

Procedure file

Basic information		
AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	1996/0023(AVC)	Procedure completed
ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention		
Subject 6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities		
Geographical area ACP countries		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		23/02/1995
		GUE/NGL WURTZ Francis	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations		21/02/1996
		ELDR PORTO Manuel	
Council of the European Union	TRAN Transport and Tourism		26/03/1996
		UPE DONNAY Jacques	
	PECH Fisheries		24/04/1996
		EDN SOUCHET Dominique F.C.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	1915	27/04/1998
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1937	18/06/1996
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1896	18/12/1995
	General Affairs	1878	31/10/1995
	General Affairs	1853	12/06/1995
	General Affairs	1844	10/04/1995
	General Affairs	1830	06/03/1995
	General Affairs	1827	06/02/1995
	General Affairs	1825	23/01/1995

Key events			
14/12/1994	Additional information		Summary
23/01/1995	Debate in Council	1825	Summary

06/03/1995	Debate in Council	1830	
10/04/1995	Debate in Council	1844	
12/06/1995	Debate in Council	1853	
23/01/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0707	Summary
22/04/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/11/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
20/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0387/1996	
11/12/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
12/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0674/1996	Summary
27/04/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
29/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0023(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 228-p2/3-a2; EC before Amsterdam E 238
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/07844

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0707	23/01/1996	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	06075/1996	19/04/1996	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0387/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0003	20/11/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0674/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0086-0134	12/12/1996	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 1998/344 OJ L 156 29.05.1998, p. 0001 Summary

PREVIOUS COMMUNITY LEGISLATION: Council and Commission Decision (91/400/ECSC, EEC) of 25 February 1991 on the conclusion of the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention. PREVIOUS POSITION OF THE EP: On 16 May 1990 the European Parliament gave its assent in the form of a legislative resolution to the conclusion of the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention.

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

The Council instructed the French Presidency to come up with a compromise formula for the trade provisions of the negotiations and certain indicative parameters for the volume of the 8th EDF to run from 1995 to 2000. Trade provisions: the compromise proposal of the French Presidency seeks to improve the conditions under which agricultural products from ACP countries access the Community market and to reconcile the pressing needs of the ACP countries and the interests of the Mediterranean Member States. It adapts the benefits granted to the ACP countries for three different categories of products that are protected to a greater or lesser extent: 1) products for which the ACP states do not enjoy any preference: 10% reduction in customs duties/levies; 2) products subject to tariff quotas or reference amounts: in general, conversion of quotas into ceilings and elimination of reference amounts; 3) products subject to timetables: 10% reduction in customs duties outside the current timetables. Derogations are laid down for each category of products. 8th EDF: although the amount of the financial contribution was discussed, a final figure was not agreed. France stated clearly, however, that the 7th EDF should be updated (ECU 12 billion, including EIB loans), taking account of two parameters: 1) in the past the resources of the European Development Fund had always been increased by 21.5% to cover at least inflation (which would give ECU 14.6 billion for the 8th EDF); 2) the European Union had been enlarged to include three new prosperous Member States.

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

OBJECTIVE: the draft Decision is intended to enable the Council and the Commission (EC/ECSC) to conclude the mid-term revision of the fourth LOMÉ Convention with, in particular, the setting of a new financial budget for Community aid to the ACP countries, granted under the 8th EDF. SUBSTANCE: the revision of LOMÉ IV essentially concerns the following points: . setting of the overall level of Community aid to the ACP countries for the period 1995-2000 under the second financial protocol to LOMÉ IV at ECU 14.625 billion, of which ECU 12.967 bn is from the EDF and ECU 1.658 bn from the EIB, to which is added an overall contribution of ECU 200 m in aid to the overseas countries and territories (ECU 165 m from the EDF and ECU 35 m from the EIB), . introduction of a clause allowing aid to be suspended in the event of the violation of human rights, democracy or the rule of law, accompanied by a consultation mechanism which respects the partnership, . insertion of a reference to the principles of the market economy and to the importance of the private sector as an engine of development, . reform of the programming of aid to encourage sound management, without jeopardizing the predictability of aid, comprising the payment of 70% of the overall budget for each country and payment of the balance in the light of an assessment after three years, . priority given to regional cooperation to develop South-South trade, which currently accounts for only 6% of ACP countries' trade, . improvements to the trade component, through the granting of preferences for all agricultural products (industrial products are already exempt from customs duties) and a relaxation of the rules of origin, . ACP agricultural products exported to the Union will all benefit from a reduction in customs duties, their treatment varying according to their degree of sensitivity for the Community market: -list 1, products which have hitherto not enjoyed any preference: 16% reduction in customs duties for all products (except olives, olive oil, wine and lemons), -list 2, products subject to tariff quotas or reference amounts: conversion of quotas into ceilings for certain products and 15% reduction in customs duties outside ceilings, -list 3, products subject to timetables: general 15% reduction in customs duties outside the current timetables, except for certain products. As regards fisheries, annual quantities of tuna are increased by 1500 tonnes p.a. (from 2500 tonnes to 4000 tonnes) and by 500 tonnes of fillets. . the rules of origin have been made more flexible for all processed products (except for tuna, rice and certain textile products) as a result of extending the ACP cumulation to cover 16 adjacent non-ACP developing countries. . However, preferential tariffs no longer form the basis of ACP/EU relations, since future aid will be based on sustainable development (including investment in industry and the encouragement of commercial competitiveness). ?

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

In adopting the report by Francis WURTZ (EUL/NGL, F), the Committee on Development and Cooperation chaired by Bernard KOUCHNER (PES, F) proposed that Parliament should give its assent to the conclusion of the agreement amending the Fourth ACP-EU Convention. The revised Lomé Convention is not a perfect compromise but will prove useful to the ACP developing countries.?

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

The rapporteur, Mr Wurtz (GUE/NGL, F), said that public aid for development was in free fall and amounted to barely 0.27% of the wealth produced in the industrialised nations, which was the lowest level for a quarter of a century. It was against this background that the Committee on Development wanted to assess the achievements and shortcomings of Lomé IV. Expressing alarm for the fate of Lomé IV, which would probably be the last of its kind, Mr Wurtz urged members to vote for the preservation and strengthening of the 'spirit of Lomé', which was being opposed by the full force of the ultra-liberals. He referred in particular to the partnership that was the founding principle of Lomé and on the basis of which it would be possible to reject the unilateral conditionality imposed by the international financial institutions. Commissioner Pinheiro shared the concerns of the rapporteur for the future of development and cooperation. Paying tribute to the role played by Parliament, which had always supported better relations between the European Union and the third world, the Commissioner said that he was favourably disposed to opening an in-depth debate on the future of the partnership.

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

In adopting the report by Mr Francis WURTZ (GUE/NGL, F) Parliament gave its assent to the conclusion of the Agreement amending the Fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995 . ?

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

OBJECTIVE: to amend the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé at mid-term. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Decision 98/344/EC concerning the conclusion of the Agreement amending the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995. **SUBSTANCE:** The purpose of the Agreement is to step up the Union's support for the development of the ACP countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific States) by modernising and adjusting the instruments of the Convention, without calling into question the fundamental principles on which ACP-EC cooperation is based, particularly that of partnership. The innovations introduced by the Agreement include: 1) political aspects: bolstering the political and institutional elements in the Convention by: -affirming the principles of democracy and the rule of law, which are regarded as 'essential elements' of the Convention, -the insertion of a clause permitting the total or partial suspension of cooperation in the event of violation of one of these elements, except in special emergencies, -extension of the dialogue between the parties to include political problems; 2) the development of trade: the parties recognise that the development of trade is central to ACP-EC cooperation and that the deterioration in the commercial performance of the ACP countries arising from their uncompetitiveness, the erosion of their preferences and the insufficient diversification of their economies must be remedied. The Agreement also comprises fresh trade concessions for certain agricultural products and renders some of the provisions concerning rules of origin more flexible; 3) financial and technical cooperation: improvements have been made to procedures for implementing financial and technical cooperation, particularly those relating to the programming of the assistance. The aim is, in particular, to make more effective use of the financial resources of the European Development Fund (EDF); 4) the volume of aid: under the 2nd Financial Protocol to the Convention (8th EDF) the Union is to make available to the ACP countries approximately EC 13.3 bn in financial assistance (an uprating of 22% in relation to the previous EDF). Loans from the European Investment Bank's own resources are additional to this, and will bring the Community's total financial assistance to ECU 14 625 million over five years (1995-2000). **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 01.06.1998.?