




Basic information	
<b>2008/0139(NLE)</b> NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement  <b>Subject</b> 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities  <b>Geographical area</b> Cameroon	

Key players			
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>INTA</b> International Trade	MARTIN David (S&D)	26/11/2012
		Shadow rapporteur ŠŤASTNÝ Peter (PPE) KELLER Ska (Verts/ALE) STURDY Robert (ECR)	
	<b>Former committee responsible</b>	<b>Former rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>INTA</b> International Trade		
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>	<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>DEVE</b> Development	SARGENTINI Judith (Verts/ALE)	21/11/2012
	<b>Former committee for opinion</b>	<b>Former rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
<b>DEVE</b> Development			
Council of the European Union	<b>Council configuration</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2905	2008-11-20

European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
	Trade and Economic Security	DE GUCHT Karel

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/07/2008	Preparatory document	COM(2008)0446 	Summary
20/11/2008	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
28/02/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		
02/12/2009	Additional information		Summary
23/10/2012	Legislative proposal published	14757/2012	Summary
19/11/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/05/2013	Vote in committee		
03/06/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0190/2013	Summary
13/06/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0272/2013	Summary
13/06/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/06/2013	Debate in Parliament		

Technical information	
<b>Procedure reference</b>	2008/0139(NLE)
<b>Procedure type</b>	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
<b>Procedure subtype</b>	Consent by Parliament
<b>Legislative instrument</b>	Decision
<b>Legal basis</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
<b>Other legal basis</b>	Rules of Procedure EP 165
<b>Stage reached in procedure</b>	Procedure completed
<b>Committee dossier</b>	INTA/7/00113



Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE506.131	04/03/2013	

Committee opinion	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">DEVE</span>	<a href="#">PE504.062</a>	05/04/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE510.588</a>	16/05/2013	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A7-0190/2013</a>	03/06/2013	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T7-0272/2013</a>	13/06/2013	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	<a href="#">14757/2012</a>	23/10/2012	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	<a href="#">COM(2008)0445</a> 	10/07/2008	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Preparatory document	<a href="#">COM(2008)0446</a> 	10/07/2008	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	<a href="#">IPEX</a>	
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>	

#### Final act

[Decision 2009/0152](#)  
[OJ L 057 28.02.2009, p. 0001](#)

## EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0139(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 Central Africa, of the other part (only **Cameroon** at this stage).

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 Cameroon.

## EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0139(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 Central Africa, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: as it was not possible to conclude before end 2007 a complete EPA with the whole Central African region, that is:

- § Cameroon,
- § Central African Republic,
- § Chad,
- § Democratic Republic of Congo,
- § Congo,
- § Equatorial Guinea,
- § Gabon,
- § Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

this stepping stone EPA has been negotiated in order to avoid disrupting trade between Central Africa and the European Community, pending completion of the comprehensive EPA with the whole Central African region.

At this stage, the Central African part is composed of **Cameroon** which is the only country to have initialled it up to now.

Following the initialling of this stepping stone EPA on 17 December 2007, Cameroon was added to the list of countries benefiting from the EPA trade regime established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1528/2007](#) adopted on 20 December 2007. This Regulation provides for an advance application of the EPA trade regime. This ensured that there was no trade disruption for Cameroon upon 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.

The negotiation of a full EPA with all Central African states continues, consistently with the negotiating directives for EPAs with the ACP States adopted by Council on 12 June 2002. The stepping stone EPA initialled by Cameroon is intended to be available for the region as a whole. It will be extended by the outcome of negotiations for full EPA reached in 2008.

Pending its entry into force, the stepping stone EPA foresees its provisional application.

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, that is to say Customs and Non Tariff Measures;
- § trade Defence Instruments;
- § customs Regime and Trade Facilitation;
- § technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
- § forestry Governance and Trade for Forest Related Products.

It also contains **Development Cooperation** provisions setting out priority areas of action for its implementation. The stepping stone EPA establishes a framework for development cooperation towards the strengthening of capacity and reinforcement of national economies in Central Africa. It also recalls the Commission's and Member States' intention to contribute to a regional development fund.

The stepping stone EPA initialled by Cameroon is intended to be available for the region as a whole. It will be extended by the outcome of negotiations for full EPA reached in 2008. It therefore foresees the continuation of negotiations at regional level on Establishment, Services and Electronic Trade and Trade Related rules.

**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)0445).

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

## EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0139(NLE) - 10/07/2008 - Preparatory document

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

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: as it was not possible to conclude before end 2007 a complete EPA with the whole Central African region, that is:

- § Cameroon,
- § Central African Republic,
- § Chad,
- § Democratic Republic of Congo,
- § Congo,
- § Equatorial Guinea,
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this stepping stone EPA has been negotiated in order to avoid disrupting trade between Central Africa and the European Community, pending completion of the comprehensive EPA with the whole Central African region.

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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, that is to say Customs and Non Tariff Measures;
- § trade Defence Instruments;
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**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)0445).

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

## EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement

2008/0139(NLE) - 23/10/2012 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: the conclusion of the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Council has by its Decision 2009/152/EC decided on the signature of the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part ("the interim agreement"). The interim agreement was signed on 15 January 2009.

It is now appropriate to conclude the agreement on behalf of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was undertaken.

LEGAL BASIS: Articles 207 and 211, in conjunction with point (a) of Article 218(6), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal for a decision is to approve on behalf of the Union, the stepping stone Economic partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Members States, of the one part, and Central Africa, of the other part.

The text of the "[stepping stone agreement](#)" was published in the Official Journal of the European Union, with the decision in regard to its signature. For further information regarding the content of the agreement, please refer to the summary dated 10/07/2008.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: the proposal has no impact on the EU's budget.

## **EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement**

2008/0139(NLE) - 03/06/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by David MARTIN (S&D, UK) on the draft Council decision concluding the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part.

Members recommend that the European Parliament should consent to the conclusion of the Agreement as this would send an important signal on the importance of the trade relationship to the Central African region as a whole.

## **EC/Central Africa stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement**

2008/0139(NLE) - 13/06/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision concluding the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part.

Parliament consented to the conclusion of the agreement.