Basic information

2002/2097(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Recommendations for the negotiation of economic partnership agreements with ACP regions and countries **Subject** 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.30 Development cooperation 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	BOUDJENAH Yasmine (GUE/NGL)	18/04/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	TITLEY Gary (PSE)	04/06/2002

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/05/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/09/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
03/09/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0278/2002	
25/09/2002	Debate in Parliament		
26/09/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0453/2002	Summary
26/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/2097(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 117 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/16233

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0278/2002	03/09/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0453/2002 OJ C 273 14.11.2003, p. 0202-0305 E	26/09/2002	Summary

Recommendations for the negotiation of economic partnership agreements with ACP regions and countries

2002/2097(INI) - 26/09/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Yasmine BOUDJENAH (EUL/NGL, France) regarding the negotiation of partnership countries with the ACP countries. (Please refer to the document dated 03/09/02.) Parliament pointed to the huge differences that exist between the EU and ACP countries. Before liberalisation and a system of trade reciprocity are introduced, trade obstacles (non-tariff barriers, subsidies for EU products) and structural obstacles (product processing deficit, technological backwardness, weakness of local market) should be gradually lifted since they have been major factors preventing the ACP countries from taking full advantage of the non-reciprocal facilities which currently exist. In order to be able to export finished products to the EU, temporary selective protection measures are essential. The purposes of closer cooperation between the EU and ACP in the WTO are as follows: -a flexible interpretation of the principle of "special and differential treatment" which will enable the EU's system of non-reciprocal trade facilities for the ACP to be extended beyond 2008, so as to enable those countries to develop; -consolidation of the commodity protocols and extension to other products that are important to ACP development; -reconsideration of the TRIPs Agreement to facilitate technology transfer, to relax conditions for granting manufacturing patents to protect public health, and to protect biodiversity. With regard to the negotiation process, Parliament was concerned to ensure that the structure and organisation should be decided upon by both parties free from any pressure. The right of least-developed countries to non-reciprocal trade preferences must be respected. The political cohesion of the ACP group should be preserved, and there is a need for flexibility in the Commission's approach to the negotiations in order to accommodate the different levels of development of the ACP countries. A uniform approach would be counterproductive.