



Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2008/0136(NLE)	Awaiting final decision
EC/Côte d'Ivoire 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 Côte d'Ivoire		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade (Associated committee)		09/09/2008
		PSE MANN Erika	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development (Associated committee)		15/07/2008
		ALDE VAN HECKE Johan	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	3595	15/02/2018
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2906	21/11/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade	DE GUCHT Karel	

Key events			
10/07/2008	Preparatory document	COM(2008)0439	Summary
10/02/2009	Legislative proposal published	05535/2009	Summary
19/02/2009	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2009	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
16/03/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
18/03/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0144/2009	
23/03/2009	Debate in Parliament		
25/03/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
25/03/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0184/2009	Summary
02/12/2009	Additional information		Summary
15/02/2018	Debate in Council	3595	

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/0136(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/6/66015

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2008)0438	10/07/2008	EC	Summary
Preparatory document		COM(2008)0439	10/07/2008	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		12129/2008	10/11/2008	CSL	
Legislative proposal		05535/2009	10/02/2009	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE420.085	18/02/2009	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE418.111	10/03/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0144/2009	18/03/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0184/2009	25/03/2009	EP	Summary

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX

EC/Côte d'Ivoire 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 Côte d'Ivoire, 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 Côte d'Ivoire.

EC/Côte d'Ivoire 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 the Côte d'Ivoire, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the stepping stone EPA has been negotiated with Côte d'Ivoire in order to avoid disrupting trade between this country and the Community on 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, and pending the completion of a comprehensive EPA with the whole West African region.

Following the initialling of this Agreement respectively on 7 December 2007, Côte d'Ivoire was added to the list of countries benefiting from an EPA trade regime established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1528/2007](#), adopted on 20 December 2007. This Regulation provided for an

advance application of the EPA trade regime.

The negotiation of a full EPA with the whole West African region continues, consistently with the negotiating directives for EPAs with the ACP States adopted by Council on 12 June 2002. The countries of this region are:

- Benin,
- Burkina Faso,
- Ivory Coast,
- Guinea Bissau,
- Mali,
- Niger,
- Senegal,
- Togo,
- Cape Verde,
- Gambia,
- Ghana,
- Guinea,
- Liberia,
- Nigeria,
- Sierra Leone,
- Mauritania.

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,
- Customs and Trade Facilitation,
- Technical Barriers to Trade,
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

There are also Development Cooperation provisions setting out priority areas of action for the implementation of the EPA. Each individual substantive chapter of the Agreement includes specific areas of cooperation and a Development Cooperation declaration establishes the link with the EU Aid for Trade strategy and recalls the Commission's and Member States' intention to contribute to a regional development fund.

The Agreement also foresees the continuation of negotiations at regional level on investment, services and trade related issues and provides that the full regional EPA will supersede it once concluded.

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)0438).

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

EC/Côte d'Ivoire stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

This proposal for a decision forms the legal basis by which the Côte d'Ivoire, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part conclude a stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement.

The content of the Agreement is consistent with the Commission's initial proposal (please refer to the summary of the initial proposal dated 10 July 2008). The Agreement was initialled on 7 December 2007 and has been provisionally applied pending its entry into force.

The Agreement requires the European Parliament's assent.

The text of the Agreement is attached to the proposal for a decision and can be found in Council document 12129/08.

EC/Côte d'Ivoire stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report drawn up by Erika MANN (PES, DE) recommending that the European Parliament give its assent to the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Côte d'Ivoire, of the other part.

EC/Côte d'Ivoire stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

The European Parliament adopted by 457 votes to 80, with 42 abstentions, a legislative resolution and gave its assent to the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Côte d'Ivoire, of the other part.

It should be noted that this legislative resolution is linked to a joint resolution on the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement EC-Côte d'Ivoire (see [RSP/2009/2537](#)) which was adopted on the same day.

EC/Côte d'Ivoire 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 Côte d'Ivoire, 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).