and EU cooperation
  - Baldi (PPE) on climate change
  - Baldi (PPE) on minefields
  - Verwaerde (PPE) on subsidised NGOs' observation missions
  - Cunningham, Junker, Kinnock, Gröner and Sandbaek on the provision of reproductive health care for refugees and internally displaced people in ACP countries
  - Sandbaek, Kinnock, Cunningham, Gröner and Junker on the inclusion of reproductive health in a separate chapter on health in the new ACP-EU partnership agreement
  - Cunha, Fernández Martín, Baldi, Girão Pereira and Robles Piquer on the situation in Angola
  - Sandbaek (I-EDN Group) on disarmament
  - Sandbaek (I-EDN Group) on Morocco
  - Nyathi (Zimbabwe) on the implications of the EU-SA FTA for intra-SADC trade
  - Kuruneri (Zimbabwe) on safeguarding SADC trading interests under the implementation of the EU-South Africa FTA
  - Nyathi (Zimbabwe) on safeguarding benefits to SADC/ACP countries under Lomé from implementation of the EU-SA FTA
  - Gabon on the effects of the euro in the ACP countries and also the CFA franc zone
  - Kinnock (PSE) on REPAs
  - Kinnock (PSE) on human/social development issues in the renegotiation of Lomé
  - Kinnock (PSE) on the renegotiation of the Lomé Convention
  - Girão Pereira (UPE Group) on the situation in Guinea-Bissau
  - Telkämper (Green Group) on the situation in Western Sahara
  - Telkämper (Green Group) on the Lomé Convention
  - Lannoye, Aelvoet and Telkämper (Green Group) on bananas
- Questions nos. 12, 29, 31, 20, 21, 30, 6, 7, 23, 34, 25, 26, 27, 17, 18, 28, 35, 2, 10, 22, 3, 5, 32, 13 and 5 were answered orally by Commissioner Pinheiro.
- Written answers would be given to questions 19, 1, 11, 15, 8, 14, 9, 16, 4, 24 and 33.
- Supplementary questions were put by Mrs Aelvoet to question 12, Mrs Kinnock to question 29, Mr Cunningham, Mrs Kinnock and Mrs Sandbaek to question 20, Zimbabwe to question 25, Mr Telkämper to question 2, and Mr Robles Piquer to question 10.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr T.D. MOGAMI and Mrs KINNOCK

*Co-President and Vice-President respectively*

#### **8. General report on the fight against poverty in the ACP countries and in the EU Member States (AP/2670)**

— **Rapporteur: Mr Robles Piquer**

The General Rapporteur, Mr Robles Piquer, presented his report on the fight against poverty in the ACP countries and in the EU Member States.

The following spoke: the representative of Barbados, McGowan, the representative of Ghana, Aelvoet, Kinnock, Lowe (Commission representative) and Robles Piquer.

*(The sitting adjourned at 7.15 p.m.)*

T.D. MOGAMI and Lord PLUMB

*Co-Presidents*

D. NICKEL and N.P. MAGANDE

*Co-Secretaries-General*