Basic information

1999/0112(AVC) AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation **Subject** 6.40.07 Relations with African countries **Geographical area** South Africa	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	KINNOCK Glenys (PSE)	26/02/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		
BUDG Budgets		
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	KHANBHAI Bashir (PPE-DE)	01/09/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2243	2000-02-14
General Affairs	2161	1999-02-21
General Affairs	2168	1999-03-21
General Affairs	2576	2004-04-26
General Affairs	1902	1996-01-29
General Affairs	2078	1998-03-30
General Affairs	1996	1997-03-24
General Affairs	1844	1995-04-10
General Affairs	2127	1998-10-26
General Affairs	2200	1999-07-29
General Affairs	1911	1996-03-25

	General Affairs	1891	1995-12-04
	General Affairs	1903	1996-02-26
	General Affairs	2070	1998-02-23
	General Affairs	1853	1995-06-12
	General Affairs	1989	1997-02-24
	General Affairs	2173	1999-04-26
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1856	1995-06-19
	Development	1849	1995-06-01

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Development	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/04/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
01/06/1995	Debate in Council		
04/12/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
26/02/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
25/03/1996	Debate in Council		
24/02/1997	Debate in Council		
24/03/1997	Debate in Council		
23/02/1998	Debate in Council		
30/03/1998	Debate in Council		
26/10/1998	Debate in Council		
21/02/1999	Debate in Council		
21/03/1999	Debate in Council		
26/04/1999	Debate in Council		
11/05/1999	Initial legislative proposal published	08731/1999 COM(1999)0245	
09/07/1999	Legislative proposal published	08732/1999	Summary
20/09/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
20/09/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0020/1999	
04/10/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/10/1999	Debate in Parliament		
06/10/1999	Decision by Parliament	T5-0044/1999	Summary
14/02/2000	Debate in Council		

26/04/2004	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
26/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0112(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 310 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1 ECSC Treaty C 095
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/12119

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0020/1999 OJ C 107 13.04.2000, p. 0005	20/09/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0044/1999 OJ C 107 13.04.2000, p. 0030-0069	06/10/1999	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Initial legislative proposal	08731/1999	11/05/1999	
Legislative proposal	08732/1999	09/07/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Initial legislative proposal	COM(1999)0245	11/05/1999	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2004/0441
OJ L 127 29.04.2004, p. 0109-0109 Summary

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 12/06/1995

The Council reached a political agreement on the negotiating directives for the Commission with a view to laying down a new framework for relations between the European Union and South Africa, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalise them. The directives provide for the negotiation of an Additional Protocol to the Lomé Convention on the terms and conditions of South Africa's accession to the Convention, and for a bilateral Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Approval of these directives is further evidence of the Union's firm determination to support the South African Government in its efforts to rebuild and develop the country. The planned Agreement places relations between the Union and South Africa in a global long-term perspective. The future Agreement will also enable relations between the European Union and Southern Africa as a whole to be strengthened. It will comply fully with the undertakings made by the Union to the other ACP partners in the context of the Lomé Convention.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 10/04/1995

The Council heard a presentation by Commissioner PINHEIRO of the Commission's communication concerning negotiating directives with a view to establishing a global, coherent and stable framework for relations between the European Union and the Republic of South Africa. Such a framework would encompass both a trade and cooperation agreement and a Protocol to the Lomé Convention covering the terms and conditions for the accession of South Africa to the Convention. The trade and cooperation agreement should enable free trade with South Africa to be achieved progressively; the aim of the Protocol to the Lomé Convention would be the accession of South Africa to the Convention as a qualified member. The Council welcomed the communication and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine it and to report back to the Council at its next meeting.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 09/07/1999 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: conclusion of the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of South Africa. CONTENT: the draft agreement establishes a framework for the strengthening and deepening of the cooperation between the EU and South Africa in a broad field of activities. The agreement is based on the principles of respect for human rights and democratic principles. In particular, it seeks to: - strengthen the dialogue between the parties, - support South Africa in its process of economic and social transition, - promote regional cooperation and economic integration of this country in the Southern African region, - promote the expansion and reciprocal liberalisation of mutual trade in goods, services and capital, - encourage the smooth and gradual integration of South Africa into the world economy, - promote cooperation between the EC and South Africa within the bounds of their respective powers, in their mutual interest. There are three main aspects covered by the agreement: a trade aspect, an economic cooperation aspect and a development aspect. 1) As far as the trade aspect is concerned, the agreement provides for the progressive setting up of a free trade area between the EU and South Africa with a transitional period of 12 years for South Africa and 10 years for the Community. This free trade area would concern the free movement of goods in all fields, as well as services and capital. The agreement also provides for the gradual abolition of customs duties by the Community and South Africa for a whole series of products specifically mentioned in the agreement (including agricultural products). Safeguard clauses also exist for certain sensitive products; 2) on the economic cooperation front, the agreement covers all areas of common interest: industrial cooperation, promotion and safeguarding of investment, development of exchanges, cooperation between SMEs and micro-businesses, in the area of the information society and information technologies, cooperation regarding post, energy, transport, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, services and consumer policy; 3) the third aspect deals with development cooperation and focuses on the dialogue between the parties. It seeks as a priority to combat poverty in South Africa. Specific measures designed to support the furthering of the democratic process under way in the country as well as favouring the emergence of civil society and female empowerment are also planned. A fourth aspect enlarges still further the fields of cooperation in particular to the environment, culture, social questions, combatting drugs and money laundering, and public health. To facilitate this cooperation, a wide range of existing financial instruments will be used, all of which will be implemented according to their established rules and procedures: in particular via the special instrument created in the Community budget to support development cooperation (see COD990070), other financial resources from other budget lines or via loans guaranteed by the EIB for the funding of investment projects (see CNS990080). AA final section deals with the institutional structure for the management of the agreement : a Cooperation Council is established to ensure its proper operation. The agreement includes a clause permitting its extension to cover other fields of cooperation. The agreement is of unlimited duration. It is, however, planned that it be re-examined after five years to see whether modifications are required.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 29/01/1996

The Council noted the Commission's undertaking to submit the necessary studies to enable the Council to approve the directives on trade and commercial cooperation with South Africa at its meeting on 26 and 27 February with a view to the negotiations being concluded in June.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 06/10/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Parliament gave its assent to the proposal for a Council and a Commission decision. It welcomed the long-awaited agreement with South Africa. The Rapporteur, Mrs. Glenys Kinnock (UK, PES), told MEPs that the European parliament would be the first parliament to give its assent and, as such, hoped to set a lead to the other national parliaments so that it could come into force swiftly.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 04/12/1995

On the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency, the Council held an in-depth and constructive discussion on the main elements to be included in the trade provisions of the agreement with South Africa, the eventual goal being to establish a free trade area. At the end of the meeting, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in the light of today’s discussions and to present it with an overall report to enable it to adopt the complementary negotiating directives as soon as possible with a view to concluding the negotiations with South Africa early in 1996. The negotiating directives adopted on 19 June take account of the specific nature of the economic, social and political realities in South Africa and its regional integration, and provide for the negotiation of an additional protocol to the ACP-EC Convention on the conditions for the accession of South Africa to the Convention together with a bilateral trade and cooperation agreement between the EU and South Africa. The Union’s objective is to establish a new, comprehensive and stable framework for cooperation in the long term between the EU and South Africa and to support the restructuring of its economy and the consolidation of democracy.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 26/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to approve the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement between the EC and its Member States, and the Republic of South Africa. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2004/441/EC concerning the conclusion of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, on the one part, and the Republic of South Africa, on the other part. CONTENT : the above-mentioned Agreement signed in Pretoria on 11 October 1999, has been provisionally applied according to Decision 1999/753/EC. This Decision approves the Agreement together with the Annexes and Protocols attached to it and the declarations made by the Community unilaterally or jointly with other parties that are attached to the Final Act. The texts of the Agreement, Annexes, Protocols and the Final Act are attached to Decision 1999/753 /EC.

EC/South Africa agreement: trade, development and cooperation

1999/0112(AVC) - 26/02/1996

The Council discussed in detail the problems still arising with regard to the adoption of supplementary directives for negotiations with South Africa, aimed at the establishment of a free-trade area compatible with WTO rules. It had before it for the purpose a package put forward by the Presidency, which was regarded as a very sound basis on which to arrive at an overall compromise. At the end of discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete drafting work on the negotiating directives in the firm resolve that they should be adopted swiftly, at the latest at the next General Affairs Council meeting, on 25 and 26 March 1996.