

Committee statement 2015/16:UU6 Towards a new partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020

In this statement, the Committee considers the joint consultation paper from The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission, Towards a new partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020 (JOIN(2015) 33 final).

The Statement contains a separate statement of opinion (Sweden Democrats). The Committee proposes that the Riksdag file the statement.

The Committee's examination

The Committee is positive to a broader political partnership between the EU and the ACP countries after 2020 in order to contribute to creating equal relations based on mutual interests. In the opinion of the Committee, the Cotonou Agreement should not be renewed in its existing form as its current structures, including the terms and structures of development funding, were established in another time and context.

The Committee considers that the partnership after 2020 should, for example, be based on the implementation of recently adopted universal and sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030), which include not just the ACP countries, but also the EU. It is essential that the partnership continues to be based on respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance after 2020.

The Committee notes that one of the effects of the fact that the partnership between the EU and the ACP countries was originally based on development assistance and non-reciprocal trade preferences was that it contributed to a distinct giver-receiver perspective between the parties to the agreement. Even if the Cotonou Agreement includes a significant political dimension, economic cooperation, trade cooperation and development funding cooperation, the Committee considers that the Cotonou Agreement has been unable to meet the greater need for, for example, flexibility and differentiation that developments in the last 20 years have involved for the parties to the agreement. The Committee considers that the EU needs to clarify a differentiation which takes into account differences between countries and which seeks to continue to follow the process of how this can be implemented.

Regarding the continued process, the Committee notes that political dialogue with the ACP countries will remain important. The Committee notes that it is also important that the ACP countries are consulted on an ongoing basis during the process and that their ownership is secured. The Committee considers that it is important that the EEAS and the Commission maintain close cooperation in order to ensure a broad approach.

The Committee intends to continue to follow the process of reaching a new partnership between the EU and the ACP after 2020.

Separate statement of opinion

Towards a new partnership between the EU and the ACP countries after 2020 (Sweden Democrats)

Julia Kronlid (Sweden Democrats) and Björn Söder (Sweden Democrats) state:

The Sweden Democrats regard it as extremely important that the relationship between the countries of Europe and the developing countries in Africa, the West Indies and the Pacific, after the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement, continues to be characterised by a desire for mutual understanding and cooperation, and well as opportunities for sustainable development for the affected countries.

The Sweden Democrats regard development cooperation and trade as the primary instruments for helping people in developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty and would therefore like to see a good and expedient policy in these areas.

Since the Cotonou Agreement was signed, all three geographical areas have been characterised by internally differentiated developments. In southern Africa, for example, Botswana has a GDP per capita which is approximately ten times that of its neighbour Zimbabwe. New agreements must, therefore, by definition, be formulated differently and be adapted to suit the situation in each country and region.

The Sweden Democrats would therefore like to submit a separate statement of opinion in which we present our principles for continued cooperation:

- The Sweden Democrats would like to see that fundamental principles are drawn up but that the agreements are regional, with separate thematic focuses on trade, development cooperation, politics/human rights and readmission.

Trade

- Trade policy and trade agreements should be based on the principle of more for more, with an explicit conditionality.
- The Sweden Democrats are critical to the EU's agricultural support which, in combination with trade facilitation, may cause competitive disadvantages for Swedish farmers, which is something we want to avoid.
- The Sweden Democrats do not want to contribute to agreements that give EU member states the right to use the fishing grounds of third countries. We also want other natural resources to be exploited by the countries in which the resources are found.

Aid

- The Sweden Democrats would like to see a gradual transition to result-based development cooperation.
- Within the field of development cooperation, the Sweden Democrats would like to see a greater focus on development goals nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6.
- The form of development cooperation known as budgetary support should be phased out completely as it involves significant risks of corruption.
- Within development cooperation, former colonies have traditionally been especially favoured within the EU, and this is something we strongly call into question. We consider that development cooperation should be distributed according to need.

Readmission

- The Sweden Democrats regard readmission agreements as a necessary aspect of relations with relevant developing countries.