

New ACP-EU Partnership: Chief negotiators assess progress made and move talks on to next stage

New ACP-EU Partnership: Chief negotiators assess progress made and move talks on to next stage



Brussels, 23 May 2019/ACP: Following the recent consultations at regional level with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, Chief Negotiators Commissioner Mimica and Togolese Minister Robert Dussey, met in Brussels today to discuss the outline for the future ACP-EU agreement.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development and EU's Chief Negotiator, Neven Mimica, said: "The agreement is taking shape. It is time to step up our efforts and speed up our progress to deliver as expected. Today's discussions on the regional partnerships bring us a step closer to this new and stronger cooperation we are aiming for".

Togo's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Africa integration, also ACP Chief Negotiator and Chair of the Ministerial Central Negotiating Group, Robert Dussey, said: "We started this negotiation in September last year and have made steady progress since then. The consultations with the three regions were beneficial in so far as giving a good idea of the needs for each region. We look forward to concluding an Agreement which is focused on the current and future needs of our Member countries."

Next steps

While talks on the specific regional partnerships progress, the EU and ACP negotiating teams will continue their work on the text of the agreement that covers all 79 countries (also referred to as "the common foundation"). Upcoming negotiation sessions will notably focus on the institutional set-up. The aim is to make maximum progress before the next chief negotiators' meeting, due to take place in the second half of July.

Background

The Cotonou Agreement currently governing EU-ACP relations is due to expire in 2020. Negotiations on a new ACP-EU Partnership were launched in New York on 28 September 2018 in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

The initial rounds of talks mainly focused on the common foundation at EU-ACP level. This common foundation sets out the values and principles that bring the EU and ACP countries together and indicates the strategic priority areas that both sides intend to work on together.

In addition, the future agreement is planned to include specific, action-oriented regional pillars focusing on each region's needs. The first round of consultations on the regional pillars has now concluded.

The future ACP-EU Partnership will serve to further cement the close political ties between the EU and ACP countries on the world stage. Together, they represent more than half of UN member countries and over 1.5 billion people.

For more information

[ACP Negotiating Mandates](#) ^[1]

[EU Negotiation Directives](#) ^[2]

Photo: (L-R) EU Chief Negotiator Neven Mimica greets ACP Chief Negotiator Minister Robert Dussey at the start of the Meeting of the ACP and EU Chief Negotiators at the ACP Secretariat, following the conclusion of the 109th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers. © EU

Tags: [News articles](#) ^[3]

Source URL: <http://acp.int/content/new-acp-eu-partnership-chief-negotiators-assess-progress-made-and-move-talks-next-stage>

Links:

[1] http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/acpdoc/public-documents/ACP0001118_%20ACP_Negotiating_Mandate_EN.pdf

[2] [http://EU Negotiation directives](http://EU%20Negotiation%20directives)

[3] <http://acp.int/category/story-type/news-articles>