














Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2008/0137(NLE)	Awaiting final decision
EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement		
Subject 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities		
Geographical area Ghana		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 FJELLNER Christofer	22/07/2014
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 KIRTON-DARLING Jude	
		 LOONES Sander	
		 BALCELLS Ramon	
		 KELLER Ska	
	Former committee responsible		
	 International Trade		
	 International Trade		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Former committee for opinion		
	 Development		
	 Development		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2906	21/11/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	DE GUCHT Karel	

Key events			
09/07/2008	Preparatory document	COM(2008)0441	
02/12/2009	Additional information		Summary
03/10/2016	Legislative proposal published	12396/2016	Summary
24/10/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/11/2016	Vote in committee		
14/11/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0328/2016	Summary
30/11/2016	Debate in Parliament		
01/12/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
01/12/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0466/2016	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/0137(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	INTA/8/00023

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2008)0440	10/07/2008	EC	Summary
Preparatory document		COM(2008)0441	10/07/2008	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		12130/2008	30/06/2014	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE589.325	21/09/2016	EP	
Legislative proposal		12396/2016	04/10/2016	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0328/2016	14/11/2016	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0466/2016	01/12/2016	EP	Summary

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

PURPOSE: to propose the signature and the provisional application of a stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between the

European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Ghana, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: the content of this provisional Agreement is identical to that of the general Agreement. For more details, please refer to the summary of the Commission's initial proposal of 10/07/2008.

To recall, this stepping stone Agreement concerns trade and development cooperation issues linking the Community and its Member States and Ghana.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, amended the EU's two core treaties, the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty establishing the European Community (EC Treaty). The latter was renamed the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

These changes had various consequences for many ongoing procedures. First of all, the articles of the TEU and of the old EC Treaty that constitute the legal basis of all the proposals founded on those Treaties were renumbered in accordance with the table of equivalences mentioned in Article 5 of the Lisbon Treaty.

In addition, some proposals underwent a change to their legal basis going beyond a mere change to their numbering, and this resulted in changes to the type of procedure.

The Lisbon Treaty also introduced new concepts of decision-making procedure. The old "codecision procedure" was extended to new areas and renamed the "ordinary legislative procedure". A new "consent procedure" replaced the old "assent procedure". New interinstitutional procedures were also set up for the adoption of certain non-legislative acts, for example the conclusion of some international agreements.

The ongoing proposals concerned by these changes were formally modified by the Commission in a Communication published on 2 December 2009 ([COM\(2009\)0665](#)).

In the case of the proposal for a Council Decision concluding the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Ghana, of the other part, the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty had the following impacts:

- the old legal basis ? Treaty/EC/Art.133, Art 181, Art.300(3) 2nd para. - became Art 207(4) first para, Art.211, Art 218 (6)(a) of the TFEU. Please note that the numbering of the old legal basis corresponds to the consolidated version of the Treaty that was applicable immediately before the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, and may differ from the references in the original Commission proposal;
- the proposal, which had previously fallen under the old assent procedure (AVC), was classified as an interinstitutional non-legislative procedure (NLE).

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

PURPOSE: to conclude the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, calls for the conclusion of WTO-compatible Economic Partnership Agreements.

On 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements with members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

Negotiations for a stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement have been concluded with Ghana and the Agreement has been initialled on 13 December 2007.

The Agreement was signed on 28 July 2016 subject to its conclusion at a later date. It has been provisionally applied pending its entry into force. It is now necessary for it to be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision aims to approve on behalf of the Union the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

It is noted that the Agreement shall not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations which can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts and tribunals.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP, SE) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament should give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

The committee recalled that with the signature of the EU-West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) taking additional time, Ghana (and subsequently Côte d'Ivoire) has decided to proceed with ratification of its Stepping Stone Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, concluded back in 2007.

The deal ensures a contractual safety net, warranting a duty-free access to the EU market until the regional agreement comes into a fruition. The IEPA matches market access opportunities with provisions addressing technical barriers to trade and helping Ghanaian exporters meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

No less important is the co-operation aimed at strengthening capacity in fiscal reforms, improving business climate, competitiveness, trade facilitation and customs co-operation.

Therefore, Parliament is called upon to give consent to this interim agreement which would open doors to its provisional application in order to allow Ghanaian exporters to preserve the duty-free preferences on the European market.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The European Parliament adopted, by 375 votes to 220 with 46 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

The European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

As a reminder, this stepping stone Agreement ensures a contractual safety net, warranting a duty-free access to the EU market until the regional agreement comes into a fruition and it matches market access opportunities with provisions addressing technical barriers to trade.