Basic information

1996/0023(AVC) AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention **Subject** 6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities **Geographical area** ACP countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	WURTZ Francis (GUE /NGL)	23/02/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	PORTO Manuel (ELDR)	21/02/1996
TRAN Transport and Tourism	DONNAY Jacques (UPE)	26/03/1996
PECH Fisheries	SOUCHET Dominique F.C. (EDN)	24/04/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1853	1995-06-12
General Affairs	1878	1995-10-31
General Affairs	1844	1995-04-10
General Affairs	1915	1998-04-27
General Affairs	1827	1995-02-06
General Affairs	1830	1995-03-06
General Affairs	1825	1995-01-23
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1937	1996-06-18
Agriculture and Fisheries	1896	1995-12-18

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/12/1994	Additional information		Summary
23/01/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
06/03/1995	Debate in Council		
10/04/1995	Debate in Council		
12/06/1995	Debate in Council		
23/01/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0707	Summary
22/04/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/11/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
20/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0387/1996	
11/12/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
27/04/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
29/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0023(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 238 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 228-p2/3-a2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/07844

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0387/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0003	20/11/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0674/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0086-0134	12/12/1996	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	06075/1996	19/04/1996	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0707	23/01/1996	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 1998/0344 OJ L 156 29.05.1998, p. 0001	Summary

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

1996/0023(AVC) - 27/04/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to amend the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé at mid-term. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 98/344/EC concerning the conclusion of the Agreement amending the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995. SUBSTANCE: The purpose of the Agreement is to step up the Union's support for the development of the ACP countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific States) by modernising and adjusting the instruments of the Convention, without calling into question the fundamental principles on which ACP-EC cooperation is based, particularly that of partnership. The innovations introduced by the Agreement include: 1) political aspects: bolstering the political and institutional elements in the Convention by: -affirming the principles of democracy and the rule of law, which are regarded as 'essential elements' of the Convention, -the insertion of a clause permitting the total or partial suspension of cooperation in the event of violation of one of these elements, except in special emergencies, -extension of the dialogue between the parties to include political problems; 2) the development of trade: the parties recognise that the development of trade is central to ACP-EC cooperation and that the deterioration in the commercial performance of the ACP countries arising from their uncompetitiveness, the erosion of their preferences and the insufficient diversification of their economies must be remedied. The Agreement also comprises fresh trade concessions for certain agricultural products and renders some of the provisions concerning rules of origin more flexible; 3) financial and technical cooperation: improvements have been made to procedures for implementing financial and technical cooperation, particularly those relating to the programming of the assistance. The aim is, in particular, to make more effective use of the financial resources of the European Development Fund (EDF); 4) the volume of aid: under the 2nd Financial Protocol to the Convention (8th EDF) the Union is to make available to the ACP countries approximately EC 13.3 bn in financial assistance (an uprating of 22% in relation to the previous EDF). Loans from the European Investment Bank's own resources are additional to this, and will bring the Community's total financial assistance to ECU 14 625 million over five years (1995-2000). ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01.06.1998.

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

1996/0023(AVC) - 12/12/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Francis WURTZ (GUE/NGL, F) Parliament gave its assent to the conclusion of the Agreement amending the Fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995 .

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

1996/0023(AVC) - 23/01/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the draft Decision is intended to enable the Council and the Commission (EC/ECSC) to conclude the mid-term revision of the fourth LOMÉ Convention with, in particular, the setting of a new financial budget for Community aid to the ACP countries, granted under the 8th EDF. SUBSTANCE: the revision of LOMÉ IV essentially concerns the following points: . setting of the overall level of Community aid to the ACP countries for the period 1995-2000 under the second financial protocol to LOMÉ IV at ECU 14.625 billion, of which ECU 12.967 bn is from the EDF and ECU 1.658 bn from the EIB, to which is added an overall contribution of ECU 200 m in aid to the overseas countries and territories (ECU 165 m from the EDF and ECU 35 m from the EIB), . introduction of a clause allowing aid to be suspended in the event of the violation of human rights, democracy or the rule of law, accompanied by a consultation mechanism which respects the partnership, . insertion of a reference to the principles of the market economy and to the importance of the private sector as an engine of development, . reform of the programming of aid to encourage sound management, without jeopardizing the predictability of aid, comprising the payment of 70% of the overall budget for each country and payment of the balance in the light of an assessment after three years, . priority given to regional cooperation to develop South-South trade, which currently accounts for only 6% of ACP countries' trade, . improvements to the trade component, through the granting of preferences for all agricultural products (industrial products are already exempt from customs duties) and a relaxation of the rules of origin, . ACP agricultural products exported to the Union will all benefit from a reduction in customs duties, their treatment varying according to their degree of sensitivity for the Community market: -list 1, products which have hitherto not enjoyed any preference: 16% reduction in customs duties for all products (except olives, olive oil, wine and lemons), -list 2, products subject to tariff quotas or reference amounts: conversion of quotas into ceilings for certain products and 15% reduction in customs duties outside ceilings, -list 3, products subject to timetables: general 15% reduction in customs duties outside the current timetables, except for certain products. As regards fisheries, annual quantities of tuna are increased by 1500 tonnes p.a. (from 2500 tonnes to 4000 tonnes) and by 500 tonnes of fillets. . the rules of origin have been made more flexible for all processed products (except for tuna, rice and certain textile products) as a result of extending the ACP cumulation to cover 16 adjacent non-ACP developing countries. . However, preferential tariffs no longer form the basis of ACP/EU relations, since future aid will be based on sustainable development (including investment in industry and the encouragement of commercial competitiveness).

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

1996/0023(AVC) - 23/01/1995

The Council instructed the French Presidency to come up with a compromise formula for the trade provisions of the negotiations and certain indicative parameters for the volume of the 8th EDF to run from 1995 to 2000. Trade provisions: the compromise proposal of the French Presidency seeks to improve the conditions under which agricultural products from ACP countries access the Community market and to reconcile the pressing needs of the ACP countries and the interests of the Mediterranean Member States. It adapts the benefits granted to the ACP countries for three different categories of products that are protected to a greater or lesser extent: 1) products for which the ACP states do not enjoy any preference: 10% reduction in customs duties/levies; 2) products subject to tariff quotas or reference amounts: in general, conversion of quotas into ceilings and elimination of reference amounts; 3) products subject to timetables: 10% reduction in customs duties outside the current timetables. Derogations are laid down for each category of products. 8th EDF: although the amount of the financial contribution was discussed, a final figure was not agreed. France stated clearly, however, that the 7th EDF should be updated (ECU 12 billion, including EIB loans), taking account of two parameters: 1) in the past the resources of the European Development Fund had always been increased by 21.5% to cover at least inflation (which would give ECU 14.6 billion for the 8th EDF); 2) the European Union had been enlarged to include three new prosperous Member States.

ACP/EC Lomé Convention: agreement amending the 4th ACP/EC Convention

1996/0023(AVC) - 18/06/1996

The Council expressed its agreement with the common position, which was to serve as a basis for contributions from the Community during the twenty-first meeting of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers to be held on 28 and 29 June 1996 in Apia , Western Samoa .