

THIRD LOME CONVENTION

Statement by the Hon. John Gihero M.P., Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea,
to the ACP Council of Ministers*

First of all, may I express my deep personal appreciation, that of my country, Papua New Guinea, and that of my region, for the great honour and privilege conferred on my to serve as President of the Council of ACP Ministers.

It is indeed a great honour, and I pledge to you my total determination to do all that lies within my capacity, during this critical time in the life of our group, to achieve our fundamental objectives.

In this endeavour, I feel deeply moved in paying tribute to my predecessor, the Rt. Honourable Hugh Shearer, Prime Minister of Jamaica, for the exemplary manner in which he led our Group. We all owe him a major debt of gratitude. And his willingness to continue to serve on the Ministerial Negotiating Team - for which we sincerely thank him - would bring great strength to our advocacy of the ACP position.

*(This is the text of the statement by the Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea as President of the Council of ACP Ministers. As a result of the negotiations a Third Lome Convention was signed between the 64 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Economic Community on 8 December 1984. Extracts of the EEC Press Release follow. These documents were supplied by the Papua New Guinea High Commission and the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, Canberra.)

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At this juncture, it is probably timely for me to also express our appreciation for the work done by Ambassador Francis Okelo of Uganda as Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors at the last Ministerial Negotiating Meeting and to two of our earlier Ambassadorial Spokesmen, Chief Peter Afolabi of Nigeria and Oliver Jackman of Barbados, who have both since been assigned new functions by their Governments.

We are equally grateful for the enthusiasm with which their successors Ambassador Diarra of Mali as the new Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors, and Ambassador Tuho of Ivory Coast and St. John of Trinidad and Tobago have taken to their tasks. What it signifies, Colleagues, is that our group, the ACP Group, is not without men and women of competence and devotion. With unity, solidarity and Cooperation I am confident we can achieve our goal.

Today, one full year after we opened the negotiations with our European partners, and, merely three months since our last Ministerial negotiations in Luxembourg, we meet here in Brussels, to seek to conclude the negotiations for the Third Lome Convention. It is my earnest hope that the efforts which have been made so far, particularly by our Ambassadors and Secretariat, would not be in vain. Nor, I hope, fellow Ministers, will be our many long and arduous journeys to the various Ministerial meetings which we have had to hold on this question.

I sincerely hope that we shall be able, on this occasion, to bring to a final and successful conclusion to all these efforts to achieve a Convention commensurate with the needs of our peoples.

These meetings that we are holding in Brussels this week are therefore probably the most crucial ones. They require us first of all to reflect on the objectives we set ourselves in Luxembourg last October and to assess how close we are today to achieving them.

I therefore commend to all of us a re-reading of that masterly statement by our then distinguished President Mogwe as we now enter the final stages of these negotiations.

Against that background, let us recall that at the end of the last ACP/EEC Ministerial Negotiating Meeting in Luxembourg, our Ministers were mandated, first of all to finalise the text relating to the subjects on which we have reached agreement in principle with our European partners. Secondly, negotiations were to continue at Ambassadorial level with a view to reaching conclusions, on as many of the remaining subjects as possible. And, where agreements were not reached, our negotiators were to clearly outline the divergencies and the rationale for the respective positions of the two sides. It was these ^{the} last set of issues which were to be the subject of Ministerial negotiations in a restricted Ministerial meeting which would, as regards the ACP, be ad referendum to the Council of ACP Ministers.

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It is those restricted Ministerial negotiations for which we are today undertaking the final preparations on the basis of the reports submitted by our Committee of Ambassadors. You would recall that we agreed in Luxembourg that our negotiating team for this meeting would comprise the President and the Immediately Past President of Council, the Ministerial Spokesmen, the Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors and the Ambassadorial Spokesmen and the Secretariat. It is this team that has the responsibility to seek to resolve the outstanding issues with our European partners and to submit the results for the benediction of our Council.

Dear Colleagues, I need not tell you that the task before us is a difficult one. Nor can I over-emphasize its extreme importance. It is in the interest of our countries and our peoples that we must succeed. We must therefore get down to work immediately, following closely the agenda and studying carefully the documents that have been prepared for us by the Committee of Ambassadors and the Secretariat. It is my hope that in doing so we will execute this work as quickly as possible, so that at the end of our meeting today, we would be able to give clear mandate to our spokesmen. Some of the issues facing us, such as access of ACP products to the European Community market, the rules of origin and the volume of finance, to mention but a few, are extremely difficult. I would like therefore to urge the Spokesmen again and again to acquaint themselves thoroughly with all

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aspects of their subject as our European colleagues are likely to prove extremely tough negotiators.

Dear Colleagues, this is therefore not the time to dwell on the importance which we of the ACP Group attach to the Lomé Convention. That is self-evident. All of you in this room are fully conscious of the importance of this North/South relationship and of the immense struggle in bringing about any improvements in the present International Economic Order. Our relationship with the EEC, as reflected by our Convention, offers a great opportunity to this end. It therefore behoves both sides - ACP and EEC - to make the greatest effort to ensure that the negotiations for Lomé III are a success.

Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me in closing recall President Mogwe's candid admission in Luxembourg, last October, we are as much the architects of our fate as we are its victims.

It is for this reason, that the distinguished Prime Minister of Fiji, way back in 1977, reminded us in Lusaka that our cooperation is rare in the history of the developing world and enjoined us in an earnest prayer not to SQUANDER this opportunity. That too is my appeal today.

I thank you.

THE THIRD LOME CONVENTION

The third Lome Convention will be signed between sixty four African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Economic Community on 8 December 1984.

Brussels,
November 1984.

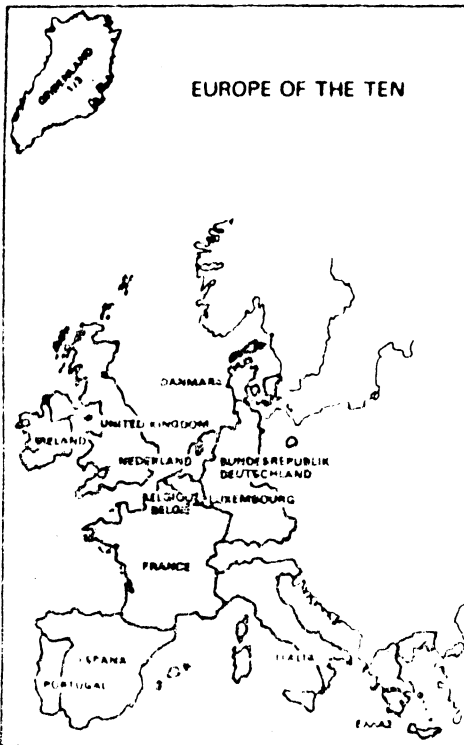
THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

BELGIUM
DENMARK
FRANCE
GERMANY
(Federal Rep.)
GREECE
IRELAND
ITALY
LUXEMBOURG
NETHERLANDS
UNITED KINGDOM

THE 64 ACP STATES

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	GHANA	ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES
BAHAMAS	GRENADA	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE
BARBADOS	GUINEA	SENEGAL
BELIZE	GUINEA BISSAU	SEYCHELLES
BENIN	GUYANA	SIERRA LEONE
BOTSWANA	IVORY COAST	SOLOMON ISLANDS
BURKINA FASO	JAMAICA	SOMALIA
BURUNDI	KENYA	SUDAN
CAMEROON	KIRIBATI	SURINAME
CAPE VERDE	LESOTHO	SWAZILAND
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	LIBERIA	TANZANIA
CHAD	MADAGASCAR	TOGO
COMOROS	MALAWI	TONGA
CONGO	MALI	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
DJIBOUTI	MAURITANIA	TUVALU
DOMINICA	MAURITIUS	UGANDA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	NIGER	WESTERN SAMOA
ETHIOPIA	NIGERIA	VANUATU
FIJI	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	ZAIRE
GABON	RWANDA	ZAMBIA
GAMBIA	ST. CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS	ZIMBABWE
	ST. LUCIA	



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I. INTRODUCTION

The negotiations between the Community and the sixty-four countries of the ACP Group, plus Angola and Mozambique, for the renewal of the Lomé Convention have been successfully concluded.

The partners have agreed on the text of the new Convention, which will be signed in Lomé on 8 December 1984 and which will govern their relations for a further period of five years.

This is the culmination of the both sides' desire, expressed at the opening of the negotiations, to "continue, intensify and increase the effectiveness" of cooperation based on solidarity and mutual interest.

1. In the new Lomé Convention the rights acquired and obligations established under the earlier Conventions have been confirmed. The principles underlying ACP-EEC cooperation, namely non-interference and mutual respect for the sovereignty of the parties, have been reaffirmed. The main instruments of cooperation are still there, and have been strengthened - trade arrangements (including some special arrangements), Stabex, Sysmin, protocols and so on.

In a particularly unfavourable international climate, where most of the multilateral development financing institutions are finding their capacity for action reduced (and sometimes drastically), the Community, via this new Convention, is keeping its financial contribution up to a level which will enable it to continue its financial and technical cooperation at the same pace as in the past.

Nevertheless, the new Convention means much more than merely maintaining acquired rights and established obligations.

- 2: Having learned from the changes to the world economic environment, the particular difficulties confronting the ACP countries and the experience of nearly a quarter of a century of cooperation, the Community and the ACP States have endeavoured to seek out or establish all the components and arrangements that will help make aid more effective.

Stepping up effectiveness has been the negotiators' main concern and this joint ambition is reflected in all aspects of the Convention, both in the objectives of cooperation, which are set out clearly right at the beginning of the Convention, and in the instruments, all the mechanisms of which have been overhauled in detail with a view to streamlining, adapting and rendering them more effective, to meet new requirements. Among the improvements is Stabex, which has been allocated more funds, and of which most of the facilities have been revamped so as to make a more effective contribution towards restoring the agricultural commodity sectors in the ACP States to health, since these sectors caused particular concern to the negotiators. Another instrument that can be mentioned is the mining facility (Sysmin); here, too, improvements have been made to the mechanisms and procedures and the system will now be able to cover a greater number of ACP ore-producing countries.

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The trade arrangements under Lomé, which were already extremely liberal in that they contained particularly favourable provisions for products of importance to the ACP States (bananas, bovine meat, rice, rum and sugar) and provided for free access for virtually all ACP exports, have also been reviewed in detail and improved wherever this was necessary and possible.

Efforts to achieve greater effectiveness were concentrated on the implementation of financial and technical cooperation. The desire to match aid to new requirements and coordinate operations properly with policies pursued by the recipient country meant adopting new forms of contribution (maintenance aid, sectoral programmes, support for sectoral policies and strategies, with food strategies top of the list) to back up the traditional aid for new capital projects and, especially, making the aid-programming process considerably more thorough.

3. Furthermore, there are numerous innovations in this Convention in fields that were either missing altogether in the preceding Conventions or dealt with only superficially.

The provisions on cultural and social cooperation constitute both a new field of cooperation and an enrichment of operations in all the other areas, since it is becoming increasingly obvious that a crucial factor for success is that the cultural and social dimension be taken into account.

The framework and scope of long-term operations (campaigns with specific themes) for the preservation of natural balances, and for drought and desertification control in particular, are also established under the Convention.

The important role that private investment can play and the need to provide a favourable climate and fair and stable treatment for such investment are acknowledged. In this area, the Convention provides a framework and precise guidelines, particularly as regards the principle of non-discrimination, which should encourage the conclusion of bilateral agreements between the Member States and the ACP States. There is also provision for undertaking a series of studies so that the ACP States may gain easier access to capital markets and to improve external trade financing facilities. Among the studies is that on a joint system to guarantee private European investment in the ACP countries. All this has to be carried out with due care, of course.

The new Convention also provides a framework for further cooperation in the spheres of fisheries and shipping, taking account both of the growing importance of these sectors for the development of the ACP countries and of developments in the world at large, such as the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.

4. Lastly, a major concern in the new Convention has been to strengthen the ACP-EEC consultation mechanisms and joint institutions, which are the main forums for dialogue and cooperation.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MAIN AREAS

1. The aims of cooperation

For the first time the Convention will have an introductory part, which will, as it were, constitute the framework for the texts as a whole. These are the results of thorough discussion at the start of the negotiations on the general objectives of our cooperation, on the underlying principles and on how to put it into practice: more self-reliant and self-sustained development of the ACP States with the support of the Community; respect for the parties' sovereignty; equality of the partners; mutual interest and interdependence; the central role of man and the welfare of the people; the importance of cooperation in the matter of food; particular attention to be paid to the least-developed, landlocked and island countries, and so on.

This part also contains the essential principles governing the various cooperation instruments, and also the Convention's aims and guidelines in the main areas of cooperation.

The writing into the Convention of the aims and principles underlying ACP-EEC relations constitutes the political expression of what has been achieved by reinforced and renewed cooperation over a quarter of a century, namely the common heritage.

2. Financial and technical cooperation

- (a) In the striving after effectiveness in the financial and technical Chapter of Lomé III, the key item is the entirely new, ambitious programming process which has been set up after long and difficult negotiations. It is right to say that there is a world of difference between the old system, characterized by the rapid seeking, without real consultation, of projects to be financed in sectors more or less clearly defined, and the new process which, instead, rests on true co-ordination of action between donors and the recipient country, account being taken of that country's choice by right of its own development strategy, with the aim of discussing and identifying, through thoroughgoing exchanges of views in the light of shared experience, not only projects and operations, but especially sectors on which to focus the Community's financial support, development objectives and priorities, and the most suitable ways and means of achieving them.
- (b) The major new feature in Lomé III as regards the sectors of cooperation is that of no longer confining action exclusively to the search for and execution of new capital projects, but of extending the range of possible operations, in order to step up effectiveness, to operations of the programme-aid type (programmes to promote sectoral development and imports, of which the purpose is to help achieve maximum return from the productive sectors), going as far as the financing of inputs in the productive system and, above all, the financing of maintenance (both in the starting-off period and as a follow-up to operations undertaken earlier). Operations financed by the EIB itself will be able to cover the rehabilitation of industrial, energy and mining projects and no longer only the building of installations.

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- (c) As regards procedures, improved cooperation through an ongoing dialogue will make it possible, within a standing joint committee at the level of ministers, ambassadors and experts, to examine systematically practical difficulties hampering execution, implementation procedures, and bottlenecks caused by red tape, so that, whenever necessary, attention can be drawn to delays and cumbersome practices in order to improve efficiency. In this context particular attention is to be paid to joint evaluation. At every stage, whether of financing decisions on development projects or matters of daily routine such as the issue of invitations to tender, the award of contracts, the preparation and approval of shortlists of technical assistance consultancies or experts, to quote only a few examples, strict time-limits for replying and taking action have been fixed and will have to be observed. In addition, the Article 108 Committee's role has been reinforced.
- (d) The microproject procedure, which makes it possible to act at grass-roots level, beyond the reach of large-scale projects that eat up financial resources, rapidly and with an effectiveness guaranteed by the participation in the financing and implementation of schemes of the people concerned by them, has been extended to medium-scale operations in the form of sets of small schemes in a specific sector for which it will be possible to take overall decisions, under a programme, while leaving it to the national authorities, with the approval of the Commission's delegate on the spot, to approve the individual decision without having to refer back to Brussels.
- (e) Technical cooperation, in the interests of greater effectiveness, has undergone profound reforms affecting its nature (greater consideration of the needs, better adaptation to local conditions, the taking into account of own resources) and also the implementing procedures. (priority for tendering, with the double aim of improving the transparency of operations and keeping down the costs, which are often excessive).
- (f) The battery of means available for taking action in cases of emergency, which already enables a response to be made with remarkable flexibility and speed whenever natural or other disasters occur, has been extended in two directions: even greater flexibility in the definition of a broader range of the operations and products it will be possible to finance without, of course, going as far as the financing of reconstruction work, which is not part of emergency aid; and the funding of schemes to integrate and rehabilitate refugees, such schemes having been totally neglected by the earlier Conventions. A suitable allocation of funds will be earmarked for this purpose outside the indicative programmes, with a portion for emergency aid and another for refugees, and, where needed transfers from one to the other by a process of time-ly osmosis will be possible.

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3. Trade

(a) Access for agricultural products

With the new text comes an extension and improvement of the procedures governing the processing of ACP requests for preferential access for their agricultural products. Provision is made notably for a precise time-limit for response to such requests (six months). Also, regarding requests for more favourable tariff arrangements, the Community will take account of the concessions granted to other developing countries in respect of the same products, and of the possibilities offered by the off-season market.

(b) Safeguard clause

The provisions of Lomé II are maintained in the new text but there will be an annex setting out the arrangements for applying the prior consultation systems decided upon by the ACP-EEC Council in May 1983. These arrangements will prevent any unforeseen recourse to safeguard measures.

(c) Particular products

The rights and obligations under Lomé II as regards bananas, bovine meat, rice and rum are maintained or improved upon in the new Convention.

(d) Development of trade and services

Under the new Convention

- (i) the objectives of trade promotion are broadened to include cooperation aimed at stepping up the ACP States' capacity to expand trade on a self-reliant basis. For example, aid will be provided for devising a trade strategy, for improving contacts between those engaged in economic activity and for increased regional cooperation, paying special attention to local markets (and regional and international markets) and south-south trade;
- (ii) new emphasis is placed on mastery of the tourist industry by the ACP States;
- (iii) the scope of operations is broadened to include services; for example, technical assistance may be provided for export credits and insurance

Rules of origin

- (a) The present system of rules of origin has been considerably simplified under the new Convention, which will make it easier for the ACP States to understand and use (for example, a general tolerance rule of 5% of non-originating components has been introduced);
- (b) the derogation system has been improved by the granting of longer derogation periods and the introduction of the value added criterion, together with a favourable disposition from the outset towards granting derogations;
- (c) better account is taken of the ACP States' needs regarding the rules of origin for fishery products;
- (d) one restriction (50% of the value of the products, parts or components used in the manufacture of a product must be originating) has been lifted in respect of a number of lines of interest to the ACP States.

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4. A more effective Stabex system

- (a) The system's coverage of risks has been extended under the new Convention by:
- i. adding three new products of interest to the ACP countries (dried bananas, mangoes and shea nut oil);
 - ii. lowering the dependence and fluctuation thresholds (general lowering from 6.5% to 6% and lowering from 2% to 1.5% for the least-developed, landlocked and island countries);
 - iii. investment in the market, over certain periods of the year, of part of the annual instalment, which will generate interest to boost the Stabex resources.
- (b) The usual method of calculating the equivalent of the transfer basis in ECUs has been maintained in the new Convention; but there is an innovation consisting of a mechanism to correct the effects of applying the method where excessive exchange-rate fluctuations occur.
The corrective mechanism is two-way; it works when the ACP State's currency is revalued or devalued vis-à-vis the ECU.
- (c) The Convention contains clear rules for reducing transfers where funds prove insufficient to cover all acknowledged claims during a given year.
- (d) Stricter administrative rules and improved monitoring of whether the use made of the funds conforms to the objectives of the system are the main innovations here.

Under the new system, a forward timetable of deadlines for the processing of pending requests and a procedure whereby the Commission informs the ACP-EEC Council have been set up.

There is a special procedure for the settlement of disputes.

Also, every ACP State concerned is obliged to supply monthly statistics so that the Commission can keep track of trends for the products covered.

Besides giving statistical data, transfer requests must contain substantial information on the loss of earnings and on the programmes or operations to which the ACP State undertakes to allocate the funds, in accordance with the objectives of the system.

Where the recipient State intends to use the funds in a sector other than that affected by the loss of earnings it must give the reasons for this decision.

The transfer agreement may be concluded only once the Commission has received this information.

Discipline has been stepped up regarding reports on the use of transfers. Should the ACP State persist in defaulting, the Commission may defer the application of any subsequent transfer decision.

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5. Agricultural commodities

There has been an appreciable extension of this area of cooperation. The new Chapter on agricultural commodities confirms the extreme dependence of most ACP States on their exports of such products and recognizes the need to make judicious use of all the instruments and resources that can be of service to the sector.

A joint committee on agricultural commodities is being set up so that cooperation in this field can be monitored closely and constantly.

There are to be exchanges of views between the Community and the ACP States where the conclusion or renewal of an international agricultural commodity agreement is envisaged.

6. Sysmin

The aims, scope and management procedures of Sysmin have been spelt out in greater detail.

- (a) The system's prime objective is to help restore the viability of the mining industry in the ACP countries concerned (rehabilitation, maintenance, rationalization). Where this aim is found unattainable, the system may give backing to diversification measures.
Note that, in the preceding Convention, Sysmin concentrated on the maintenance of production capacity.
- (b) The admissibility rules (dependence thresholds, criteria for bringing the system into operation) and the list of products covered remain unchanged, but recourse to Sysmin will also be possible, by case-by-case derogation, where the mining industry plays an essential economic role in an ACP country because of its scale and its direct spin-off.
- (c) Sysmin aid is still in the form of contributions to clearly defined projects, such aid going to ACP countries dependent on their mining industries where those industries are affected by serious unforeseen circumstances which are independent of the will of the States concerned.
- (d) A number of provisions have been adopted in order to speed up the appraisal of requests and the implementation of aid in order to coordinate such aid measures with other Convention instruments, for instance those of the EIB, that can be used to help the mining industry.

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7. Investment

This Chapter comprises statements of principle and undertakings which have not yet made their appearance in the context of the north-south negotiations.

(a) The Chapter contains:

- a recognition by the two parties of the importance of private investment and an undertaking to promote it;
- a joint undertaking to accord investors fair and equitable treatment to encourage or create clear, stable conditions conducive to investment;
- a joint commitment to maintain a predictable, safe investment climate;
- a statement of willingness to negotiate agreements between states;
- an affirmation of the principle of non-discrimination when negotiating, applying and interpreting such agreements, this principle being clearly set out in a joint declaration.

(b) The Chapter also contains a commitment by the parties to:

- examine the possibility of a joint ACP-EEC insurance and guarantee system to be complementary to the existing national systems;
- study measures to facilitate and expand private capital flows to the ACP States (cofinancing, ACP access to international financial markets);
- seek technical and financial means of facilitating ACP exports and assisting national and regional financing institutions.

8. Agriculture

This Chapter has also been intensively overhauled and takes account of the importance attached to the food aspect and of recent experience, support for food policies and strategies; the linking of food aid, alternative operations and the supply of available agriculture products with structural measures to improve local production and bring about greater food security.

Particular note should be taken of the Community's open attitude - after many years of reticence on the subject - to the question of supplying the ACP countries with the agricultural products available in the Community, the possibility of longer-term advance fixing of refunds on exports to all ACP States and for a range of products established in accordance with the food needs expressed by the ACP States and the possibility of concluding specific agreements with those ACP States which so request in the context of their food security policies.

9. Campaigns with specific themes

There is the possibility under the new Convention of undertaking or participating in operations aimed at maintaining or restoring natural balances. Such operations normally call for a regional approach and, by their nature, defy any given time scale; they include drought and desertification control, combatting the effects of natural disasters by establishing prevention and aid mechanisms, control of major endemic diseases and epidemics, large-scale operations to promote health and hygiene, and energy savings campaigns.

Drought and desertification control

The parties have agreed to give special attention to this aspect of co-operation, which calls for long-term operations and participation by the international community in a spirit of solidarity.

10. Industry

There are a few improvements. The text is more concise and emphasis is placed on operations to restore existing industrial capacity to a sound footing, on appropriate training for personnel and, as always, on small and medium-sized enterprises.

The objectives of the Centre for the Development of Industry (CDI)* have been more clearly defined and its supervision streamlined. A Governing Board has been set up for the Centre, with the task of taking decisions on guidelines and major administrative issues.

11. Energy and mining

The objectives of cooperation in the field of energy have been more clearly set out, notably as regards the provision of assistance for the evaluation of resources and energy demand, energy savings and efforts to find substitutes for fuelwood, and the rehabilitation of production, transport, transmission and distribution infrastructure.

12. Fisheries

This area of cooperation has expanded considerably.

In the new Chapter on fisheries

- i. emphasis is placed on Community assistance for improved ACP management of the fishery resources of their EEZs;
- ii. the need to promote the conservation and optimum utilization of the living resources is stressed;
- iii. the role played by the Community's fishing fleets operating legally in ACP waters is acknowledged;
- iv. the ACP States' readiness to negotiate fishery agreements with the Community on mutually satisfactory terms and based on the principle of non-discrimination is affirmed;
- v. the general guidelines governing the compensation to be accorded by the Community in exchange for fishing rights granted to its fleets are laid down.

* note the change of name in English

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13. Shipping

Particular importance is attached on both EEC and ACP sides to the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences; there is an invitation to the EEC Member States and ACP States to accede to or ratify the relevant Convention as soon as possible.

The EEC recognizes the ACP States' aspirations to participate to a greater degree in national shipping services including bulk shipping, on an economic, commercial and competitive basis.

Aid is provided via financial and technical cooperation to improve the ACP States' shipping and foster contacts with the Community business world.

There is provision for cooperation in the matter of the safety of ships and crews and of pollution control.

Consultation mechanism has been set up to ensure that the rules agreed are implemented effectively.

14. Cultural and social cooperation

This is an innovation in Community development cooperation which reflects important progress in our relations with the ACP States with a view to the more self-reliant development of those States, focused on man and rooted in the culture of each people.

Through cooperation, support will be given to the ACP States' policies and measures in order to enhance their human resources, increase their own creative capacities and promote their cultural identities. Criteria have also been laid down to ensure that the cultural and social dimension is taken into account more fully in projects and programmes in the various areas of cooperation.

Note also the declaration on ACP students and migrant workers in the Community: there now exists a right to refer matters to the ACP-EEC Council.

15. Institutions

An innovation is the new parliamentary body called the Joint Assembly; the guiding role of the Council of Ministers is reinforced; improved mechanisms for consulting and interpreting the Convention have been established.

16. Regional cooperation

Here it was a question mainly of consolidating and improving this relatively new cooperation instrument, the importance and utility of which was recognized by both sides. And so Lomé III places stress on the intensification and reinforcement of regional cooperation, calling for collective, self-reliant development at regional level and intra-ACP cooperation. A clearer definition of the characteristics of regional operations and clarifications regarding financing requests should facilitate the practical application of this instrument.