

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2007/2180(INI)	Procedure completed
Activities of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in 2007		
Subject 8.40.13 ACP-EU bodies		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development		10/09/2007
		PSE HUTCHINSON Alain	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Development	MICHEL Louis	

Key events			
27/09/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/05/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
08/05/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0175/2008	
04/06/2008	Debate in Parliament		
05/06/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/06/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0259/2008	Summary
05/06/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2180(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/6/53255

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE404.421	18/03/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE405.725	16/04/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0175/2008	08/05/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0259/2008	05/06/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)4439	16/07/2008	EC	

Activities of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in 2007

The Committee on Development adopted the own initiative report by Alain HUTCHINSON (PES, BE) on the work of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), welcoming the fact that, in 2007, the JPA provided a framework for an open, democratic and in-depth dialogue on the negotiation of EPAs between the European Union and the ACP countries, while stressing the concerns expressed by the JPA over several aspects of the negotiations, with regard to both form and substance.

MEPs welcome the commitment made by the Commissioner responsible for development during the JPA session in Kigali to subject Country and Regional Strategy Papers for the ACP countries (period 2008-2013) to democratic scrutiny by parliaments. They recall, in this regard, the need to closely involve parliaments in the democratic process and in the national development strategies and their vital role in establishing, following up and monitoring development policies. MEPs Calls on the parliaments of the ACP countries to demand that their governments and the Commission involve them in the process relating to the preparation and implementation of the Country Strategy Papers. The Commission is called upon to supply all available information to the parliaments of the ACP countries and to provide them with assistance in this work of democratic control, in particular by supporting their capacities.

MEPs reaffirm that they support the JPA's request, as expressed in previous years, for a suitable percentage of EDF appropriations to be assigned to education and to the political training of parliamentarians and political, economic and social leaders, in the interest of good governance, the rule of law and the rise of democracy in the country. MEPs also, once again, call on the ACP countries to exercise their parliamentary scrutiny in respect of the European Development Fund (EDF), while the Commission is, again, called upon to fill the funding gap between the implementation of EDF 9 and EDF 10.

In terms of the impact of the JPA, MEPs consider that it plays a positive role in political dialogue and in the quest for a global agreement for peace in Darfur. They call on the JPA to contribute to the international community's awareness-raising effort with regard to the conflicts affecting North Kivu and several regions in the east of the DRC. At the same time, they call on the JPA to pursue dialogue with the Pan-African Parliament and parliaments of regional organisations on all issues related to conflict prevention. They regret therefore that, having debated the issue of Somalia during the JPA session in Kigali, the situation in Somalia has not improved, and continues to be a 'forgotten crisis'.

At organisational level, MEPs encourage the JPA to strengthen the role of its Committee on Political Affairs in order to make it a true forum for conflict prevention and settlement in the context of the ACP-EU partnership, and, to that end, to make the debates on urgent situations more general. While they welcome the work done in the area of good governance, as well as in the monitoring of elections, MEPs urge greater attention to be paid to the issue of food security, especially at a time when the World Food Programme is sounding the alarm due to the rise in prices and the decline in world food stocks.

Lastly, MEPs highlight the importance of the effectiveness of aid and urge the JPA to hold an in-depth debate on the concept of official development aid, budgeting issues and forms of alternative funding in development cooperation. They also note with satisfaction the growing participation of non-governmental stakeholders in JPA sessions and call on the JPA, the EU and ACP countries to encourage, from a financial and technical point of view, the participation of the civil society of ACP countries in this work.

Activities of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in 2007

The European Parliament adopted by 592 votes to 24, with 10 abstentions, a resolution on the work of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA).

The own initiative report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Alain HUTCHINSON (PES, BE) on behalf of the Committee on Development.

The resolution welcomes the fact that in 2007 the JPA provided a framework for an open, democratic and in-depth dialogue on the negotiation of EPAs between the EU and the ACP countries, while stressing the concerns expressed by the JPA about several aspects of the negotiations, with regard to both form and substance. In this regard, the Parliament points out that the debate has continued since the adoption of EPAs with the Caribbean.

JPA session in Kigali and the involvement of national parliaments: the Parliament welcomes the commitment made by the Commissioner responsible for development and humanitarian aid during the JPA session in Kigali to subject Country and Regional Strategy Papers for the ACP countries (relating to the period 2008-2013) to democratic scrutiny by parliaments. It recalls, in this regard, the need to involve parliaments closely in the democratic process and in national development strategies as well as their vital role in establishing, following up and monitoring development policies. The Parliament calls on the parliaments of the ACP countries to demand that their governments and the Commission involve them in the process of preparation and implementation of the Country Strategy Papers. The Commission is called upon to supply all available information to the parliaments of the ACP countries and to provide them with assistance in this process of democratic control, in particular by supporting their capacities.

Financial aid: the Parliament reiterates its call for a percentage of EDF appropriations to be assigned to education and to the political training of parliamentarians in developing countries, as well as to political, economic and social leaders. Once again, the Parliament calls on the ACP

countries to exercise their parliamentary scrutiny in respect of the European Development Fund (EDF), while the Commission is, again, called upon to fill the funding gap between the implementation of the 9th and 10th EDF.

Impact of the JPA: the Parliament considers that this structure plays a positive role in political dialogue and in the quest for a global agreement for peace in Darfur. It calls on the JPA to contribute to the international community's awareness-raising effort with regard to the conflicts affecting North Kivu and several regions in the east of the DRC. At the same time, it calls on the JPA to pursue dialogue with the Pan-African Parliament and other regional organisations on all issues related to conflict prevention. It therefore regrets that, having debated the issue of Somalia during the JPA session in Kigali, the situation in Somalia has not improved, and continues to be a 'forgotten crisis'.

Organisation of the JPA: the Parliament encourages the JPA to strengthen the role of its Committee on Political Affairs in order to make it a true forum for conflict prevention and settlement in the context of the ACP-EU partnership, and, to that end, to make the debates on urgent situations more general. While it welcomes the work done in the area of good governance, as well as in the monitoring of elections, it urges greater attention to be paid to the issue of food security, especially at a time when the World Food Programme is sounding the alarm due to the rise in prices and the decline in world food stocks. The Parliament also hopes that regional JPA meetings take place in 2008 and that European policies are addressed in order to improve cohesion.

Effectiveness of aid: the Parliament urges the JPA to hold an in-depth debate on the concept of official development aid, budgeting issues and forms of alternative funding in development cooperation. It also notes with satisfaction the growing participation of non-governmental stakeholders in JPA sessions and calls on the JPA, the EU and ACP countries to encourage, from a financial and technical point of view, the participation of the civil society of ACP countries in this work.