

REPORT



**53RD SESSION OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC
GROUP OF STATES PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

&

**37TH SESSION OF THE ACP - EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY**

**BUCHAREST, ROMANIA
FROM 13TH TO 20TH MARCH, 2019**

Attended by:

Hon. Clifford Andre – Head of Delegation

Hon. Waven William

Miss. Alexandria Faure

Accompanied by the Embassy of Seychelles to the Kingdom of Belgium:

Ambassador Beryl Samson

Ms. Myra Laporte – Senior Counsellor at the Embassy

The National Assembly delegation composed of the Members as listed below, submits its Report:

Hon. Clifford Andre
Head of Delegation



Hon. Waven William
Member



Ms. Alexandria Faure
ACP-EU JPA Desk Officer



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1.0 Introduction

Hon. Clifford Andre – Elected Member for Anse Aux Pins and Vice-Chairperson of the International Affairs Committee, headed a delegation comprised of Hon. Waven William – Elected Member for Grand Anse Mahe and Member of the International Affairs Committee, as well as Ms. Alexandria Faure, PR & Protocol Manager/ACP-EU JPA Desk Officer. H.E Ms. Beryl Samson, Ambassador of Seychelles based in Brussels and Ms. Myra Laporte, Senior Counsellor at the Embassy also attended the meetings at the 53rd Session of the African, Caribbean & Pacific Group of States Parliamentary Assembly and the 37th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Bucharest, Romania, held from 13th to 20th March, 2019.

The Head of Delegation participated in meetings and was facilitated and supported by Hon. William and the Desk Officer to ensure that the flag of the National Assembly and SIDS issues are brought to the forefront. Such participation were in presentation of report on ‘the Possibilities of Renewable Energies in bringing sustainable economic development to ACP Countries, and particularly to remote areas’ co-chairing meetings, submission of amendments to motions for resolutions, committee meetings, plenaries, workshops and EU political group meetings.

Hon. Clifford Andre also successfully co-chaired the Youth Conference and the Reconciliation Committee meeting discussing the Urgent Topic No.2 on Environmental Crimes including making interventions during the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Hon. Clifford Andre also presented two reports as Co-Rapporteur on ‘*The Strategic Possibilities of Renewable Energies in Bringing Sustainable Economic Development to ACP Countries, and Particularly to Remote Areas*’.



The delegation of Seychelles at the 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly on Friday 15th March 2019.

2.0 Programme for the 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (Annex 1)

2.1. ACP Committee Meeting on Economic Development, Finance & Trade

The ACP Committee on Economic Development, Finance & Trade met on Wednesday 13th March 2019, 'in-camera' and Seychelles is a Member of this Committee. The Agenda was adopted and discussed (**Annex 2**). In addition, the Committee considered the Draft Agenda for the ACP-EU Joint Committee Meeting and was adopted with the considerations of the ACP countries requiring strategic regional trading of natural resources; the importance of Marine resources and the Blue Economy to be considered, especially for SIDS; and the need to take into account climate change and the environmental impact of industrialization. The Committee also discussed issues relating to International Tax Governance and tax avoidance mechanisms.

Hon. Andre as co-rapporteur presented the sets of forty-nine amendments on this subject for voting and provided guidance on what to vote for and what was to be rejected in the joint meeting and in plenary. The Committee raised their concerns for the future of the ACP-EU JPA, as well as the unfair balance between the ACP and its EU counterparts in terms of administrative resources and support. Members also expressed concerns on the future of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the noninvolvement of Parliamentarians in the negotiation processes of the Post-Contonou.

Intervention of Seychelles on the Negotiation of the Post-Contonou Agreement:

Hon. Andre stated that there was a Post-Contonou working group that was set up and requested that the ACP Secretariat provide an update on this initiative and its progress on the negotiations taking place.

Intervention of Seychelles on International Tax Governance:

Hon. Andre stated that Tax Avoidance has been a concern and asked what position the ACP Executive has taken on this issue.



The delegation of the National Assembly of Seychelles attending the meeting of the ACP Committee on Economic Development, Finance & Trade on Wednesday 13th March 2019.

2.2. Bureau of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly Meeting (Annex 3)

The Delegation attended the meeting of the Bureau of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly which took place on Thursday 14th March 2019, 'in-camera'. Urgent Motions were discussed, as well as an in depth debate on the Post-Contonou Agreement negotiations. The discussions involved the exchange of views on the working document of the work and activities of the ACP-EU JPA prepared by the European Parliament and the future of the presidency of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the 108th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers pertaining to the Post-Contonou agreement currently being negotiated. The Seychelles delegation attended this meeting with an observer status in view that the representative of Comoros was representing the Africa Eastern African region. The Bureau agreed that Seychelles be invited as one of the Small Island Developing States to be present at the Negotiations and form part of the working group.

2.3. The 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (Annex 4)

The 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly was held on Friday 15th March 2019, 'in-camera' and involved the presentation of Committee Reports and a General Debate on the position of the ACP in relation to the current Post-Contonou Agreement currently being negotiated. The Secretary General of the ACP, Dr. Gomes made a Statement on the position of ACP in regards to the Post-Contonou. Discussions also involved the below:

- **The Statement from Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Belgium and also the Chief Negotiator for ACP, H.E Mr. Tadeous Tafiranyika Chifamba**

The Chief Negotiator for the ACP in the Post-Contonou Agreement, Ambassador Chifamba made a statement to the ACP Parliamentary Assembly pertaining to the ongoing negotiations of the Agreement and the way forward. Discussions involved the need for parliamentarians to devote time to debate issues of the Post-Contonou Agreement in their National Parliaments; the importance of building stronger partnerships between Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Regions within ACP; the obligation of EU countries to assist in developing ACP Countries noting the history of colonialization; the problematic exclusion of Caribbean and Pacific Region countries and the EU Preference to negotiate only with Africa; the need to include the SDGs; and the need for Member States to contribute towards their Membership of ACP. It was commonly agreed that the ACP remain united and move forward with common positions on issues.

- **The Report of the ACP Committee on Political Affairs**

The Committee on Political Affairs presented their Report to the Assembly and the Members discussed the need for ACP Heads of State and Council of Ministers to move away from Donor-Recipient relationships via the Post-Contonou Agreement framework; the need for equal political dialogue with the EU counterparts; the issue of human rights and the unbalanced conversations on this issue by the EU; the need to keep ACP as one and reject regional protocols being proposed; the need to institutionalize the ACP PA; and the need for oversight on the Council of Ministers and Committee of Ambassadors.

Intervention of Seychelles on the Post-Contonou:

Hon. Andre stated that there is a need to institutionalize the ACP as a Parliamentary Body and that the Council of Ministers should require the approval of Parliaments in order to spend the Budget and that the Council is reticent of the power of the Parliamentary Assembly. The Honorable Member stressed that Parliament is about oversight and that it must be questioned further as to why additional Budget is not being given to allow the ACP Parliamentary Assembly to become independent.

- **The Report of the ACP Committee on Economic Development, Finance & Trade**
The Committee presented their Report and findings to the Assembly. The Members discussed the Terms of Reference on evaluating the impact of EPAs; the need of the Members of the ACP PA in monitoring the progress on Post-Contonou via observations; oversight over EDF; the role of Parliaments in promoting value added employment as well as eradicate poverty; and the need for harnessing economic potential from agreements.
- **The Report of the ACP Committee of Social Affairs and the Environment**
The Committee presented their Report to the Assembly. The discussions involved the role of young people in the protection of the environment and their participation in public life; the prevalence of hunger and the need to eradicate poverty in ACP Countries; the need for strategic and innovative agricultural development and the reforming of financial institutions; the reservation of EU pressure on issues such as sexual orientation and sex education.
- **Statement of the Bureau of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly**
The Bureau made a statement in relation to the meeting that took place on Thursday 14th March 2019. The need for streamlining the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly beyond 2010 was discussed, as well as the Samoa region being proposed as Deputy Chair of the ACP PA.

3.0 The Programme for the 37th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (Annex 2)

3.1. The Women's Conference on "Combatting Women and Girl's Trafficking of in Europe and ACP countries" (Annex 5)

The Women's Conference was held on Saturday 16th March 2019 and involved the participation of both ACP and EU Parliamentarians. The Women's Conference focused on the issue of 'Combatting Women and Girl's Trafficking in Europe and the ACP Countries' and the discussions included the role of Civil Society, the Government and the Private Sector as multi-stakeholders that should cooperate more effectively in order to tackle human trafficking. The Members of the delegation attended this conference as observers.

A Group Photo of the delegation with the Co-Chair of the Women's Conference, Hon. Julie Ward, MEP



3.2. The Youth Conference “Climate Protests led by Young People across the European Union and their meaning for the European Elections”

The Youth Conference was held on Sunday 17th March 2019 and involved the participation of both ACP and EU Parliamentarians. The Conference was co-chaired by the *Hon. Clifford Andre* and the *Hon. Julie Ward*, MEP. The Conference involved discussions on the negative impact of Climate Change and the importance of the promotion of advocating for the preservation of forests and the environment.



A Group Photo of the participants of the Youth Conference and the Co-Chairs on Sunday 17th March 2019

3.3. Workshop on Emergency Response

The Delegation attended a workshop on Emergency Response on Sunday 17th March 2019 and involved a site visit to the Emergency Response Department of Bucharest. The discussions involved the centralization of the emergency response and the multi-stakeholder budgetary management of the organization; management, procedures and strategies involved

in managing emergencies in Romania; and specific services provided for people with speech and hearing impairments.



***The Emergency Response Workshop
on Sunday 17th March 2019***

3.4. Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Committee on Economic Development, Finance & Trade (Annex 6)

The delegation attended the meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade on Saturday 16th March 2019, 'in-camera'. Discussions were held on the enabling of the industrialization and digitization of the ACP countries with the support of the EU SMEs. The link between expertise and industry links was highlighted, as well as the need to assess policy tools in having oversight over this industry.

Intervention of Seychelles on Renewable Energies:

Hon. Andre raised the question of whether renewable energy is able to provide products to remote areas, as for SIDS putting in place this resource can be very expensive and difficult.

3.5. Meetings with ACP & EU Political Groups

Hon. Clifford Andre and Hon. Waven William attended meetings with Political Groups during the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. This involved attending the meetings of the S&D, EPP and SADC PAC political groups meetings whereby members of ACP and the EU shared their views on national and the ACP/EU AGREEMENT issues of concern.

3.6. Conciliation Meeting on Urgent Topic No. 2 on Environmental Crimes (Annex 7)

Hon. Clifford Andre and Hon. Julie Ward, MEP Co-Chaired this meeting, which took place on Monday 18th March 2019, 'in-camera'. The delegation also attended this meeting and assisted with Amendments to motions for resolutions, such as, to include the vulnerabilities of the Small Island Developing States. The Seychelles proposed 8 Resolutions (Annex 8) on

the urgent topic of Environmental Crimes, highlighting the need to take into consideration the specificities of SIDS and the need to give the special attention as stipulated in the CPA.

3.7. The 37th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (Annex 9)

The 37th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was inaugurated on Monday 18th March followed by plenary meetings up to Wednesday 20th March 2019, 'in-camera'. The Plenary sessions involved the presentation of Joint Committee Reports, Question Time with Mr. Neve Mimica, Member of the European Union Commission and the Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth. In addition there was also exchanges of views and debates of presentations of other Governmental Officials from ACP and EU Countries. The Seychelles participated fervently in the debates and contributed with the below Reports:

- **Report on 'the Possibilities of Renewable Energies in bringing sustainable economic development to ACP Countries, and particularly to remote areas'**
Hon. Clifford Andre, as Co-Rapporteur on the Committee on Economic Development, Finance & Trade presented the report to the JPA on renewable energies and their impact on the economic development of EU countries. **(Annex 10)**
- **Report on Conciliation Meeting on Urgent Topic No.2 on Environmental Crimes**
Hon. Clifford Andre, as Co-Chair of the Conciliation Meetings on the urgent Topic No2 on Environmental Crimes presented a report to the Committee on the discussions and resolutions that were agreed upon. **(Annex 11)**
- **Proposed Amendments by Seychelles (Adopted by the JPA)**
Proposals put forward by the delegation of Seychelles were adopted by unanimity by the Joint Assembly. **(Annex 12)**
- **Report on the Youth Conference**
Hon. Clifford Andre, as Co-Chair of the Youth Conference, reported back to the Assembly on the debates that took place among the Youth and the recommendation that the Youth of the Host country of the ACP-EU JPA pick the topic of discussion in order to get a real sense of issues and challenges that concerns them.

4.0. Conclusion

The delegation from the National Assembly of Seychelles continue to play a central and critical role as an ACP SIDS within the ACP-EU JPA framework and it participates actively to enrich the debate with island states" concerns.

There have been times whereby the Head of the Delegation, Hon. Clifford Andre even co-chaired the ACP-EU JPA in the absence of the President of ACP, giving indication how much ACP values the contribution and capacity of our representation in this august assembly.

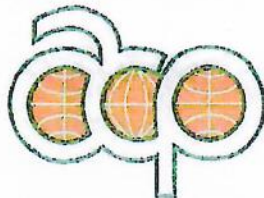
The Seychelles Delegation of the ACP-EU JPA will also endeavor to host a Small Islands States Meeting on the margins of the ACP meeting sessions in October. There is the need to regroup

as small island states in ACP to take common position as SIDS and to push forward the SIDS" agenda. **(Annex 13)**

5.0 Recommendations from the delegation

Following the successful mission work and the critical role that national parliaments have to play within this ACP/EU joint partnership to ensure that Seychelles really reap maximum benefits from it, the following are being proposed;

- That the Report of the 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the 37th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly after having been presented to IAC and committee of the whole assembly be presented to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E Ambassador Faure, in order to strengthen a common position on issues discussed.
- For the purpose of reviewing the Post-Contonou Agreement and to consider a common position for the ACP SIDS, the Seychelles is taking the initiative to set up a permanent ACP SIDS caucus group throughout the running of the ACP PA. **(Annex 13)**
- That IAC hold regular meetings with DFA in the process for completion of a full EPA, ongoing negotiation for the post Contonou agreement ensuring that the specific attention of SIDS and the all ACP concern are taken on board for the ACP.EU agreement we want.
- That IAC conduct oversight role on the renegotiation of the Seychelles/EU Fisheries partnership agreement which is soon to be renegotiated
- That IAC through its ACP representation lobby for the organizing of an ACP speakers' conference to get the national parliament full support in the works of the ACP
- That the NAS fund for the participation of the delegates to attend the ACP council meeting to be held late 2019
- That NAS agree to give a dedicated budget allocation to contribute towards the ACP Parliamentary Assembly as of 2020
- That NAS consider to hold a conciliation meeting of all the NSA overseas' mission report with the aim to harmonize the NAS foreign parliamentary diplomacy position as we extend our parliamentary foreign relations
- The Bureau agreed that the Seychelles be invited as one of the Small Island Developing States to be present at the Post-Contonou negotiations. The said participation will be the responsibility of the stated Parliament.



REFERENCE **ACP/23/001/19**
PAHD Dept/JPA: JFK/b/r

Brussels, 9 January 2019

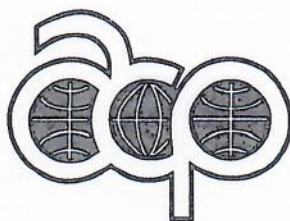
INFORMATION NOTE

53rd SESSION OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND 37th SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, 13-20 MARCH 2019, SINAIA, ROMANIA

Members of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (ACP PA) and ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), Observers, as well as ACP Missions and Embassies in Brussels are kindly reminded of the dates of the above-mentioned meetings.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Meetings of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly		
Date	Time	Meetings
Wednesday, 13 March 2019	10:00 – 13:00	Committee on Political Affairs
	15:00 – 18:00	Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
Thursday, 14 March 2019	10:00 – 13:00	Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
	15:00 – 18:00	Bureau of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly
Friday, 15 March 2019	10:00 – 13:00	53 rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly
Wednesday, 20 March 2019	08:00 – 09:00	ACP Drafting Committee (tbc)
	14:00 – 15:00	Resumption of the 53 rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly
Meetings of the ACP- EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly		
Date	Time	Meetings
Saturday, 16 March 2019	08:00 - 10:00	Women's' Forum
	10:00 - 13:30	Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
	15:00 - 18:30	Committee on Political Affairs
	19:00 - 20:00	Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
Sunday, 17 March 2019	08:30 - 12:30	Possibly, meetings of an EP Political Group with its ACP counterparts
	14:00 - 15:00	Workshops
	15:00 -17:00	Youth Conference
	17:00 - 20:00	Possibly, meetings of an EP Political Group with its ACP counterparts
Monday, 18 March 2019	08:00 - 10:00	Bureau of the JPA
	11:00 - 13:00	Conciliation meetings on Urgent Motions for Resolution
Monday, 18 March 2019 to Wednesday, 20 March 2019	08:00 - 10:00	Formal opening ceremony of the 37 th Session of the JPA
	11:00 - 13:00	Plenary session of the JPA
From Monday, 18 March 2019 to Wednesday, 20 March 2019	Refer to draft agenda of the JPA	



REFERENCE

ACP/23/0005/19
MDFIP/BL/gnj

Brussels, 14 January 2019

*#National
Initiative
Programme*

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE¹

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 FROM 15:00 TO 18:00

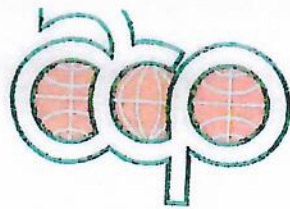
PALACE OF PARLIAMENT-BUCHAREST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE,
STRADA IZVOR Nr. 2-4, BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the draft agenda [ACP/23/005/19]
2. Statement from the Chair
3. Adoption of the Summary Record of the Committee meeting held in Cotonou on 28 November 2018 [ACP/23/006/19]:
 - a) Approval of the Summary Record;
 - b) Matters arising.
4. Consideration of the draft agenda for the joint Committee meeting to be held on 16 March 2019 [AP102.748v01-00]
5. Any other business.

¹ Members of the Committee:

Southern Africa	: South Africa (Chair), Angola, Namibia, Swaziland
West Africa	: Cape Verde (1 st Vice-Chair), Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal
East Africa	: Comoros (2 nd Vice-Chair), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania
Central Africa	: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea
Caribbean	: Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
Pacific	: Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga



ANNEX 3

REFERENCE

ACP/23/009/19 Rev. 1
PAHD Dept/JPA: JFK/bm

Brussels, 7 March 2019

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF THE BUREAU¹ OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2019
15:00 - 18:00

PALACE OF PARLIAMENT - BUCHAREST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
STRADA IZVOR Nr. 2-4, BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

DRAFT AGENDA

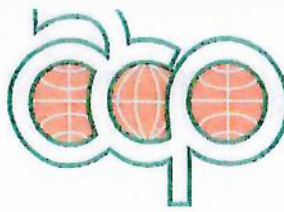
1. Opening remarks.
2. Adoption of the Agenda [ACP/23/009/19 Rev.1]
3. Communication from the President
4. Draft Summary Record of the last meeting of the Bureau [ACP/23/010/19]:
 - i. Approval; and
 - ii. Matters arising.
5. Exchange of views on the Draft Agenda for the 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly [ACP/23/011/19].
6. Exchange of views on the items on the draft agenda for the meeting of the Joint Bureau.
7. Exchange of Views on the Working document on potential rationalisation of the work and activities of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, prepared by the European Parliament.
8. Exchange of views on the Resolution from the 108th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers on the strong dimension of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in the Post-Cotonou Agreement.
9. Any other business.

¹ Members are:

President – Cameroon; Caribbean – Barbados, Suriname; Central Africa – Gabon, Chad; East Africa – Comoros, Ethiopia; Pacific – Fiji, Samoa; Southern Africa – South Africa, Namibia; West Africa – Nigeria, Republic of Guinea.

Chairs of Committees: Committee I – Democratic Republic of Congo Committee II – South Africa; Committee III – Caribbean to assign.

The Chairs of the Committees are Members of the ACP PA Bureau only and not of the JPA Bureau.



ANNEX 4

REFERENCE

ACP/23/009/19 Rev. 1
PAHD Dept/JPA: JFK/bm

Brussels, 7 March 2019

ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF THE BUREAU¹ OF THE ACP PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2019
15:00 - 18:00

PALACE OF PARLIAMENT - BUCHAREST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
STRADA IZVOR Nr. 2-4, BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening remarks.
2. Adoption of the Agenda [ACP/23/009/19 Rev.1]
3. Communication from the President
4. Draft Summary Record of the last meeting of the Bureau [ACP/23/010/19]:
 - i. Approval; and
 - ii. Matters arising.
5. Exchange of views on the Draft Agenda for the 53rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly [ACP/23/011/19].
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8. Exchange of views on the Resolution from the 108th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers on the strong dimension of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in the Post-Cotonou Agreement.
9. Any other business.

¹ Members are:

President – Cameroon; **Caribbean** – Barbados, Suriname; **Central Africa** – Gabon, Chad; **East Africa** – Comoros, Ethiopia; **Pacific** – Fiji, Samoa; **Southern Africa** – South Africa, Namibia; **West Africa** – Nigeria, Republic of Guinea.

Chairs of Committees: **Committee I** – Democratic Republic of Congo **Committee II** – South Africa; **Committee III** – Caribbean to assign.

The Chairs of the Committees are Members of the ACP PA Bureau only and not of the JPA Bureau.



WOMEN'S FORUM

“Combating Women and Girl’s Trafficking in Europe and ACP Countries”

Saturday, 16 March 2019 at 08h00 to 10h00

Venue
Palace of the Parliament
 Bucharest, Romania
Interpretation in FR & EN

8H00 - 8H20 Opening speeches by the Co-Chairs

EU Co-Chair: Hon. Julie Ward (UK)

ACP Co-Chair: Hon. Ibrahima Mémounatou (Togo)

8H20 - 8H30 Keynote speaker:

- **Ms. Rovana PLUMB –Minister for European Funds, Leader of the Women Branch of the Social Democratic Party, Romania**

8H30 - 9H10 Panel 1: Challenges in Combating the Network of Human Traffickers

Speakers

- Ms Monaliza Cirstea, Secretary General, Romanian National Agency for Gender Equality
- Dr. Silvia Maria TĂBUȘCĂ, Director of the Center for Human Rights and Migration- Romanian-American University

Questions and answers - Debate

9H10 - 9H50 Panel 2: Testimonies

Speakers

- Iana Matei , Founder, the Reaching Out shelter
- Open Door Foundation in Romania

Questions and answers - Debate

9H50 - 10H00 Conclusions and Closing Remarks by: H.E. Dr. Patrick I. Gomes (ACP Secretary General)



Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade

ACP_OJ(2019)0316_01

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting

Saturday 16 March 2019, 10.00-13.30

Bucharest (Romania)

Palace of Parliament, room: Rossetti room

1. **Adoption of agenda** OJ – AP102.748v02-00
2. **Approval of minutes of meeting** PV – AP102.741v01-00
 - 1 December 2018 in Cotonou (Benin)
3. **Co-Chairs' announcements**
4. **Sustainable industrialisation and digitalisation: the approach and industrialisation and digitalisation policies for ACP countries**
 - Appointment of co-rapporteurs
 - Exchange of views with Jörg Mayer, Senior Economic Affairs Officer (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) and with Patrick Gilibert, Head of UNIDO Office in Brussels and Representative to the EU, EIB, ACP Secretariat, Belgium and Luxembourg

5. **Follow-up by the Commission to the resolution adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the heart of economic transformation in ACP countries**
 - Exchange of views with the European Commission

*****Voting time*****

6. **The possibilities of renewable energies in bringing sustainable economic development to ACP countries, and particularly to remote areas**
Co-rapporteurs: Clifford Andre (Seychelles) and Željana Zovko
 - Consideration of amendments AA – AP102.723v01-00
 - Adoption of draft report DR – AP102.723v01-00

*****End of voting*****

7. **What kind of international tax governance is required to address tax avoidance mechanisms?**
 - Exchange of views
 - Exchange of views with the European Commission
8. **European Development Funds: Up-date on the state of play**
 - Exchange of views with the European Commission
9. **Decision on the title of the next report**
10. **Economic Partnership Agreements: State of play of negotiations and implementation**
 - Exchange of views with the European Commission
11. **Any other business**
 - Urgent and topics for debate
12. **Date and place of next meeting**



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE

Plenary session

37th SESSION
18-20 March 2019
Sinaia (Romania)

**URGENT MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS
TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU**

Urgency on environmental crimes

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Res. 4 – by Catherine Bearder on behalf of the ALDE Group	14
Res. 5 – by Michèle Rivasi, Maria Heubuch, Bodil Valero and Florent Marcellesi on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group	19

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

18.02.2019

Res. 1

URGENT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

by Stefan Gehrold on behalf of the EPP Group

on environmental crimes

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bucharest (Romania) from 18-20 March 2019,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the revised Cotonou Agreement of 2010 and more particularly to Article 8(3) on political dialogue and Article 32 on environment and natural resources,
- having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights,
- having regard to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
- having regard to the UN Resolutions 'Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife' 69/314 of 30 July 2015, 70/301 of 9 September 2016 and 71/326 of 11 September 2017,
- having regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) laid down in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,
- having regard to the ACP-EU JPA resolution on combating the destabilising effects of wildlife trafficking in ACP countries and promoting the implementation of the external dimension of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking of 3 to 5 December 2018,
- having regard to the Statement of the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the importance of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals on protecting natural resources, wildlife and habitats into post-Cotonou negotiations, Port-au-Prince, 19 December 2017,
- having regard to the Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission entitled *The New European Consensus on Development: 'Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future'*, Brussels, 7 June 2017,
- having regard to the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises which articulate principles of responsible business conduct,

- having regard to the 'Strategic Project on Environmental Crime' report published by EUROJUST in November 2014,
 - having regard to the United Nations Environment Programme report "The Statement of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment" of 2018,
- A. whereas environmental crimes can be broadly defined by UNEP and INTERPOL as a collective term to describe illegal activities harming the environment and aimed at benefiting individuals, groups or companies from the exploitation of, damage to, trade or theft of natural resources, including, but not limited to serious crimes and transnational organized crime; whereas this includes illegal trade in wildlife, smuggling of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), illicit trade in hazardous waste, illegal unregulated and unreported fishing, illegal logging and the associated trade in stolen timber;
 - B. whereas environmental crimes are not restricted by borders, and can affect a nation's economy, security and even its existence; whereas accurate data is essential to ensure reliable transnational policies, reporting and investigation mechanisms;
 - C. whereas a significant proportion of environmental crimes is carried out by organized criminal networks, drawn by the low risk and the high profits of these types of crime as well as weak penalties due to low priority attached to it by law enforcement authorities;
 - D. whereas national environmental laws can be very different and they are not outlined in an international legal framework targeting specifically environmental crimes in its broad diversity;
 - E. whereas environmental crimes are amongst the most profitable forms of organised cross-border criminal activity, are linked to other serious organised crimes such as corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking and cybercrime, are thwarting conservation efforts and are threatening the welfare of many countries;
 - F. whereas it is important to keep the balance between necessary regulation to control and avoid negative effects arising from environmental crimes and efforts made to trigger growth;
 - G. whereas environmental legislation requires technical expertise; whereas this creates an obvious challenge for law enforcement and judicial authorities; whereas not all actors of the enforcement chain possess the necessary skills, knowledge and equipment to properly prevent and fight environmental crimes;
 - H. whereas it is essential to all stakeholders, including local communities, policy-makers, governments leaders and civil society, to develop a holistic approach in order to tackle environmental crimes;

- I. whereas environmental crimes harm the lives of local populations; whereas the majority of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend directly on biological diversity for their livelihoods; whereas the involvement of local communities is crucial for the protection of biodiversity;
1. reminds the ACP and EU countries on the importance of the commitment with the SDGs as well as with the UNEP that underline the fact that environmental crime represents a global threat to sustainable development, stability and security;
 2. urges the ACP and EU countries to fight the lack of awareness and data, in order to help developing effective policies to combat such crimes; underlines the importance of obtaining accurate public research on the extent of environmental crimes conducted via black markets but also openly established;
 3. calls on the ACP and EU governments to underscore the importance of using existing criminal legislation, including non-environmental laws, predominantly related to money laundering, involvement in organized crime, tax fraud and corruption to bridge the gap caused by the arguable legislative definition of environmental crime;
 4. supports that the ACP and EU partnership must assist with information on investigation, prosecution or sanctioning serious transnational organized environmental crimes;
 5. underlines the prioritization of environmental initiatives such as the European Plastic Strategy, the African Mayombe Forest Transboundary Initiative, the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 or the Caribbean Challenge Initiative;
 6. reminds of the essential role private sector plays in order to provide technology, equipment, intelligence and innovation that help to ensure surveillance, protection and mitigation linked to environmental crimes and their effects;
 7. urges the ACP and EU partnership to enhance civil servants' capacity to address environmental crimes by providing deepened training and expertise as well as adequate equipment for the detection of environmental crimes and intelligence gathering in accordance with local legislation;
 8. encourages the ACP and EU governments to counter the lack of national and international cooperation and information-sharing also due to inexistent precedent institutional framework governing how such cooperation and collaboration should occur;
 9. affirms the importance of strengthening customs programmes that provide a coordinated approach to sea, ground and air freight profiling, targeting and examination; underlines the significance of measures with the aim to harness the intelligence gathering capacity and information sharing networks to intercept dispatches through avant-garde equipment;
 10. encourages the engagement of local communities in conservation strategies for them to benefit from wildlife conservation; reminds that on the illegal trade chain, particularly in the context of illegal trade in wildlife, efforts must be undertaken on every single level in issuing, intermediate and receiving countries;

11. invites the ACP and EU countries to actively participate in efforts to raise knowledge about and face the problems and risks associated with the supply, transit of and demand for illegal wildlife products and to reduce the demand using targeted socio-economic strategies in order to influence consumer behaviour;

12. urges the ACP and EU countries to take decisive steps at the supra-national level to avoid, fight and mitigate environmental crimes, on both the supply and demand sides, by promoting economic relations and raising awareness on the adverse effects they may have on sustainable economic growth and social welfare;

13. recalls that the illegal exploitation of natural resources has negative socio-economic consequences by eroding legal markets, depriving legitimate actors of their resources and undermining industries;

14. notes that crimes such as deforestation and electronic waste illegal shipment allow previously unknown diseases and incurable hazards to spread, leading to death or extremely disability, often in the world's most vulnerable regions;

15. further reminds of the environmental consequences of various forms of environmental crimes, in particular, illegal trade in wildlife as a major threat to biodiversity by contributing to species endangerment and extinction or illegally logging timber leading to deforestation and therefore considerably increasing the risk of floods, landslides, and erosion of coastal zones;

16. requests governments to make environmental crimes a priority of the new partnership under the forthcoming Post-Cotonou Agreement.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

18.02.2019

Res. 2

URGENT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

by Maria Arena on behalf of the S&D Group

on environmental crimes

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bucharest (Romania) from 18-20 March 2019,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 11 September 2018 on transparent and accountable management of natural resources in developing countries: the case of forests¹,
- having regard to the AU High Level Side Event on Corruption and the Illegal Exploitation and Trade of Africa's Natural Resources, which took place at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly in February 2019,
- having regard to the Interpol/UN report of 2016 entitled 'Environment Strategic Report: Environment, Peace and Security – A Convergence of Threats',
- having regard to the conclusions of the Council of the European Union on 'Countering Environmental Crime' (doc. 15412/16 of 8 December 2016),
- having regard to the report of 2014 of the EU Action to Fight Environmental Crime (EFFACE) research project,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2014 on wildlife crime²,
- having regard to the report for 2016 of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
- having regard to the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa,
- having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2015/451 of 6 March 2015 concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)³,

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0333.

² OJ C 482, 23.12.2016, p. 83.

³ OJ L 75, 19.3.2015, p. 1.

- having regard to the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime of 2000,
- having regard to the World Wildlife Crime Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) of 2016,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 69/314 of 30 July 2015 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,
- having regard to UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/14 on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products,
- having regard to the 2015-2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- having regard to Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market⁴, and to the Commission’s 2016 implementation report thereon,
- having regard to the importance of the European Fisheries Control Agency, established by Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005⁵, in combating the illegal capture and sale of aquatic species,
- having regard to Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law⁶,
- having regard to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora⁷,
- having regard to the European Parliament study on wildlife crime drawn up in March 2016 by its Policy Department for Economic and Scientific Policy for its Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
- having regard to the conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 12 February 2016 on the fight against the financing of terrorism,
- having regard to the report of 4 March 2003 the Secretary-General of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice entitled ‘Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and illicit access to genetic resources’,
- having regard to the conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 20 June 2016 on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking,
- having regard to the 2016 rapid response assessment by the United Nations Environment

⁴ OJ L 295, 12.11.2010, p. 23.

⁵ OJ L 128, 21.5.2005, p. 1.

⁶ OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 28.

⁷ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

Programme (UNEP) and Interpol entitled 'The Rise of Environmental Crime',

– having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas environmental crimes are among the most profitable forms of transnational criminal activity, with an estimated monetary value in 2016 of between USD 91 billion and 259 billion annually, and are thus presumed to be the world's fourth largest criminal area, after drugs, counterfeiting and human trafficking; whereas this makes this form of crime highly attractive for organized crime groups (OCGs);
- B. whereas international bodies such as UNEP, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and Interpol specify that environmental crimes typically involve such practices as illegal mining, illegal logging, wildlife poaching, trade in endangered species, illicit trade and dumping of hazardous waste, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and contraband;
- C. whereas the illegal dumping of and trade in waste has resulted in a global contamination of air, land and water systems and is threatening local ecosystems, affecting animals and plants; whereas the negative impact of illicit waste trafficking on the environment include reduced human health, as well as potential loss of arable land in affected regions;
- D. whereas waste trafficking originates mainly in developed countries; whereas the main destination continents for illegal waste trafficking are Africa and in Asia;
- E. whereas in its serious and organised crime threat assessment (SOCTA) of 2013, Europol identified environmental crimes as an emerging threat; whereas in the same year, it published another threat assessment relating specifically to this form of crime, referring to trafficking in illicit waste and describing trading in endangered species as the most prominent such crime in the EU, featuring the involvement of organised criminal groups (OCGs);
- F. whereas a 2016 joint report by UNEP and Interpol⁸ identifies forest crimes as being among the five most salient challenges to achieving the SDGs, and states that illegal logging is equivalent to 15 to 30 % of the global legal trade; whereas, according to the World Bank, affected countries lose an estimated USD 15 billion each year to illegal logging and timber trade;
- G. whereas a UNEP study identified major gaps in the response to Ecs, including lack of data, knowledge and awareness, lack and limited use of legislation, lack of institutional will and governance, lack of capacity in the enforcement chain, lack of national and international cooperation and information-sharing among authorities, and lack of engagement with private actors and local communities;
- H. whereas forests and other biodiverse ecosystems are essential for preserving facilities such as clean water, coping with climate change and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people, yet deforestation and forest degradation remain rampant;

Was highlighted that the report is false. Cannot generalize.

⁸ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0333+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN#def_1_5

- I. whereas corruption and weak institutions represent major obstacles to the protection and preservation of the natural environment, and this in turn has rendered sustainable management of the environment quite difficult, affecting the achievement of Agenda 2030, the SDGs (particularly SDG 16) and the AU's Agenda 2063;
- J. whereas in ACP countries, especially in Africa, most policies have not adequately embraced the phenomenon of environmental crimes in relation to the administration of criminal justice; whereas inadequate knowledge and poor skills in the administration of environmental criminal justice has made the enforcement of and compliance with environmental laws in Africa a challenge;
- K. whereas most problems in sub-Saharan Africa hinge on illegal exploitation and trade in natural resources that benefit OCGs and senior government officials; whereas West Africa is the main destination region for trafficked electronic waste originating in the EU;
- L. whereas terrestrial and marine ecosystems and their biodiversity underpin economic growth, sustainable development and human wellbeing in Africa; whereas many ecosystems in the region are facing severe degradation leading to declining or disappearing biodiversity and the impairment of ecosystems' functions and services;
- M. whereas environmental crimes adversely affecting air, land, and water typically involve companies and/or OCGs; whereas elephants, rhinoceroses, bears, Asian big cats, antelopes, great apes, pangolins, turtles and tortoises are species which are endangered as a direct result of poaching and trafficking, practices which reveal a well-established criminal supply chain;
1. Underlines the critical need to address environmental crimes from an integrative angle, as well as to consider the intricate nature of crimes related to environmental quality, biodiversity, natural resources, and the impact on peace and security, all of which requires a multi-actor response and an integrated strategy;
2. Notes with concern that the environmental sector is notably exposed to poor governance, including corruption, fraud and organised crime, which enjoys a significant degree of impunity; deplors the fact that even in countries that have good environmental laws, implementation is weak;
3. Recalls that environmental crimes cannot be tackled in isolation, and therefore calls for a global and cooperative effort which will also require a broader response from the UN, including the Security Council and the sanctions committees, and from individual states;
4. Calls on the international development community to address environmental crimes as a serious threat to sustainable development, and to strengthen the share of official development assistance (ODA) devoted to governance and judicial sector reform, including action to improve legislation at international and national levels, implement dissuasive penalties, substantial sanctions and punishments and provide capacity building and technological support, in order to enhance the enforcement and adjudication capacities in the area of environmental crimes;
5. Calls on the EU-ACP institutions and member states to support a broad and multidisciplinary approach in tackling environmental crimes and the convergence of the

Inclusion of SIOS ←

latter with other criminal activities; calls on all countries to strengthen the collection, analysis and sharing of information, across all sectors and at UN level, on the role of natural resource exploitation in conflicts and security with a view to informing holistic responses aimed at securing peace, security and sustainable development;

6. Notes that according to the FAO report 2016, Africa lost 2.8 million hectares of natural forest yearly between 2010 and 2015;
7. Urges the international community to reintroduce programmes directed at environmental crimes and to initiate concerted action to recognise and address such crimes as a serious threat to peace and sustainable development, and strengthen the environmental rule of law at all levels;
8. Calls on the EU and ACP member states to establish strong legal frameworks on environmental crimes by developing coercion guidance in order to help national authorities comply with environmental laws; urges these countries to disrupt the activities of organised crime groups involved in environmental crimes;
9. Notes that forest crime, such as illegal logging, was estimated to represent a value of USD 50-152 billion globally in 2016, and ranks first in terms of revenue among environmental crimes; notes that illegal logging plays a substantial role in financing organised crime and thus typically impoverishes governments, nations and local communities owing to uncollected revenues⁹, resulting in increased poverty and social vulnerability and higher levels of migration, conflict and insecurity;
10. Stresses that corruption linked to environmental crimes such as illegal logging should be addressed in EU-ACP trade policy; urges the EU to include in its FTAs environmental anti-corruption provisions that are legally enforceable, and that such provisions must be effectively and fully implemented;
11. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union.

⁹ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0333+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN#def_1_9

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Res. 3

18.02.2019

URGENT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

by Eleni Theocharous on behalf of the ECR Group

on environmental crimes

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bucharest (Romania) from 18-20 March 2019,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the 2018 report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report entitled 'The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment',
- having regard to the Commission report of 6 June 2018 entitled 'Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 of 20 December 2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community - Annual synthesis report for the year 2016' (COM(2018)0448),
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 September 2016 on the EU strategic objectives for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 24 September to 5 October 2016¹⁰,
- having regard to the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, adopted in February 2016,
- having regard to the EU Council conclusions of June 2016 and to the European Parliament resolution of 24 November 2016 on EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking¹¹,
- having regard to Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law¹²,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010 respectively (hereinafter 'the Cotonou Agreement') and the current negotiations for the future partnership agreement,

A. whereas environmental crime is a serious and growing international problem, and one

¹⁰ OJ C 204, 13.6.2018, p. 136.

¹¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0454.

¹² OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 28.

which takes many different forms; whereas wildlife crime is the illegal exploitation of the world's wild flora and fauna, while pollution crime is the trade in and disposal of waste and hazardous substances in contravention of national and international laws;

- B. whereas new types of environmental crime are emerging, such as carbon trade and water management crime;
- C. whereas all forms of environmental crime, ranging from marine pollution to fisheries crime, maritime crime, forestry crime, wildlife crime, electronic waste mismanagement, illegal logging and all others, require an integrated global approach;
- D. whereas environmental crime is not restricted by borders, and can affect a country's economy, security and stability;
- E. whereas a significant proportion of both wildlife and pollution crime is carried out by organised criminal networks, drawn by the low risk and high profit nature of these types of crime; whereas the same routes used to smuggle wildlife across countries and continents are often used to smuggle weapons, drugs and people;
- F. whereas addressing all forms of environmental crime, including halting trafficking in endangered species of flora and fauna and products derived from them, as well as the protection of biodiversity, is important for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); whereas conversely, the involvement of local communities can be crucial;
- G. whereas trade and development policies should, inter alia, serve as a means to improve respect for human rights, animal welfare and environmental protection;
- H. whereas the EU Agenda on Security for 2015-2020 identifies wildlife crime as a form of organised crime that must be tackled at EU level by means of a review of the existing legislation on environmental crime;
- I. whereas the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking sets out a comprehensive blueprint for joined-up efforts to fight wildlife crime inside the EU, and for strengthening the EU's role in the global fight against these illegal activities; whereas the plan has three main strands, namely better enforcement, enhanced cooperation, and more effective prevention;
 - 1. Emphasises that environmental crime often occurs hand in hand with other offences such as passport fraud, corruption and money laundering, as well as being practised by organised criminal networks;
 - 2. Calls on the European Commission, the EU Member States, the European External Action Service and the EU agencies Europol and Eurojust, as well as the ACP states, to recognise that, among other things, environmental crime is a serious and growing threat, and to address it with the greatest political urgency;
 - 3. Highlights the need for comprehensive and coordinated approaches across policy areas including trade, development, foreign affairs, transport and tourism, as well as justice and home affairs;

4. Recalls that Interpol is the only international organisation with a mandate to share and process criminal information globally, and recommends expanding cooperation between the EU and Interpol, through the Office of the Special Representative of Interpol to the European Union (SRIEU), to include the fight against all forms of environmental crime; emphasises that an enhanced EU-Interpol cooperation on tackling environmental crime should also include intelligence gathering, exchange of information and best practices;
5. Notes that CITES, the EU Timber Regulation and the EU regulatory framework on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing are important tools for regulating international wildlife trade; is concerned, however, about the lack of proper implementation and enforcement, and calls on Member States to step up their joint and coordinated efforts to ensure effective implementation; is concerned, furthermore, about gaps in the current regulatory framework with regard to species and actors;
6. Stresses that the identification and allocation of appropriate financial and human resources is necessary for the effective implementation of the Action Plan;
7. Calls, for the implementation of the EU Action Plan, for closer and more constructive cooperation between stakeholders, including civil society organisations and relevant business sectors, so as to make more effective use of existing tools and policies and strengthen the synergies between them in order to ensure maximum impact in addressing environmental crimes across the EU and ACP countries;
8. Invites local governments and civil society organisations involved in environmental action and protection of fauna and flora in both the EU and the ACP countries to build up partnerships and to strengthen existing ones, in order to develop common programmes and share their knowledge so as to address environmental crime and its proliferation;
9. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

18.02.2019

Res. 4

URGENT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

by Catherine Bearder on behalf of the ALDE Group

on environmental crimes

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bucharest (Romania) from 18-20 March 2019,
- having regard to its resolution on wildlife trafficking adopted in Cotonou on 5 December 2018,
- having regard to the Commission communication entitled 'The EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking' (COM(2016)0087),
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 24 November 2016 on the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking¹³,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2014 on wildlife crime¹⁴, and its report of 24 November 2016,
- having regard to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), implemented in the EU through Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein¹⁵, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 of 4 May 2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97¹⁶,
- having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2015/451 of 6 March 2015 concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)¹⁷,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention of 2003 against Corruption,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention of 2000 against Transnational Organised Crime,
- having regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and

¹³ OJ C 224, 4.11.2016, p. 117.

¹⁴ OJ C 482, 23.12.2016, p. 83.

¹⁵ OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p. 1.

¹⁶ OJ L 166, 19.6.2006, p. 1.

¹⁷ OJ L 75, 19.3.2015, p. 1.

particularly to its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 on clean water, 7 on clean energy, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 14 on life below water and 15 on life on land,

- having regard to the report of the 2014 EU Action to Fight Environmental Crime (EFFACE) research project,
- having regard to Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law¹⁸,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 12 February 2016 on the fight against the financing of terrorism,
- having regard to the report of the Secretary-General of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of 4 March 2003 entitled ‘Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna and illicit access to genetic resources’,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 20 June 2016 on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking,
- having regard to the study published in 2017 in the Proceedings of the United States National Academy of Sciences on mass extinction¹⁹,
- having regard to the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on biodiversity loss,
- having regard to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (the IUU Regulation)²⁰ and to Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 of 29 September 2008 concerning authorisations for fishing activities of Community fishing vessels outside Community waters and the access of third country vessels to Community waters, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93 and (EC) No 1627/94 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 3317/94 (the Fishing Authorisations Regulation)²¹,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 22 November 2012 on the external dimension of the common fisheries policy²²,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 8 September 2015 on untapping

¹⁸ OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 28.

¹⁹ Gerardo Ceballos, Paul R. Ehrlich and Rodolfo Dirzo, ‘Biological annihilation via the ongoing sixth mass extinction signaled by vertebrate population losses and declines’, PNAS, 25 July 2017, 114 (30) E6089-E6096 - <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1704949114>

²⁰ OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1.

²¹ OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 33.

²² OJ C 419, 16.12.2015, p. 175.

- the potential of research and innovation in the blue economy to create jobs and growth²³,
- having regard to the resolution of 20 December 2017 of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on ‘The blue economy: opportunities and challenges for ACP States’,
 - having regard to the rapid response assessment of 2016 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Interpol entitled ‘The Rise of Environmental Crime’,
 - having regard to 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 (the Cotonou Agreement), and to the subsequent revisions to the agreement adopted in 2005 and 2010,
 - having regard to the statement issued in Port-au-Prince on 19 December 2017 by the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the importance of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals on protecting natural resources, wildlife and habitats into the post-Cotonou negotiations,
 - having regard to the declaration of the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the post-Cotonou negotiations on the occasion of the 15th Regional Meeting of the JPA in Nairobi on 12 April 2018,
 - having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas environmental crime covers activities that breach environmental legislation and cause significant harm or risk to the environment and human health;
 - B. whereas environmental crime is characterised by its impact on the natural environment; whereas this impact is manifesting itself in increasing levels of pollution, an increase in trafficking in and sale of wildlife, a reduction in biodiversity and the disturbance of the ecological balance of ecosystems;
 - C. whereas the most reported areas of environmental crime are the illegal emission or discharge of substances into air, water or soil, the illegal trade in wildlife, illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances and the illegal shipment or dumping of waste;
 - D. whereas environmental crime is highly lucrative and has become one of the most widespread and profitable forms of organised cross-border crime; whereas it is closely linked with other forms of serious and organised crime; whereas the penalties are lower than for other forms of traffic or crime;
 - E. whereas the EU Agenda on Security for 2015-2020 identifies wildlife crime as a form of organised crime that must be tackled at EU level by considering further criminal sanctions throughout the EU by means of a review of the existing legislation on environmental crime;
 - F. whereas waste trafficking originates mainly in developed countries as main exporters of illegal waste shipments; whereas the main destinations for illegal waste trafficking are

²³ OJ C 316, 22.9.2017, p. 64.

ACP countries and Asia;

- G. whereas environmental conservation is linked to sustainable development, with nature parks protecting indigenous wildlife and associated human heritage assets and providing economic and social benefits to local populations; whereas nature-based tourism contributes to awareness, respect for ecosystems, job creation and the economy;
 - H. whereas in 2015, the European Network for Environmental Crime (EnviCrimeNet) and Europol concluded, following a year-long intelligence project on environmental crime using data from 50 jurisdictions, that most environmental crimes go undetected thanks to the reticence or inefficiency of the law enforcement agencies dealing with the matter;
 - I. whereas the legal use of natural resources is also compounding the fragility of ecosystems; whereas each ACP country has a unique natural environment on which it depends for food, water, health and tourism, and which is linked to its socio-economic and political system;
 - J. whereas the poor recognition of environmental 'goods' in country development plans, food security plans, and economic growth plans has led to a failure to protect global and local ecosystems;
 - K. whereas environmental protection and conservation measures are not enforced and are under-resourced, thus allowing corruption to flourish;
 - L. whereas the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) has launched a process to develop a set of enforcement indicators; whereas the development of such indicators could facilitate evidence checks and enable enforcement of sanctions;
 - M. whereas the SDGs urge the international community to develop more coordinated efforts to ensure the conservation, protection and sustainable use of our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems;
 - N. whereas Article 32 of the 2000 Cotonou Agreement has been the framework for the ACP-EU partnership on environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources, including wildlife and biodiversity;
1. Invites the ACP and EU countries to develop a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to stopping the operations of internationally organised environmental crime by working with law enforcement bodies, the judiciary, the private sector, civil society and stakeholders;
 2. Urges ACP countries to further develop and implement wildlife conservation strategies across sectors, alongside anti-corruption measures and foreign policy; emphasises that environmental protection needs a long-term return on investment; notes the benefits of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs);
 3. Calls on ACP countries to ensure cooperation and respect between bodies dealing with wildlife, such as park authorities, local authorities, CITES authorities, inspection services, law enforcement agencies, veterinary services, researchers and customs authorities;
 4. Recognises that regional and international cooperation, sharing of best practice and

expertise, political commitment, stability, good governance and implementation are prerequisites for sustainable conservation efforts;

5. Urges the EU to increase its financial support to ACP countries and projects through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Development Fund (EDF) and the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI);
6. Advocates enhanced mechanisms for efforts to combat environmental crime and wildlife trafficking, including training for the law enforcement, judicial and prosecution services; calls for the EU to monitor the wildlife programmes it supports and to integrate environmental indicators into foreign aid packages;
7. Welcomes the proposed partnership between UNEP and the Africa Prosecutors Association for purposes of drawing up training manuals and curricula on environmental crime prosecution and helping countries integrate environmental crime education into the training curricula of police and prosecutors, in order to enhance their capacity to investigate and prosecute cases;
8. Recognises that Interpol is key to facilitating international police cooperation on wildlife trafficking between ACP and EU countries through its sub-regional structure; urges governments to allow inter-agency collaboration, in particular regarding Eurojust, Europol and Interpol investigations;
9. Recognises the need for ACP and EU countries to address environmental crime that feeds corruption within legal systems; calls for the monitoring of suspicious financial flows on wildlife trafficking linked to other forms of serious organised crime;
10. Underlines that trade and development should respect human rights and promote environmental conservation;
11. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the regional and national parliaments of the ACP countries and of the EU Member States, and the regional organisations of ACP countries.

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Res. 1

18.02.2019

URGENT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

by Michèle Rivasi, Maria Heubuch, Bodil Valero and Florent Marcellesi on behalf of the Greens Group

on environmental crimes

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Bucharest (Romania) from 18-20 March 2019,
- having regard to 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 (the Cotonou Agreement)²⁴, as amended in 2005 and 2010²⁵,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement, Decision 1/CP.21 and the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC and the 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11) held in Paris, France from 30 November to 11 December 2015,
- having regard to the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome document adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’,
- having regard to the 2016 study by UNEP and Interpol entitled ‘The rise of Environmental Crime. A growing threat to Natural Resources, Peace, Development and Security’,
- having regard to Article 208 TFEU, which establishes the eradication of poverty as the primary objective of EU development policy and the principle of policy coherence for development,
- having regard to Article 18(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas environmental crimes are among the most profitable forms of transnational criminal activity, representing the fourth largest criminal area in the world after drugs, counterfeits and human trafficking; whereas UNEP and Interpol have estimated the value of environmental crime as being up to twice that of the entire global aid budget; whereas the annual rate of increase in such crimes is expected to rise by a further 5-7 %²⁶;
- B. whereas illegal activities that involve the environment, biodiversity or natural resources

²⁴ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

²⁵ OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3.

²⁶ UNEP, ‘The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment’ (2018).

are often lucrative and involve comparatively low risks for criminals;

- C. whereas environmental crime accelerates climate change, notably through forestry crimes;
 - D. whereas according to UNEP and Interpol, lost tax income due to criminal exploitation of natural resources is equivalent to about 10 % of government revenues²⁷;
 - E. whereas criminals often exploit impoverished communities to facilitate or commit environmental crimes;
 - F. whereas the lack of reliable data on environmental crime, environmental offenders or actions taken against them constitutes a real challenge for both awareness and enforcement alike;
 - G. whereas the legal framework governing the environment in international law is defined by over 500 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);
 - H. whereas the incorporation of MEA obligations in domestic law raises problems related to the vague terms of the provisions;
1. Underlines that environmental crimes represent a global threat to development, peace and security, notably in a context where non-state armed groups and terrorist groups thrive on the exploitation of natural resources (notably oil and charcoal) to fund their activities;
 2. Stresses that environmental crimes have become part of the larger global network of transnational organised crime, and that this is the result of: i) a lack of knowledge and data surrounding environmental crimes and their interlinkages with other serious offences; ii) the lack of a legal framework on environmental crime;
 3. Highlights that according to UNEP and Interpol, the most profitable environmental crimes include illegal wildlife trade, forestry crimes, fishery crimes, illegal trade in minerals and trafficking in waste; notes equally that environmental crime also relates to tax fraud, money laundering, financial crimes and fraudulent reclaim of carbon credits, depriving governments of vast amounts in revenue;
 4. Stresses the need to address the root causes of environmental crime, notably poverty, economic benefits, substantial demand (especially from Asia, North America and the EU), poor governance, corruption, minimal budgets for police, prosecution and courts in many developing countries, and inadequate institutional and regulatory support;
 5. Calls for the setting-up of a strong legal framework on environmental crime, which will require alignment with other relevant law on organised criminality, a definition of enforcement (criminal, civil and administrative) and sentencing power, information disclosure, monitoring and reporting system, environmental assessments and coordination mechanisms;
 6. Notes with concern that there is no universally agreed definition of environmental crime,

²⁷ UNEP /Interpol, 'The Rise of Environmental Crime. A Growing Threat to Natural Resources, Peace, Development and Security' (2016).

meaning that criminals exploit the lack of international consensus to perpetrate their acts; urges the EU to defend a worldwide and broad definition of environmental crime, which should include illegal trade in wildlife and illegal logging, illegal trafficking in hazardous waste and in waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing;

7. Recalls that effective law enforcement is essential to prevent environmental damage caused by illegal activities;
8. Notes with concern that, according to UNEP and Interpol, legislation to tackle environmental crime is deemed to be inadequate in many countries, thanks to lack of expertise and personnel, low fines or absence of criminal sanctions, corruption, etc; calls for the EU and its Member States to strengthen the share of official development assistance (ODA), in the remit of the next multiannual financial framework, to governance and judicial sector reform, especially in least developed countries, and to increase financial support to ACP countries on the enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including capacity building (enforcement, investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes);
9. Stresses that environmental crimes are linked to other crimes, particularly to corruption but also to counterfeiting, the use of shell companies in tax havens, tax fraud and money laundering; calls for enhanced cross-sectorial and cross-agency collaboration both at national and international levels, particularly with Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), on information collection, analysis and intelligence sharing;
10. Urges the EU and its Member States to make the fight against environmental crime an overriding strategic political priority in international judicial cooperation and institutions and the Conferences of Parties (COPs), notably by promoting compliance with MEAs through the adoption of criminal sanctions, exchange of best practices, and promoting the enlargement of the scope of the International Criminal Court to cover environmental criminality;
11. Urges the EU to develop a coherent strategy towards environmental criminality; recalls that human rights are indivisible and interdependent; underlines that trade and development should respect human rights and promote environmental conservation;
12. Regrets that the EU's development cooperation instruments do not address environmental crime directly; stresses the need to make the fight against environmental crime one of the goals of the conditionality policy applied by the EU in its external relations (notably in preferential trade agreements such as GSP+); in particular, recalls that EU free trade agreements (FTAs) with third countries should systematically include mandatory and enforceable sustainable development chapters, with sanction mechanisms in case of violation of environmental and social provisions (including the possibility to seek redress), as well as anti-corruption provisions;
13. Recalls that there is no EU legal instrument addressing the possibility of prosecuting European companies abroad for environmental crimes or activities causing environmental damage; reiterates, in this context, its support for the intergovernmental process initiated in the UN through the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG),

which aims to create a binding UN instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights;

14. Commends the role of UNEP in assisting countries in putting in place legal frameworks to fight environmental crime;
15. Stresses the need to strengthen the role of UNEP, as well as of institutions such as Interpol and UNODC, in order to facilitate awareness and help enforcement and prosecution efforts regarding environmental criminality;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the African Union.

Annex 8

Resolution Proposals on Urgent Topic No.2 on Environmental Crimes

Hon. Waven William on behalf of Hon. Clifford Andre, Head of Delegation
Seychelles

1. **URGES** both the ACP and EU to work together to develop effective policies and strategies to combat such crimes to prevent degradation of the ACP-EU ecosystem.
2. **UNDERLINES** the importance for both ACP and EU countries to work together to put in place joint mechanisms and national mechanisms for intelligence data and information gathering on the extent of the black market environmental criminal activities and keeping in close monitoring on the financial transactions.
3. **CALLS** on the EU in the ACP-EU partnership to assist ACP countries with capacity building in the legal sector to amend or introduce new legislation of best practice to combat environmental crimes in a more effective way.
4. **CALLS** on the ACP-EU countries to jointly work together to give necessary training to Port handling offices to acquire necessary skills to apprehend environmental crimes at borders and beyond.
5. **CALLS** on both the ACP-EU countries to raise awareness through campaign programmes starting from schools to make residents mindful and to take ownership of the fight against these crimes.
6. **GIVEN** the specific geographical and physical nature of the scattered ACP SIDS, calls on the EU to continue its work with SIDS with the aim to build capacity using smart and innovative approaches for conducting surveillance; and further calls on the support of the EU to encourage international organization to maintain the current being given.
7. **IN RECOGNITION** of the vulnerability of the ACP SIDS, calls on the EU to jointly come up with smart and innovative solutions to ensure that SIDS continue to receive relevant support to combat environmental crimes regardless of their income status.
8. **CALLS** on the EU to work with EU private sector to design adaptable technology to suit ACP SIDS' geographical and physical nature of SIDS and to ensure progressive technology transfer as agreed but no impose.



Plenary session

17.03.2019

37th SESSION

18-20 March 2019

Bucharest (Romania)

**DRAFT AGENDA
and WORK PROGRAMME**

**Website of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp>**

MONDAY 18 MARCH

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

Conciliation meetings on urgent motions for resolution

11.00 a.m.

Formal opening sitting of the 37th Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

List of speakers:

- Teodor Meleșcanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Joseph Owona Kono, Co-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Louis Michel, Co-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, President of the Senate of Romania

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Sitting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Constituent meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and accreditation of non-parliamentary representatives

1. **Adoption of agenda**
2. **Approval of the minutes** of the last sittings of the 36th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
3. **Co-Presidents' Announcements** including decisions taken at the Bureau meeting of 17 March 2019
4. **Statement by Neven Mimica**, Member of the Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development on stock taking of Commissioner's five year term, an update on the state of play of post-Cotonou negotiations and the Spotlight initiative.
5. **Debate with Neven Mimica**, Member of the Commission with responsibility for international cooperation and development – catch-the-eye
6. **Question Time to the Commission**
7. **Action taken by the Commission** on the resolutions adopted at the 36th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly
8. **The impact of Brexit on the ACP-EU partnership**
Debate without resolution with Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat

TUESDAY 19 MARCH9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

9. **Is our economic model compatible with climate change?**
Debate without resolution with Yvo de Boer, former Executive Director of the UNFCCC
10. **Urgent topic No 1: Issues at stake and challenges linked to the rule of law in the European Union and the ACP countries**
11. **The possibilities of renewable energies in bringing sustainable economic development to ACP countries, and particularly to remote areas**
Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade
Co-Rapporteurs: Clifford Andre (Seychelles) and Željana Zovko
12. **Reducing the global number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth in ACP countries**
Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment
Co-rapporteurs: Joseph Yopy Yopy (Papua New Guinea) and Laura Agea

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

13. **Urgent topic No 2: Environmental crimes**
14. **The strategic significance and dimension of the ACP-EU partnership**
Committee on Political Affairs
Co-rapporteurs: Sebastian Kopulande (Zambia) and Maria Arena
15. **The implementation of the global compact on migration**
Keynote debate with Elspeth Guild, Professor of Law at Queen Mary College, University of London

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.

*Meeting of ACP Drafting Committee
Possibly, meetings of EP Political groups*

9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

16. **Statement by Tjekero Twega, Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME development (Namibia), President-in-Office of the ACP Council**
17. **Statement by Victor Micula, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Romania, President-in-Office of the EU Council**

18. **Question Time to the Council**
19. **Debate with the Council – catch-the-eye**
20. **Romania and the ACP Countries – Working Together on the Global Arena**
Exchange of views with Teodor Meleşcanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs
21. **Report of the economic and social partners**
Presentation by Jaroslaw Mulewicz, Chair of the ACP Follow-up Committee, European Economic and Social Committee

2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Meeting of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

22. **Vote on the motions for resolution included in the reports submitted by the three standing committees**
23. **Vote on the urgent motions for resolution**
24. **Report on the 17th regional meeting held in Suriname, Paramaribo (Caribbean Region) from 28 February to 2 March 2019 – report by the Co-Presidents**
25. **Summary reports from the workshops**
26. **Report on the Youth Conference**
27. **Report on the Women’s Forum**
28. **Any other business**
29. **Date and place of the 38th Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly**

ANNEX 10:

Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade

Thank you Mr Co-President.

In the absence of the EU co-rapporteur (Zeljana Zovko), I would like to report on the following:

The ACP-EU JPA Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade appointed myself and my co-rapporteur and at our meeting on Saturday 16 March 2019 the report was debated and amendments to the resolution were adopted.

The report entitled “**Possibilities of Renewable Energies in bringing Sustainable Economic Development to ACP Countries and Particularly to Remote Areas**” which gave an overview on how sustainable economic development in ACP, with special focus on the need to adapt to renewable energy and the technologies as the main sources of sustainable energy of the future, especially in expanding access to remote areas.

The committee noted the importance of sustainable development to promote sustainable economic growth in ACP countries as a priority and the need to assist ACP countries in developing energy and renewable energy sources. and also to focus on transfer of such technologies as an important element.

The committee further recommended the acceleration of technology transfers and increasing capacity building in order to realise the possibilities for sustainable development.

Adoption of renewable energy

It was noted that renewable energy technologies should reach remote areas in order to ensure access to energy by all, and thus contribute towards poverty eradication efforts. Renewable energy should be one of the focus of ACP development as it benefits lower-income communities within the ACP countries. By pursuing a greener and cleaner approach to development, member states will be in compliance with the established SDG goals and thus eliminate their reliance on fossil fuels.

Industrialisation and digitalisation

The committee noted that industrialisation is necessary for development particularly in ACP countries. EU partners should encourage/seriously work on the transfer of technology to ACP countries with the aim of facilitating industrialisation and helping ACP countries to move towards a digital economy.

Nevertheless, ensuring basic access to drinking water and electricity continue to be some of the main challenges facing ACP countries, especially remote areas. As such, securing access to renewable energy technologies to people in remote areas remains a concern.

It is to include all partners, such as renewable energy production companies, in the problem-solving process, as well as recognising the importance of local skills and knowledge. The adaptive measures and efforts should be contextualised and localised, in order to reflect the targeted region and country. **However, importance should be extended to SIDS considered as the most vulnerable during this era of climate change to which our planet is going through and facing the challenges of this emerging world.**

The committee recognised the importance of providing access to adequate broadband services and digital literacy as part of the development agenda. EU should commit on harnessing digital capacities to create opportunities for all, opening and providing access to broadband through appropriate infrastructure development.

Development Finance

The committee recognised the importance of setting up specialised financial institutions and instruments which target poverty reductions specifically are established in order to promote family and cooperative farming etc; notably by promoting the establishment of national and regional financial institutions.

Trade and Investment

The report noted the challenges to attract investment and qualified work in ACP countries and proposed extensive investments in training and education, as well as ability to avail new technologies, investment and links to companies with specific knowledge and skills. The committee recognised the importance of setting up special economic zones to contain emigration and brain drain, and thus encouraging the concentration of skilled people, making it easier for firms to access locally-available skills, as well as attracting skilled migrants.

The committee noted the need to improve trade and to allow businesses to expand, as well as creating a conducive environment for foreign and domestic investment; and recognised the importance of processing raw materials in ACP countries for exportation to EU markets.

Resolution on Development of SME and economic transformation in ACP countries

The resolution reflects the shared views on the role of private sector in promoting sustainable economic growth, job creation and reducing youth unemployment. The importance of promoting education and training of youth through programmes such as ERASMUS+ and other programmes, in order to improve and nurture skills in ACP countries.

The committee further recognised the importance of monitoring programmes targeting SMEs in ACP countries and requested that the European Commission, in future, submit a report on the benefits and success of such programmes.

ANNEX 11:

Urgent Topic No 2: Environmental Crimes, Tuesday 19th March 2019

Thank you Mr Co-President.

On behalf of the ACP Group I would like to report on the topic for Resolution on Environmental Crimes.

The Joint ACP-EU reconciliation committee, from a set of 5 resolution documents made the inclusion of certain new amendments coming from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Political Groups of EU which were presented, discussed and jointly accepted from the main draft. In recognition of the Small Island Developing States, it was discussed and agreed that the ACP-EU countries should come up with smart and innovative solutions to ensure that the SIDS receive relevant support to combat environmental crimes regardless of their income status.

The Committee recognized and agreed that Environmental Crimes, if not addressed will continue to affect the biodiversity and eco-systems of the ACP-EU countries. It was also agreed that there was a need for a more concerted effort on all frontiers to control and curb the trend in regards to implementing new legislation to combat these crimes, as well as capacity building in the legal sector for environmental justice.

The Committee also notes that a number of reports from various organizations give complementing findings as to these crimes, thus recognizing that the ACP and EU countries, in partnership should do what it takes to combat organized crimes that rob and deprive sovereign states of their potential to maximize their economic development through sustainable exploitations of their environmental issues. Nevertheless, it was agreed that both the ACP and EU Countries should carry out coherent strategies for the fight against these crimes, as well as jointly put together mechanisms for intelligence data and information gathering on the extent of the criminal activities and in keeping close monitoring on the financial transactions within this network. In addition, it was also highlighted that the ACP and EU countries should carry out awareness campaigns and programmes with schools to educate residents on environmental crimes, as well as encourage them to take ownership of the fight against these crimes on a national level.

The Committee discussed the importance of the role of the private sector, especially in providing technology, equipment, intelligence and innovation in the facilitation of surveillance, protection and mitigation of environmental crimes.

**Annex 12: Oral Amendment, Tuesday 19th March 2019
Seychelles**

Having regard to Chapter 4 on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Article 89 (1) of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, recognizing the vulnerability and specificities of the ACP SIDS of the ACP-EU Partnership, desiring for special attention.

(to be introduced as the new No.10 to the list of recitals)

ANNEX 13

(DRAFT)

**SMALL ISLAND STATES MEETING AT THE
54TH SESSION
OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

ON MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER , 2019

The Head of the Seychelles ACP-EU JPA Delegation, Hon. Clifford Andre, is taking the initiative to invite *Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cook Islands, Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Nauru, Niue, Dominican Republic, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome Principe, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tuvalu and Vanuatu* to an ACP SIDS Meeting within the margins of the 54th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels. Belgium in October 2019.

*The purpose of the meeting is for the ACP SIDS to consider a common position with regards to current issues affecting the ACP SIDS and in the process evaluate the outcome of the negotiated document of the Post-Contonou partnership agreement. **The date and timings of the meeting will be communicated to Members once the programme for the Session is available.***

Hon. Clifford Andre

Head of the Seychelles ACP-EU JPA Delegation