

Basic information

2008/0137(NLE)

NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Decision

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

Subject

6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations
6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities

Geographical area

Ghana

Awaiting final decision

Key players

European
Parliament

Committee responsible

INTA

International Trade

Rapporteur

FJELLNER Christofer (PPE)

Appointed

22/07/2014

Shadow rapporteur

KIRTON-DARLING Jude (S&D)

LOONES Sander (ECR)

TREMOSA I BALCELLS Ramon (ALDE)

LE HYARIC Patrick (GUE /NGL)

KELLER Ska (Verts/ALE)

Former committee responsible

INTA

International Trade

Former rapporteur

Appointed

INTA

International Trade

Committee for opinion

DEVE

Development

Rapporteur for opinion

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Appointed

Former committee for opinion

Former rapporteur for opinion

Appointed

	DEVE Development		
	DEVE Development		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2906	2008-11-21
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade and Economic Security	DE GUCHT Karel	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/07/2008	Preparatory document	COM(2008)0441 	
02/12/2009	Additional information		Summary
04/10/2016	Legislative proposal published	12396/2016	Summary
24/10/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/11/2016	Vote in committee		
14/11/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0328/2016	Summary
30/11/2016	Debate in Parliament		
01/12/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0466/2016	Summary
01/12/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/0137(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	INTA/8/00023

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE589.325	21/09/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0328/2016	14/11/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0466/2016	01/12/2016	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	12130/2008	30/06/2014	
Legislative proposal	12396/2016	04/10/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2008)0440 	10/07/2008	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2008)0441 	10/07/2008	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0137(NLE) - 14/11/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP, SE) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament should **give its consent** to the conclusion of the Agreement.

The committee recalled that with the signature of the EU-West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) taking additional time, Ghana (and subsequently Côte d'Ivoire) has decided to proceed with ratification of its Stepping Stone Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, concluded back in 2007.

The deal ensures a contractual safety net, warranting a duty-free access to the EU market until the regional agreement comes into a fruition. The IEPA matches market access opportunities with provisions addressing technical barriers to trade and helping Ghanaian exporters meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

No less important is the co-operation aimed at strengthening capacity in fiscal reforms, improving business climate, competitiveness, trade facilitation and customs co-operation.

Therefore, Parliament is called upon to give consent to this interim agreement which would open doors to its provisional application in order to allow Ghanaian exporters to preserve the duty-free preferences on the European market.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0137(NLE) - 01/12/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted, by 375 votes to 220 with 46 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

The European Parliament **gave its consent** to the conclusion of the Agreement.

As a reminder, this stepping stone Agreement **ensures a contractual safety net, warranting a duty-free access to the EU market** until the regional agreement comes into a fruition and it matches market access opportunities with provisions addressing technical barriers to trade.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0137(NLE) - 04/10/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, calls for the conclusion of WTO-compatible Economic Partnership Agreements.

On 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements with members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

Negotiations for a stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement have been concluded with Ghana and the Agreement has been initialled on 13 December 2007.

The Agreement was signed on 28 July 2016 subject to its conclusion at a later date. It has been provisionally applied pending its entry into force. It is now necessary for it to be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision aims to **approve on behalf of the Union the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.**

It is noted that the Agreement shall not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations which can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts and tribunals.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0137(NLE) - 10/07/2008

PURPOSE: to conclude the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Ghana, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the **stepping stone EPA** has been negotiated with Ghana in order to avoid disrupting trade between this country and the Community on the expiry on 31 December 2007 of the trade provisions set out in Annex V of the Cotonou Agreement and the WTO waiver that covered them, and pending the completion of a comprehensive EPA with the whole West African region.

Following the initialling of this Agreement respectively on 13 December 2007, Ghana was added to the list of countries benefiting from an EPA trade regime established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1528/2007](#), adopted on 20 December 2007. This Regulation provided for an advance application of the EPA trade regime.

The negotiation of a full EPA with the whole West African region continues, consistently with the negotiating directives for EPAs with the ACP States adopted by Council on 12 June 2002. The countries of this region are:

- Benin,

- Burkina Faso,
- Ivory Coast,
- Guinea Bissau,
- Mali,
- Niger,
- Senegal,
- Togo,
- Cape Verde,
- Gambia,
- Ghana,
- Guinea,
- Liberia,
- Nigeria,
- Sierra Leone,
- Mauritania.

CONTENT: the stepping stone EPA, which the Commission request the Council to conclude on behalf of the Community, after assent by the European Parliament, contains provisions on:

- Trade in Goods,
- Customs and Trade Facilitation,
- Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

There are also **Development Cooperation** provisions setting out priority areas of action for the implementation of the EPA. Each individual substantive chapter of the Agreement includes specific areas of cooperation and a Development Cooperation declaration establishes the link with the EU Aid for Trade strategy and recalls the Commission's and Member States' intention to contribute to a regional development fund.

The Agreement also foresees the continuation of negotiations at regional level on investment, services and trade related issues and provides that the full regional EPA will supersede it once concluded.

Provisional application: pending the entry into force of the stepping stone EPA, the stepping stone EPA foresees the provisional application of the Agreement (see COM(2008)0440).

Lastly, the European Parliament will be called upon to give its assent to the conclusion of the stepping stone EPA.

EC/Ghana stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0137(NLE) - 10/07/2008 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: to propose the signature and the provisional application of a **stepping stone** Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Ghana, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: the content of this provisional Agreement is identical to that of the general Agreement. For more details, please refer to the summary of the Commission's initial proposal of 10/07/2008.

To recall, this stepping stone Agreement concerns trade and development cooperation issues linking the Community and its Member States and Ghana.