

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 213 final

Brussels, 23rd April 1980

ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TO THE SECOND LOME ACP/EEC CONVENTION

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

COM(80) 213 final

COMMUNICATION OF THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Subject: Accession of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Second Lomé ACP/EEC Convention.

In a letter dated 18 April 1980, the Republic of Zimbabwe has officially requested its accession to the second ACP/EEC Convention.

The Commission considers it of the highest political importance that the Community should respond favourably to this request as quickly as possible. It believes that the forthcoming meeting of the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers in Nairobi on the 8th and 9th May 1980 provides the opportunity for the Community to announce, for its part, that it accepts the request.

1. The Republic of Zimbabwe became independent on 18 April 1980. In terms of its economic structure and production ⁽¹⁾ Zimbabwe is in a comparable position to the other ACP States and accordingly meets the conditions set out in the provisions of Article 186 of the Second Lomé Convention. Moreover, Zimbabwe's eligibility for membership of the Convention is confirmed by the fact that it is a newly independent African country situated south of the Sahara. These criteria are in line with those established by the Community for the geographical extension of the Convention.

Zimbabwe's economic features are as follows:

Population approximately 7.1 million.

Per Capita Gross national product approximately 480 U.S. dollars.

2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 186, Sub-paragraph I, of the Second Lomé Convention, any request for accession by a country such as Zimbabwe requires approval by the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers.

3. Any such accession, as well as the conditions and modalities arising from it will be the subject of an agreement between the Community and Zimbabwe, as provided for in the Article quoted above. The negotiations for that agreement will be undertaken by the Commission, in accordance with directives to be established by the Council on the basis of proposals to be transmitted by the

1) Since 22 January 1980, the Community has accorded to Southern Rhodesia trade arrangements analogous to those enjoyed by the overseas Countries and Territories associated with the Community in the framework of the association decision of 1976.

Commission to the Council as soon as possible. These directives will clearly reflect the necessity to avoid any prejudice to the advantages enjoyed by the ACP States signatory to the second Lomé Convention and to avoid any changes in the provisions of that Convention.

4. In the course of Mr. Cheysson's recent visit to this country, the first contacts took place and are continuing with a view to reviewing questions likely to be raised during these negotiations.

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Accordingly, the commission proposes that the council approve a draft decision of the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers to approve the Republic of Zimbabwe's request for accession to the second Lomé Convention.

DRAFT DECISION NO.....

OF THE ACP/EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

approving the request of the Republic of Zimbabwe to accede to the second ACP/EEC Lomé Convention.

THE ACP/EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

Having regard to the ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé signed on 28 February 1975, and in particular article 91, sub-paragraph 3,

Having regard to Decision Number 1/80 of the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers of 18 January 1980, in respect of the transitional measures applicable from 1 March 1980, and in particular Article 1(f),

Having regard to the second ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé signed 31 October 1979, and in particular Article 186,

Considering that the Republic of Zimbabwe has presented a request to accede to the second ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé and that it is proper to give an early favourable response to this request,

Considering that the Council of Ministers is invested in accordance with the provisions of Article 91, third sub-paragraph, of the first Convention of Lomé, with the powers to take necessary interim measures until the entry into force of the second Convention; and considering that the request for accession of the Republic of Zimbabwe should be approved during the course of that interim period

DECIDES

Article I

The request for accession to the second ACP/EEC Lomé Convention signed on 31 October 1979 presented by the Republic of Zimbabwe is approved. This State may accede to the Convention by concluding an agreement with the European Economic Community.

Article 2

This decision enters into force on.....

Done at Nairobi on.....

The President of the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers.