



Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2008/0139(NLE)	Awaiting final decision
EC/Central Africa 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 Cameroon		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade		26/11/2012
		S&D MARTIN David	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE ŠŤASTNÝ Peter	
		ALDE RINALDI Niccolò	
		Verts/ALE KELLER Ska	
		ECR STURDY Robert	
	Former committee responsible		
	INTA International Trade		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development		21/11/2012
		Verts/ALE SARGENTINI Judith	
	Former committee for opinion		
	DEVE Development		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2905	20/11/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	DE GUCHT Karel	

Key events			
09/07/2008	Preparatory document	COM(2008)0446	Summary
02/12/2009	Additional information		Summary
	Legislative proposal published		Summary

22/10/2012		14757/2012	
19/11/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/05/2013	Vote in committee		
03/06/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0190/2013	Summary
13/06/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/06/2013	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0272/2013	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/0139(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
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	INTA/7/00113

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		COM(2008)0445	10/07/2008	EC	Summary
Preparatory document		COM(2008)0446	10/07/2008	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		14757/2012	23/10/2012	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE506.131	04/03/2013	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE504.062	05/04/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE510.588	16/05/2013	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0190/2013	03/06/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0272/2013	13/06/2013	EP	Summary

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
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Final act

[Decision 2009/152](#)
[OJ L 057 28.02.2009, p. 0001](#)

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 Central Africa, of the other part (only Cameroon at this stage).

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 Cameroon.

EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

PURPOSE: to conclude the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Central Africa, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: as it was not possible to conclude before end 2007 a complete EPA with the whole Central African region, that is:

- § Cameroon,
- § Central African Republic,
- § Chad,
- § Democratic Republic of Congo,
- § Congo,
- § Equatorial Guinea,
- § Gabon,
- § Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

this stepping stone EPA has been negotiated in order to avoid disrupting trade between Central Africa and the European Community, pending completion of the comprehensive EPA with the whole Central African region.

At this stage, the Central African part is composed of Cameroon which is the only country to have initialled it up to now.

Following the initialling of this stepping stone EPA on 17 December 2007, Cameroon was added to the list of countries benefiting from the EPA trade regime established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1528/2007](#) adopted on 20 December 2007. This Regulation provides for an advance application of the EPA trade regime. This ensured that there was no trade disruption for Cameroon upon the expiry on 31 December 2007 of the trade provisions set out in Annex V of the Cotonou Agreement and the WTO waiver that covered them.

The negotiation of a full EPA with all Central African states continues, consistently with the negotiating directives for EPAs with the ACP States adopted by Council on 12 June 2002. The stepping stone EPA initialled by Cameroon is intended to be available for the region as a whole. It will be extended by the outcome of negotiations for full EPA reached in 2008.

Pending its entry into force, the stepping stone EPA foresees its provisional application.

CONTENT: the stepping stone EPA, which the Commission request the Council to conclude on behalf of the Community, after assent by the European Parliament, contains provisions on:

- § trade in Goods, that is to say Customs and Non Tariff Measures;
- § trade Defence Instruments;
- § customs Regime and Trade Facilitation;
- § technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
- § forestry Governance and Trade for Forest Related Products.

It also contains Development Cooperation provisions setting out priority areas of action for its implementation. The stepping stone EPA establishes a framework for development cooperation towards the strengthening of capacity and reinforcement of national economies in Central Africa. It also recalls the Commission's and Member States' intention to contribute to a regional development fund.

The stepping stone EPA initialled by Cameroon is intended to be available for the region as a whole. It will be extended by the outcome of negotiations for full EPA reached in 2008. It therefore foresees the continuation of negotiations at regional level on Establishment, Services and Electronic Trade and Trade Related rules.

Provisional application: pending the entry into force of the stepping stone EPA, the stepping stone EPA foresees the provisional application of the Agreement (see COM(2008)0445).

Lastly, the European Parliament will be called upon to give its assent to the conclusion of the stepping stone EPA.

EC/Central Africa 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 Central Africa, 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/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

PURPOSE: the conclusion of the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Council has by its Decision 2009/152/EC decided on the signature of the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part ("the interim agreement"). The interim agreement was signed on 15 January 2009.

It is now appropriate to conclude the agreement on behalf of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was undertaken.

LEGAL BASIS: Articles 207 and 211, in conjunction with point (a) of Article 218(6), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal for a decision is to approve on behalf of the Union, the stepping stone Economic partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Members States, of the one part, and Central Africa, of the other part.

The text of the [stepping stone agreement](#) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union, with the decision in regard to its signature. For further information regarding the content of the agreement, please refer to the summary dated 10/07/2008.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: the proposal has no impact on the EUs budget.

EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by David MARTIN (S&D, UK) on the draft Council decision concluding the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part.

Members recommend that the European Parliament should consent to the conclusion of the Agreement as this would send an important signal on the importance of the trade relationship to the Central African region as a whole.

EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision concluding the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part.

Parliament consented to the conclusion of the agreement.