

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1974-1975

19 February 1975

DOCUMENT 498/74

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

on the outcome of the 11th annual meeting of the EEC-AASM Association
Parliamentary Conference (Abidjan, 27 – 29 January 1975)

Rapporteur: Mr R. SANDRI

By letter of 22 January 1975 the President of the European Parliament authorized the Committee on Development and Cooperation to draw up a report on the outcome of the Eleventh annual meeting of the EEC-AASM Association Parliamentary Conference (Abidjan, 27-29 January 1975).

On 7 February 1975 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Sandri rapporteur.

It considered Mr Sandri's draft report at its meeting of 12 February 1975. The committee unanimously adopted the attached motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Deschamps, acting chairman; Mr Knud Nielsen, vice-chairman; Mr Sandri, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Corona, Mr Dondelinger, Mr Durieux, Mrs Fenner, Mr Kavanagh (deputizing for Mr Flämig), Mr Ligios, Mr Romualdi, Mr Seefeld and Mr Schuijt.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	7
 <u>ANNEX I</u> - Resolution on the revenue and expenditure account of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the financial year 1973, the supplementary draft estimates for the financial year 1974, and the draft estimates for the financial year 1975;	
 <u>ANNEX II</u> - Resolution on the Tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council;	
 <u>ANNEX III</u> - Declaration on the conclusion of the current negotiations between the EEC and the ACP countries;	
 <u>ANNEX IV</u> - Recommendation on the creation of the institutional apparatus to be provided for by the new EEC/ACP Convention.	

The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the outcome of the 11th annual meeting of the EEC-AASM Association Parliamentary Conference (Abidjan, 27 - 29 January 1975).

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 20 January 1965¹, 11 March 1966², 15 March 1967³, 22 January 1968⁴, 4 March 1969⁵, 12 March 1970⁶, 17 May 1971⁷, 17 March 1972⁸, 6 June 1973⁹ and 15 March 1974¹⁰;
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 498/74);
1. Endorses the conclusions reached by the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC-AASM Association and set out in the resolutions adopted by it on 29 January 1975 and in its Declaration and Recommendation adopted on the same day;
 2. Considers that the Tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council clearly demonstrates that the work of the EEC-AASM Association has led to a genuine strengthening of commercial, financial and technical cooperation between the partners, in accordance with the objectives of the Second Yaoundé Convention;
 3. Notes with satisfaction that, following the solemn appeal made to them by the Abidjan Parliamentary Conference, the negotiators of the EEC and the ACP, thanks to a sincere political will to reach an agreement equitable to all, successfully concluded their negotiations;

¹OJ No 20, 6.2.1965, p. 281

²OJ No 53, 24.3.1966, p. 778

³OJ No 63, 3.4.1967, p. 975

⁴OJ No C 10, 14.2.1968, p. 5

⁵OJ No C 41, 1.4.1969, p. 5

⁶OJ No C 40, 3.4.1970, p. 43

⁷OJ No C 35, 3.6.1971, p. 5

⁸OJ No C 36, 12.4.1972, p. 42

⁹OJ No C 49, 28.6.1973, p. 25

¹⁰OJ No C 40, 8.4.1974, p. 62

4. Points out that, in an international context at present characterized by confrontation, the EEC is proposing to its future African, Caribbean and Pacific partners a wide-ranging form of cooperation, based notably on the right to and the assurance of fairer prices for primary commodities;
5. Considers that the joint institutions of the existing Association and notably the Parliamentary Conference and its Joint Committee have exemplified the passing of the age of colonialism, and hopes that these institutions will remain a token of fruitful cooperation conducted in a spirit of solidarity and equality between all the partners;
6. Hopes that the industrial cooperation provided for in the new Convention will be carried out jointly with the representatives of the various socio-professional groups of the EEC and ACP, and will thus lead to a better international division of labour agreed upon freely by all concerned;
7. Expresses its pleasure at the excellent atmosphere which prevailed at the Conference, and which resulted in frank and constructive discussions in the presence of observers from the associable states, who were able to see for themselves the open way in which all problems concerning relations between the industrialized and developing countries were tackled;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Associated African States, Madagascar and Mauritius and to the members of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The 11th annual meeting of the EEC-AASM Association Parliamentary Conference (Abidjan, 27/28/29 January last) turned on its dominant interest in the EEC-ACP negotiations. Consequently, the Conference's work concentrated on an examination of the results achieved in the negotiations up to their adjournment on 15 January and, primarily, on the objective grounds for hope of a successful outcome at their scheduled conclusion on 31 January.

It could not have been otherwise; but this feature of the Conference of necessity reduces the scope of the present report. In fact, as regards the progress of the EEC-ACP negotiations, it is sufficient to recall here the report (Doc. 388/74) submitted on behalf of our committee by Miss Colette Flesch at the December 1974 part-session of the European Parliament, which adopted it unanimously. As regards the hopes expressed at the Abidjan Conference, these have been partly fulfilled by the results which, as we already know, the EEC-ACP negotiators have meanwhile been able to achieve, but which in due course must become the subject of detailed examination and of appropriate resolutions by the Commission and the European Parliament's plenary assembly. This report, therefore, will have to be confined to a summary of the Conference's highlights, an overall assessment, and the drawing of some inferences for further consideration.

1. The agenda included:

- (a) Mr Boolell's report on the 10th annual report of the Association Council's activities;
- (b) Mr Mounthault's report on the Association Parliamentary Conference statement of account for 1973 and the estimates for 1974 and 1975;
- (c) Nomination of members and appointment of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Joint Committee.

The opening speeches set the political pattern of the Conference:

President Yacé: 'Faithful to the cause of African unity and of economic cooperation in the Third World, the AASM have not been slow to express their desire to help in the enlargement of the Association; and it can be reasonably expected that shortly a new Association agreement will be signed linking Europe to certain countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific in a wider context ...'

C. Berkhouwer: 'I am firmly convinced that the Convention to be concluded will come to be recognized as a particularly significant and imaginative solution of the problems which may arise between groups of countries that have achieved different levels of development. In the course of our deliberations over the next few days we shall, no doubt, have the opportunity of examining this subject in great detail. The fact that this is being done by the representatives of 28 independent countries, all bearers of political office, is one of the most remarkable aspects of our Association ...'

F. Houphouet-Boigny, President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast: 'A great deal is at stake. We are by no means solely concerned with reaching agreement on matters as decisive for our future harmonious relations as trade, industrial cooperation, the stabilization of our export revenues or the amount of financial aid, nor even the very nature of Community institutions of which this Parliamentary Conference is one of the most striking manifestations. We are concerned, much more fundamentally, with discovering whether two continents and two groups of countries, in the world as it is today, are capable of developing a sufficiently broad and homogenous political vision of their common future; whether they can transcend their very natural differences and their attachment to certain principles to establish a community looking forward to a future made up as much of a concurrence of outlook and civilization as of interests and history ...'

T. Tevi-Benissan: President-in-Office of the Association Council: 'I wish particularly to express my sincere thanks to Commissioner CHEYSSON, Director-General KROHN and His Excellency Mr OLU SANU, Ambassador of Nigeria and Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries of the ACP countries, for the devotion and expertise which they have shown in the conduct of these negotiations ...'

Mr Fitzgerald: '... On sugar, of course, the negotiations encountered more difficulties: to make a preliminary condition of the fixing of marketing prices for 1975 with each Member State individually is perhaps not the best way of ensuring a successful outcome. As President of the Council of the European Communities I can only emphasize the advantageous nature of the Community's offer, which puts sugar producers in the Community and in ACP countries on a comparable footing ...'

Mr Hillery: '... Moreover, the parties are agreed on the important role of the Association's parliamentary institution which has made such a large contribution to establishing a climate of mutual understanding and the clarification of policy lines. The Parliamentary Conference may be considered a model of cooperation at a time when, in other spheres, confrontation seems rather to be the rule ...'

The statements and speeches quoted above seem to indicate sufficiently, from various aspects, the pattern of the Conference's work, which was also effectively expounded by the rapporteur, Mr Boolell. In the first part of his report, dealing with the Association's activities in the year 1973-74, he emphasized certain limitations and inadequacies, concluding, however, with a positive assessment of increased understanding in the EEC for the problems of the AASM.

In the second part of his report Mr Boolell examined in detail the various problems tackled in the EEC-ACP negotiations, pointing to the significant progress achieved at the Kingston ministerial conference and concluding with his opinion that the Association's parliamentary institution has had, and could have in future, a real influence on decisions taken at ministerial level.

The debate, in which a large number of speakers expressed views that varied widely with their convictions and shades of opinion, concentrated particularly on the following points:

- (a) Among repeated expressions of alarm or concern over the international economic situation, it was stressed that any temptation towards 'confrontation' should give way to the need and the will for a 'dialogue' and 'cooperation'; while it was emphasized with satisfaction that, on a world scale, the terms of trade had improved owing to a rise in the prices of some primary products, particularly those of agricultural origin.
- (b) The Association had evolved considerably from its inception to the present day, especially in the consolidation of its joint representative character which, to the associable countries, was its greatest attraction. The new Convention should maintain and strengthen this aspect, so that it may become a true model of a proper relationship between industrialized and developing countries.
- (c) Under the new Convention the field of action of the partners should be extended to the protection of workers and of all those active in society's life; while - especially in the policy of industrial cooperation, which should promote a new and more equitable international division of labour - account should be taken of the dialogue opened during the negotiations by the EEC Commission with the economic and trade-union circles of the EEC and the ACP countries.

Inevitably, in the course of the debate there were also reservations and criticisms of various aspects of the Association from members of the European Parliament or representatives of the AASM: these were expressed frankly, and even the severest criticisms concluded positively with the hope that the new Convention would mark a resolute step forward. It should be noted that the Conference welcomed warmly observers from the associable countries attending the meeting (Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania), on whose behalf the Ghanaian Ambassador reciprocated the greetings. The debate was summed up and concluded by Mr Sissoko (deputizing for the rapporteur, Mr Boolell, back in Brussels at that point), who in his ample and detailed comments on points raised during the debate managed to capture the constructive spirit of the proceedings as a whole.

Mr Sissoko tabled the resolution on the 10th Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (see Annex) and a statement on the outcome of the current EEC-ACP negotiations (see Annex), both drawn up by the Joint Committee, which had met in Abidjan from 23 to 26 January.

- These motions were unanimously adopted by the Conference.
- Mr Mounthault's report (item 2 of the agenda) was unanimously adopted.
- The Joint Committee, after the nomination and appointment of the Bureau, met briefly and decided to meet again from 21 to 23 May 1975 in Dublin.

On the basis of the above summary your rapporteur is of the opinion that the 11th Annual EEC-AASM Association Parliamentary Conference should be regarded as a success: both because of the welcome given to it by the authorities and the people of the Ivory Coast and because of the political climate and the nature and results of its proceedings.

2. It is your rapporteur's view that the Joint Committee's preliminary work made a decisive and unique contribution to the Conference's success.

There were the meetings at Dinard and in Mauritius (at which, through increasing contacts, it was possible to follow closely the course of the ACP negotiations) and, of course, the Abidjan meeting. Under the shrewd chairmanship of Mr Kasongo and Mr Deschamps, the committee's debates were brief and to the point; nonetheless, even the most divergent attitudes were clearly inspired by a common concern to achieve results which would not record disagreements but endeavour to overcome them. It is important to note that on no occasion did a confrontation arise between all the members of the European Parliament on the one hand and the AASM representatives on the other; the discussions were always free and never marked by major divisions. Your rapporteur feels that a significant contribution to this was made by our chairman, Miss Flesch, in appealing to all the parties to

renounce any attempts to drive wedges among the ACP countries, the solidarity achieved by whom represented a very important political fact nullifying any divisive intent. The method and spirit of the debates made it possible to draw up documents, the value of which has been reaffirmed by the Conference's unanimous vote.

The Abidjan Conference (except for the forthcoming epilogue in Dublin) marks the end of the life of the EEC-AASM Parliamentary Institution as provided for by the First and Second Yaoundé Conventions.

Its final act was evidence of the moral value and political usefulness of this Institution. Its eleventh meeting has, your rapporteur believes, shown conclusively that the growing pace of the Association's life (promoted by the growing maturity of the partners, and particularly by the ever more vigorous strivings for full independence and effective cooperation by the peoples of the AASM) has to an important extent been due to the exchange of experience, the search for mutual understanding and the opportunities for contacts which the Conference and the Joint Committee have offered to their members.

Your rapporteur would therefore like to suggest, as a conclusion and as a subject for further reflection, that the parliamentary body envisaged in the Lomé Convention, while appropriate to the new conditions within its own terms, should nevertheless at some stage be further strengthened and structured.

It should be the task of the European Parliament's delegation, within its own terms of reference, to urge within the new institution that it should acquire a constitution and executive bodies which would enable it to effectively exercise its proper function, in the interest of all the signatory states of the Convention and of the EEC, in developing democratic cooperation between them.

RESOLUTION¹

on the revenue and expenditure account of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the financial year 1973, the supplementary draft estimates for the financial year 1974, and the draft estimates for the financial year 1975

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- having regard to its Financial Regulation² and in particular Articles 6 and 11 thereof;
 - having regard to the Joint Committee's report (Doc. 53);
1. Endorses the considerations contained in the report;
 2. Notes that the expenditure of the Conference chargeable to the Associated States as a whole, pursuant to Article 2 (3) of Protocol No. 10 annexed to the Association Convention amounts to 279,675.16 FF for the financial year 1973, which is 63,675.16 FF in excess of the budgetary appropriation;
 3. Gives a discharge to the Secretary-General of the European Parliament in respect of the revenue and expenditure account for the financial year 1973 as submitted;
 4. Resolves to carry forward to the 1974 budget as 'expenditure incurred in the last financial year' excess expenditure incurred in 1973;
 5. Resolves that, in order to cover the carrying-forward of these credits, the following supplementary budget should be added to the 1974 budget:

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	Heading 6 (hire of cars, etc)
 42,886.68
	Heading 8 (reception costs)
 14,463.47
Non-allocated balance of previous contributions:	Heading 9 (other administrative costs)
 6,325.01
	63,675.16 FF
63,675.16 FF	

¹ Adopted by the Parliamentary Conference of the Association on 29.1.75

² O.J. No. 220, 24.12.1965 p. 3232/65

6. Decides moreover to add to this supplementary budget a further supplementary budget to take account of additional expenditure still to be met for the 1974 financial year which cannot be covered by the normal budget for that financial year:

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Non-allocated balance of previous contributions: 92,000 FF	(1) Interpreting at meetings 45,000 FF
	(3) Renting, cleaning, lighting and fitting out premises 15,000 FF
	(8) Reception costs of Presidents and Chairmen of the Conference and Joint Committee 26,000 FF
	(9) Other operating costs (including telecommunications) 6,000 FF
	<hr/> 92,000 FF <hr/>

7. Notes the draft estimates for the financial year 1975 of expenditure chargeable to the European Parliament in accordance with Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10, totalling 450,000 FF;
8. Approves the transitional estimates for the financial year 1975 of expenditure chargeable to the Associated States as a whole, in pursuance of Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10, totalling 228,000 FF;
9. Resolves to maintain the contribution of each Associated State for the year 1975 at 600,000 CFA francs;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of the Joint Committee to the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Associated States and of the European Parliament, and also to the Council of the Association.

ANNEX II

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT¹

drawn up on behalf of the Joint Committee
on the Tenth Annual Report
on the Activities of the Association Council
(Doc. 52-I/II and Doc. 52/III)
to the Parliamentary Conference of the Association

Rapporteur: Mr SATCAM BOOLELL

At its meeting of 25 January 1975 in Abidjan the Joint Committee decided to submit to the Parliamentary Conference of the Association, pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, a report on the Tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council. Mr Boolell was appointed rapporteur on 1 February 1974.

The problems posed by the Association in 1974 were considered by the Joint Committee at its meetings on 27, 28 and 29 May 1974 in Dinard and on 23, 24 and 25 October 1974 in Morne (Mauritius).

The explanatory statement was unanimously approved on 25 October 1974 in Morne.

¹ Adopted by the Parliamentary Conference of the Association on 28.1.1975.

The following were present: Mr Kasongo (Zaire), chairman; Mr Deschamps, vice-chairman; Mr Boolell (Mauritius), rapporteur; Mr Aigner, Mr Behrendt (deputizing for Mr Corona), Mr Bersani, Mr Broeksz, Mr Nzeyimana (Burundi), Mr Ewane Ekwabi (Cameroon), Mr Mounthault (Congo), Mr Gon Coulibaly (Ivory Coast), Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Dondelinger (deputizing for Mr Knud Nielsen), Mr Durieux (deputizing for Mr Achenbach), Miss Flesch, Mr Sambhat (Gabon), Mr Girardin (deputizing for Mr Zeller), Mr Glinne, Mr Ilbodou (Upper Volta), Mr Laudrin, Mr Ligios, Mr Rakotozafy (Madagascar), Mr Sissoko (Mali), Mr Fall Babaha (Mauritania), Mr Habou Saley (Niger), Mr Nolan, Lord Reay, Mr Karuhije (Rwanda), Mr Sandri (deputizing for Mrs Iotti), Mr Scholten (deputizing for Mr Schuijt), Mr Seefeld, Mr Bouta Gueye (Senegal), Mr Ali Mattan (Somalia), Mr Oueddo (Chad) and Mr Monsila (Togo).

The Joint Committee adopted the supplementary report unanimously, with one abstention, on 25 January 1975.

The following were present: Mr Kasongo (Zaire), chairman; Mr Deschamps, vice-chairman; Mr Boolell (Mauritius), rapporteur; Mr Aigner, Mr Behrendt (deputizing for Mr Knud Nielsen), Mr Bersani, Mr Broeksz, Mr Nzeyimana (Burundi), Mr Ngi Nsakwa (Cameroon), Mr Kombot-Naguemon (Central African Republic), Mr Mounthault (Congo), Mr Corona, Mr Ebagnitchie (Ivory Coast), Mr Durieux, Miss Flesch, Mr Sambhat (Gabon), Mr Girardin (deputizing for Mr Ligios), Mr Glinne, Mr Rakotozafy (Madagascar), Mr Sissoko (Mali), Mr Fall Babaha (Mauritania), Mr Poisson (Niger), Mr Nolan, Lord Reay, Mr Karuhije (Rwanda), Mr Sandri (deputizing for Mrs Iotti), Mr Seefeld, Mr Bouta Gueye (Senegal), Mr Spénale, Mr Terrenoire (deputizing for Mr Laudrin) and Mr Dagadou (Togo).

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- meeting in Abidjan from 27 to 29 January 1975 pursuant to Article 52 of the Convention of Association between the EEC and the associated African countries, Madagascar and Mauritius, signed at Yaoundé on 29 July 1969;
- having regard to the tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (Doc. 52/I-II) and the report from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on the management of financial and technical cooperation in the financial year 1973 (Doc. 52/III);
- having regard to the statements made by the President of the Association Council, the President of the Council of the European Communities and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities;
- having regard to the report and supplementary report submitted by Mr Satcam Boolell on behalf of the Joint Committee (Doc.54 and 55).

I. The working of the present Association

(a) activities of the Institutions

1. Notes that there has been useful and successful concerted action between the different bodies of the Association;
2. Is gratified by the improvement in consultation procedure at the level of the Association Committee, in particular as regards problems relating to preferential trade arrangements;
3. Regrets, however, that the Association Council has not met since 15 June 1973, contrary to the provisions of Article 44 of the Convention;
4. Calls on the Association Council to adopt as soon as possible such transitional measures as will be necessary from 1 February 1975;
5. Deplores the excessive delay in forwarding the tenth Annual Report to the Conference and the fact that full and detailed data on the breakdown of EEC/AASM trade in 1973 were not available to the Joint Committee and its rapporteur;

(b) trade

6. Considers that the improvement of trade terms as a result of the increase in prices of certain raw materials, particularly agricultural produce, and the consequent rise in the export revenue of a number of Associated States, will have a positive effect at world level;
7. Notes with satisfaction the development of activities to encourage trade in AASM products;
8. Welcomes the favourable response, to a certain degree, of the Community to the difficulties encountered by certain Associated States in securing supplies of cereals in that the Community has reduced the level of export taxes on such products for the benefit of those States;
9. Is gratified that the Community has finally been able to work out specific measures for Somalia - under the aid arrangements provided for in Article 21 of the Convention - in the form of aid which should make it possible to reorganise the production and marketing network for bananas;

(c) food aid and supplementary measures for the Sahel countries and Somalia

10. Appreciates the increasing efforts made by the EEC to provide food aid under the general phased programme of supplies to the Sahel countries and the decision taken on 17 December 1974 by the Council on a substantial supplementary interim programme for the Sahel states and for Somalia;
11. Also appreciates the special measures adopted in favour of these countries and recommends their prolongation;

(d) financial and technical cooperation

12. Takes note of the effort made by the Community to encourage integrated regional development projects and methods of implementation which are better adapted to the economic and social conditions prevailing in the Associated States;
13. Notes, as shown in the report on the management of aid for 1973, that efforts to provide supporting services to agriculture can only lead to real benefits to farmers - whose productivity is thereby increased - if it is accompanied by equitable earnings for producers;

14. Emphasizes the importance of a policy of self-sufficiency in food-stuffs implemented by the Associated States and is also gratified that the European Development Fund has given still greater encouragement to agricultural and agricultural-industrial development projects;
15. Notes that the diversification of the financing instruments employed by the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank (including the contribution to the formation of risk capital) allows the Associated States means of financing which are better adapted to their development projects;

II. negotiations on the renewal and enlargement of the Association

16. Emphasizes the constructive political spirit in which the negotiations have been broached and pursued by all parties and consequently hopes that they will be brought to a successful conclusion;
17. Welcomes the fact that ACP countries have decided in favour of concluding a single global agreement with the Community covering trade in the widest sense and financial, technical and industrial cooperation, at the same time ensuring the safeguarding of the economies and interests of the Associated States;
18. Recalls its hope that the partners' continued desire for cooperation will be expressed in the new Convention while allowing for possible periodical review of conditions;

(a) the Institutions

19. Reaffirms its attachment to the institutional provisions of the Association which provided it with a completely original structure and made a continuing dialogue between the partners possible on a footing of complete equality, and feels that the Institutions must be maintained, subject to adaptation to the new realities of the Association;
20. Feels, in particular, that alongside a decision-making and administrative institution at ministerial and ambassadorial level, there should also be an institution representing the peoples of the Association which should be of a joint character and whose work should be prepared by a smaller ad hoc committee;

(b) trade

21. Points with the greatest satisfaction to the decision taken at the Kingston Ministerial Conference on the stabilization of export earnings for the main ACP products; this decision creates an exemplary precedent which should open the way to genuine world-wide agreements on a product by product basis;

22. Feels that under an innovative policy for the stabilization of ACP export earnings, the Community should commit itself to laying down special arrangements for imports of sugar from the ACP countries, with provision not only for a longterm guarantee to purchase 1,400,000 tons of sugar, but also for fair prices to the producer countries, on the understanding that these prices should be revised annually, taking into account production costs, prices paid to European producers and rates prevailing on the world sugar market; it should also be understood that the ACP countries will undertake to deliver the agreed quantities;
23. Considers it vitally important for the contracting parties to grant each other most favoured nation treatment;
24. Expresses support for the request made by numerous states of the Third World that all generalized preferences systems should be amended in respect of discrimination against developing countries endeavouring to protect the value of their exports, and asserts that the principles of active cooperation based on national independence, on the right of every country to dispose freely of its own resources and on mutuality should be universally upheld;
25. Hopes that a system will also be formulated and implemented which, while respecting the relations already existing between certain ACP countries and certain EEC Member States, will guarantee the development of banana exports from the ACP countries at remunerative prices in all the Member States of the Community;

(c) financial and technical cooperation

26. Feels that the volume of aid granted by the EEC should correspond to the increased size of the enlarged Association and to the real development needs of the ACP countries while also guaranteeing retention of the benefits, in updated terms, accorded to the present Associated States and treatment on an equal footing for the new Associated States;
27. Considers it desirable to fix the total amount of aid which the ACP countries can expect throughout the period of application of the future Convention, while emphasizing the advantages of financing the EDF from the Community's own resources;
28. Notes particularly the new list agreed by common accord between the Community and the 46 ACP countries of the least developed countries which, faced with particular difficulties, will have the benefit of appropriate measures provided for under the new agreement;

29. Welcomes the increasing participation of a number of states in the search for a solution to the problems of developing countries as a result of the change in the world situation regarding raw materials, expects that this support will increase and improve in line with the responsibility of such states;

would consider it deplorable if certain countries whose world position and political responsibilities indicate that they should be able to contribute, were to shrink, to a substantial degree, from providing such support;

(d) industrial cooperation

30. Regards as fundamental the decisions on industrial cooperation between the EEC and ACP countries to enable the latter to benefit from industrial know-how, adaptation of technology to ACP needs, improved international division of labour and the conclusion of agreements which will encourage investments and reconcile the interests of investors with the policy of control of industrial structures pursued by the governments of the Associated States;

(e) transitional measures

31. Hopes that in an initial transitional phase, and in order to prevent a legal vacuum arising between the old Association Conventions and the new Convention, suitable provisions will rapidly be made to preserve the status quo after 31 January 1975;

32. Further, favours the rapid conclusion of an interim agreement between the ACP and the EEC to make possible - in a second transitional phase - the advance introduction of the provisions relating to trade, in particular, and preparations for the implementation of the provisions laid down in the 4th EDF;

33. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the Association Council, the competent authorities of the Associated and Associable States and the Members of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association.

DRAFT DECLARATION¹

submitted by the Joint Committee
on the conclusion of the current negotiations between the EEC and the ACP
countries

At its meeting of 25 January in Abidjan, the Joint Committee
unanimously adopted a draft declaration on the conclusion of the current
negotiations between the EEC and the ACP countries for submission to the
Parliamentary Conference of the Association.

The following were present:

Mr Kasongo (Zaire), chairman; Mr Deschamps, vice-chairman; Mr Aigner,
Mr Behrendt (deputizing for Mr Knud Nielsen), Mr Bersani, Mr Broeksz,
Mr Nzeyimana (Burundi), Mr Ngi Nsakwa (Cameroon), Mr Kombot-Naguemon
(Central African Republic), Mr Mounthault (Congo), Mr Corona, Mr Ebagnitchie
(Ivory Coast), Mr Durieux, Miss Flesch, Mr Sambhat (Gabon), Mr Giradin
(deputizing for Mr Ligios), Mr Glinne, Mr Rakotozafy (Madagascar),
Mr Sissoko (Mali), Mr Boolell (Mauritius), Mr Fall Babaha (Mauritania)
Mr Poisson (Niger), Mr Nolan, Lord Reay, Mr Karuhije (Rwanda), Mr Sandri
(deputizing for Mrs Iotti), Mr Seefeld, Mr Bouta Gueye (Senegal), Mr Spénale,
Mr Terrenoire (deputizing for Mr Laudrin) and Mr Dagadou (Togo).

¹ Adopted by the Parliamentary conference of the Association on 28.1.75

The Joint Committee hereby submits to the Parliamentary Conference the following,

DRAFT

on the conclusion of the current negotiations between the EEC and the ACP countries

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association

- bearing in mind the importance of the new Convention between the Community and the ACP countries for all their peoples,
 - emphasising that this Convention - put into effect and administered in the framework of joint institutions and covering in one global agreement the fields of economy and trade and financial, technical and industrial cooperation - will constitute an example of international cooperation and an important contribution to the economic and social development of peoples in peace, independence and freedom,
1. Solemnly appeals to all the contracting parties to contribute to the successful conclusion of the negotiations at the earliest possible opportunity in response to unanimously expressed hope and expectations;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the Association Council and the competent authorities of the Associated and Associable States.

RECOMMENDATION¹

submitted by the joint committee set up to study the details of the further conduct of the parliamentary activities of the Conference and of the Joint Committee

on

the creation of the institutional apparatus to be provided for by the new EEC/ACP Convention

Pursuant to the task assigned to them by the Parliamentary Conference of the Association at the latter's sitting of 27 January 1975 the undersigned hereby submit to the Conference the following proposal for a recommendation:

THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE,

- anxious to facilitate, beyond the present EEC/AASM Association Convention, the creation of the new institutional apparatus to be provided for by the new EEC/ACP Convention,
- 1. Hopes that the Presidents of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association and of the European Parliament will by common accord establish all the necessary contacts for the practical application of the provisions of the new Convention relating to the organ which is to represent the peoples of the signatory States and proposes that the requisite measures be taken for this purpose;
- 2. Requests, meanwhile, that its Joint Committee should continue its activities.

Mr KASONGO, chairman

Mr DESCHAMPS, vice-chairman

Mr BOOLELL

Mr GUILLABERT

Mr BERSANI

Mr MOUNTHAULT

Mr EBAGNITCHIE

Lord REAY

Miss FLESCH

Mr SISSOKO

Mr GLINNE

Mr SPENALE

¹ Adopted by the Parliamentary Conference of the Association on 29.1.1975
PE 39.754/Ann.IV/fin.

Luxembourg
P.O.B. 1601