Activities of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly in 1998

1998/2008(INI) - 09/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its report on the work carried out in 1998 by the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, drafted by Mr. John Corrie (EPP, UK), without debate. The Parliament stresses that the Joint Assembly is a vital component of ACP-EU relations and considers it instrumental in developing the full potential of ACP-EU co-operation and in responding to the democratic challenge of how to best incorporate a deepened political dimension into the new agreement. It calls for the role of the Joint Assembly to be strengthened and for its working methods to be optimised to take account of the emerging new nature of ACP-EU co-operation, including the possibility of holding regional meetings of the Assembly. It considers that participation by NGO observers from Europe and the ACP countries in the work of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly helps to enrich the debates and reinforce links with civil society. It will give due heed to the positions of the Joint Assembly when deciding on foreign and development policy issues, as well as when deciding on matters such as trade, which are fundamentally linked to, and need to be coherent with, development policy. It is deeply concerned at various other internal conflicts and human rights violations in some ACP regions and regrets that, in some cases, the Assembly has failed to adopt a unified stance. The EP is also pleased that decentralised co-operation, involvement of civil society and co-operation with local NGOs are increasingly valued in the ACP countries and, in particular, that a reinforcement of women's rights is acknowledged to be an important precondition for sustainable development. The Parliament stresses the great importance of freedom of information, the press and opinion, as well as freedom of political opposition, including fair access to the mass media for competing political groups, for a repression-free society.