

# ACP-EC CONVENTION OF LOMÉ

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
ACP-EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
(1999)**

CONVENTION ACP-CE DE LOME

\_\_\_\_\_  
LE CONSEIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
LES SECRETAIRES

ACP-EC CONVENTION OF LOME

\_\_\_\_\_  
THE COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
THE SECRETARIES

Brussels,

26 -09- 2000

The Hon. Mr John Corne

The Hon. Mr Serge Clair

195

Co-Chairmen of the ACP-EC  
Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

European Parliament,  
LUXEMBOURG

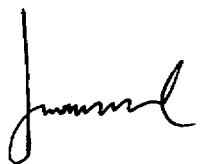
Sirs,

At its meeting in Brussels, on 22 June 2000, the ACP-EC Council of Ministers examined the Annual Report which it has to publish pursuant to Article 342 paragraph 4 of the Fourth ACP-EC Convention as amended by the agreement signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995, and instructed the Committee of Ambassadors, in conjunction with the Secretaries of the Council of Ministers, to finalize this report and to forward it to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

As this report has now been finally approved, we are pleased to communicate the text thereof to the Joint Assembly in order that it may be examined by that body in accordance with Article 350 of the revised Fourth ACP-EC Convention.

The necessary copies of this text will be made available to your services as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jean-Robert GOULONGANA  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The year 1999 was marked by the continuation of the negotiations for the conclusion of a new development partnership agreement to replace the fourth Lomé Convention, which expired on 29 February 2000.

The conduct of these negotiations was the dominant theme of the discussions of the joint bodies under the convention, in particular the ACP-EC Council of Ministers and the Joint Assembly, which also reviewed the implementation of cooperation under the convention and discussed the situation prevailing in certain ACP countries.

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE ACP-EC INSTITUTIONS

### 1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- (a) The ACP-EC Council of Ministers held its **24th session** in Brussels, Belgium, on **29 July 1999**, under the chairmanship of Ms Satu Hassi, Minister for Environment and Development of Finland and President of the Council of the European Union.

The ACP spokesman was Mr Séverin Adjovi, Minister of Trade, Handicraft and Tourism of Benin and President of the ACP Council of Ministers.

The European Commission was represented by Mr João de Deus Pinheiro, Member of that institution.

- (i) Under the 'A' items the Council:

— adopted the conclusions on Somalia set out in ACP-EC 2134/99;

— delegated powers to the ACP-EC Committee of Ambassadors to approve the 1998 Annual Report of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers in conformity with the procedure followed by the Council in the past.

- (ii) During a discussion on the various aspects of ACP-EC cooperation, under points 'B' of the agenda, the Council addressed the following questions in particular:

— **Bananas:** There was an exchange of views on the future of the banana regime. The EU expressed its intention to proceed with any modifications to the regime in close coordination with the ACP countries. The ACP countries expressed their preoccupation over the future of the regime.

— **WTO:** It discussed the preparation of the WTO ministerial conference to be held in Seattle in November 1999 to launch the Millennium Round. It noted that the ACP trade ministers would meet beforehand to establish a common position. The Council agreed that the ACP and EC sides would continue their consultations, in preparation for these negotiations.

— **Unctad X:** It also discussed the preparation of the Unctad X conference to be held in Bangkok in February 2000. The Council agreed that the ACP and EC sides would continue their consultations in preparation for this important conference.

— **Sugar:** The ACP-EC Council took note of a statement by the ACP ministerial spokesman on sugar, on behalf of the ACP States parties to the sugar protocol of the Lomé Convention stressing the importance of maintaining the present arrangement on sugar.

— **Enlargement:** As required by the convention (Article 358), the EU Presidency informed the Council on the state of play regarding the negotiations for accession to the Union.

— **ACP-EU Joint Assembly:** The Council noted the resolutions adopted by the Joint Assembly at its meetings in Brussels (September 1998) and Strasbourg (February 1999).

- (iii) The Council took note of reports from ministerial meetings of the **Commodities Committee** (ACP-EC 2150/99, ACP/67/036/99) and from the **Development Finance Cooperation Committee** (ACP-EC 2146/99 + COR 1, ACP/81/010/99 + COR 1).

- (b) The ACP-EC Council of Ministers held a **special session** in Brussels, Belgium on **8 December 1999**, under the chairmanship of Ms Satu Hassi, Minister for the

Environment and Development of Finland and President of the Council of the European Union.

The ACP spokesman was Mr John Horne, Minister of Trade and Consumer Affairs of Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines and President of the ACP Council of Ministers.

The European Commission was represented by Mr Poul Nielson, member of that institution.

The ACP-EC Council of Ministers:

- (i) agreed to mandate the ACP-EC Committee of Ambassadors to adopt the necessary transitional measures on behalf of the Council to cover the period between the expiry of the Lomé Convention on 29 February 2000 and the entry into force of the new partnership agreement;
- (ii) approved in principle the text of a draft decision of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers inviting both parties to request an appropriate waiver from the WTO for the new trading arrangements within the partnership agreement;
- (iii) adopted a decision on exceptional aid for highly indebted ACP countries <sup>(1)</sup>. This decision provided for the use of unallocated programmable resources from the eighth EDF and earlier Funds in the form of grants for the following purposes:
  - meeting the outstanding debt and debt servicing obligations to the Community of the first ACP countries which qualify under the HIPC (highly indebted poor countries) initiative (EUR 320 million);
  - contributing to the overall financing of the HIPC initiative by providing up to EUR 680 million for the HIPC Trust Fund managed by the World Bank;

- (iv) adopted a decision on increasing the structural adjustment facility <sup>(2)</sup> (SAF) which would benefit all ACP countries, whether eligible or not for the HIPC initiative. Under this decision EUR 250 million of unallocated programmable resources from the eighth and previous EDFs, shall be used to increase the SAF allocation under the eighth EDF.

## **2. ACP-EC COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS**

The Committee of Ambassadors held its **46th meeting on 13 July 1999** in Brussels to prepare for the proceedings of the above-mentioned meeting of the Council of Ministers. The minutes of that meeting are contained in ACP-CE 2143/99, ACP/22/005/99.

## **3. ACP-EU JOINT ASSEMBLY**

The ACP-EU Joint Assembly held its **28th and 29th sessions in, respectively, Strasbourg, France (February 1999) and Bahamas (October 1999)**. The assembly's proceedings focused on the following topics in particular: the situation in certain ACP States (including Angola; Congo-Brazzaville; Eritrea/Ethiopia; Haiti; Nigeria; Sierra Leone; Somalia, Solomon Islands; The Sudan; and the countries of the Great Lakes region); the trade, development and cooperation agreement between the EC and South Africa; matters relating to the common organisation of the market in bananas; climatic change and small island States; regional cooperation in ACP countries; children's rights and the use of children in war zones; ACP-EC relations in the fishery sector; relations between the Caribbean region and the EU; the Bahamian economic development model; the situation in East Timor; the private sector, including tourism, and the fight against poverty in the ACP countries and in the EU.

The current negotiations on a new partnership agreement between the ACP States and the

<sup>(1)</sup> Contained in ACP-EC 2167/1/99 REV 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> Contained in ACP-EC 2168/99



European Union when the Lomé IV Convention expires were at the forefront of these two sessions.

The resolutions adopted by the Joint Assembly at these two sessions were sent to the Council of Ministers (1).

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(1) OJ C 271, 24.9 1999 and OJ C 59, 13 2000

### **III. ACTIVITIES OF THE ACP–EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS OF COOPERATION**

#### **1. TRADE AND CUSTOMS COOPERATION**

In the framework of the ACP–EC Trade Cooperation Subcommittee, both parties had consultations on 2 July on bananas and on fish and fishery products.

##### **(a) Consultations on bananas**

While the ACP side expressed their concern on this item, they also appreciated the effort made by the EC to defend the banana regime in the WTO. The ACP side asked to be kept up to date on developments in this regard.

The EC side fully recognised the importance of this dossier to the ACP States and stated its readiness to keep the ACP side closely informed about any developments.

In this context, the EC side recalled that in April the WTO had again condemned a number of provisions of the EC banana regime. The main effect of the findings of the WTO panel is that the EC, under the present Lomé waiver, cannot set aside a certain quantity for traditional ACP suppliers. To remedy this situation, the panel suggested several options:

- a tariff only system;
- a tariff only system plus a quota for ACP suppliers;
- a quota system plus duty-free access for ACP suppliers;
- a quota system plus a separate quota for ACP suppliers.

All these options are presently being studied in the Council on the basis of a communication from the Commission on the main options for changing the regime. The main options can be divided into a tariff only system or a tariff quota system. In the meantime, discussions with other parties such as the ACP, Ecuador and the US will continue. At present, however, it is not possible to predict how long it will take to amend the EC banana regime.

The subcommittee also took note of an intervention from the ambassador from the eastern Caribbean countries. He agreed with the EC side on the necessity for the ACP banana producers to become competitive, while underlining the impossibility for the Caribbean producers of achieving the same level of competitiveness as the banana producers in Central America. In this context he also mentioned that it might be necessary to refine the implementing regulation for the traditional ACP banana producers to make sure it achieves its objective. On the proposed reform, he underlined the importance of ensuring a predictable outlet for the ACP countries on the EC market. The ACP side would have a strong preference for retaining the tariff rate quotas at current volume and tariff level.

##### **(b) Consultations on fish and fishery products**

The ACP side wished to have two items considered under this item:

- the list of third countries authorised to export fishery products to the EC; and
- the suspension of the import of fishery products from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

With regard to the list of third countries, the ACP side asked to be kept informed on the situation. It also appealed to the EC to put the necessary financial and technical assistance at the disposal of the ACP countries who were trying to meet

the sanitary requirements laid down in Articles 9 and 10 of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The EC side informed the subcommittee that to date approximately 20 countries had applied to be put on the list of agreed exporters of fishery products to the EC. In order to accommodate the ACP request, the EC suggested the holding of a meeting at technical level to study the situation in the individual ACP countries.

Concerning the suspension of the import of fishery products from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the ACP side were not happy with the procedure adopted by the EC. They pointed out that the competent authorities of these countries had undertaken all possible measures to ensure conformity of their exports of fish products. They considered that all the pertinent information had been forwarded to the EC, and therefore asked the EC side to initiate the necessary action to ensure that the measures in place were withdrawn as a matter of priority. Finally they requested that urgent consultations be held in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 of the convention.

The EC side recalled that the important issue at stake here was that of public health. It informed the ACP side of the veterinary examinations currently being carried out and stated that, for the time being, it could not commit itself to a fixed date for the lifting of the ban on imports from these three countries.

## **2. SUGAR**

The intervention prices for sugar for the 1998/99 marketing year to which the guaranteed prices must be bound, have been adopted by the EU Council in July 1998.

These prices were set at ECU 52.37/100 kg for raw sugar and ECU 64.65/100 kg for white sugar.

## **3. COOPERATION ON COMMODITIES**

(a) The Committee on Commodities held its eighth meeting at ministerial level on the occasion of the 24th ACP-EC Council meeting on 29 July 1999 to address the following items:

(i) **Recent developments concerning international commodity agreements, including the common fund for commodities**

The two sides reviewed the situation concerning existing commodity agreements.

**The International Cocoa Agreement** had entered the phase in which its second-generation economic clauses became fully applicable. Despite the lack of stabilisation arrangements and mechanisms, producers and consumers were working together to ensure that, as far as possible, production was geared to consumption. The agreement had accordingly been extended for an initial phase of two years until 2001. However, producers and consumers would be called upon in the coming months to consider the actual impact of the provisions concerning the policies on concerted production and on consumption in order to find suitable arrangements for the continuation of effective international cooperation in this matter.

With regard to **the International Coffee Agreement**, the two sides welcomed the fact that at the extraordinary meeting of the International Coffee Council in London on 21 July 1999, a resolution had been adopted stipulating that the agreement would be extended for two years (i.e. until 30 September 2001) and that a negotiating group, open to all members, would be set up, with the task of drawing up the draft new International Coffee Agreement by 30 September 2000; this timetable would allow the signatory

States to complete the process of ratification, approval or acceptance of the new agreement before 30 September 2001.

The ACP side urged the need for the Community to finalise its negotiating directives as soon as possible in order that this timetable could be met. The European Union noted this wish.

As regards the **International Tropical Timber Agreement**, the two sides expressed their satisfaction that the framework for a fruitful dialogue had been established. This could only make it easier to achieve the sustainable management of tropical forests by the year 2000 that all parties wanted to see. However, the ACP Group was concerned about the limited resources for achieving the Year 2000 Objective, which was also included in Protocol No 10 on sustainable management of forest resources. In response, it was stressed that in addition to the funds provided for this purpose, a budget line of EUR 50 million per year had been made available by the European Parliament.

Regarding the **Common Fund for Commodities**, the two sides welcomed the adoption of the new strategy introduced by the five-year action plan, which gave that organisation a new impetus. The two sides noted that the difficult question of using financial resources from the 'first window' also seemed to have been resolved satisfactorily with a redistribution of members' shares, as long as a large proportion of those shares was paid back to the 'second window', thus increasing its capacity to achieve specific objectives.

**(ii) Use of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter in the manufacture of chocolate**

In this particular area, both sides said that some progress had been made towards Community harmonisation, not only in the direction sought by the European

Parliament but also in that sought by the ACP partners. A final compromise formula seemed possible, but there was not as yet a true consensus on it among all the parties concerned.

Among other things, the compromise concerned:

- (1) extending the use of vegetable fats (max. 5 %), subject to certain conditions laid down in the actual proposal. The indication of the presence of vegetable fats should be clearly visible within the same field as the name of the product;
- (2) the establishment of criteria for the use of these substances;
- (3) drawing up a list of six authorised vegetable fats of tropical origin, enzymatic processes being excluded;
- (4) the establishment of special consultation procedures for future adjustments to the directive.

However, the ACP side said that the methods for detecting and quantifying vegetable fats other than cocoa butter were still not reliable (10 % of such fats could not be reliably detected).

The EC noted this concern and said that it would provide the ACP Group with information on further developments in methods of analysis as soon as they became available.

**(iii) Unctad X**

The two sides noted that it was necessary to continue contributing actively to discussions in the various multilateral forums, endeavouring to safeguard the principles of constructive dialogue and international cooperation in the commodities field. They considered that Unctad X provided a framework that was conducive to close consultations for improving

the integration of the ACP States' economies into the international economic system in the process of globalisation and liberalisation. The two sides therefore agreed to hold further consultations ahead of the 10th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be held in Thailand in February 2000.

Lastly, it should be noted that the Minister of Guyana on behalf of his country and Surinam voiced his country's concern regarding the arrangements applying to rice and on behalf of the Caribbean States on rum. The committee took note of this comment.

(b) Stabex

For the 1998 year of application, the Commission found 13 ACP States to be eligible for 18 transfers under the export earnings stabilisation system set up by the revised fourth ACP-EC Convention.

Following consultations under Articles 202 and 203 of the convention, as appropriate, the total of eligible transfers was EUR 74 728 228. Consultations were still under way with three ACP States, so any transfers for these countries would be decided at a later date.

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COOPERATION**

(a) Implementation in 1999

1999 was marked by relatively contrasting results:

- on the one hand commitments continued progressing at a sustained rate. With a 17 % progression rate in relation to 1998, they constituted the best result ever attained;
- on the other hand, the level of payments made during the same year, EUR 1 275 million, did not reach the

target set out in the 1999 timetable, as presented during the finalisation of the negotiations on the volume of the 9th EDF, which was fixed at EUR 1 985 million.

Even if, on an initial analysis, the cause of this disparity could be due to contracts whose rate of realisation in relation to appropriations remained relatively low, 5.2 %, the fact still remains that other causes linked to implementation procedures and reiterated several times accounted, in the main, for the bottleneck.

In this context, the committee noted that it should henceforth give special attention to the examination of the joint reports to be prepared annually by the national authorising officers and heads of delegation on the implementation of national indicative programmes, in conformity with Article 284(3) of the current convention. It should equally tackle the adaptation of the management procedures of the new ACP-EC agreement for greater decentralisation of tasks and responsibilities towards local actors as recommended in the agreement.

The implementation, in 1999, of the last three EDFs still running had varying results. Commitments under the 6th EDF attained 94 % of the allocations in 1999 and payments a cumulated rate of 87 %, which appeared reasonably satisfactory. Commitments under the 7th EDF indicated a cumulated rate of 88 % nine years after its entry into force with 59 ACP countries attaining over 95 % compared with rates of payment of 83 % of the contracts signed. This was also encouraging. Commitments under the 8th EDF attained 49 % rate barely one and a half years after its entry into force — a remarkable situation. As for payments, the situation seemed less brilliant with an implementation rate of only 2.28 % compared with appropriations. As indicated above, priority for analysis and action should be geared to this area during the forthcoming exercises to improve it substantially.

As for the national indicative programmes mentioned above, the 100 and 95 % rates of commitment for the regional indicative programmes attained respectively by the 6th and 7th EDF constitute a satisfactory trend. On the other hand, information available on payments was not sufficiently detailed to verify whether the performance of these two EDFs in terms of commitment was equivalent for payments. The same observation went for the regional indicative programmes under the 8th EDF which, at the level of commitments, all the same attained a 35 % rate of implementation by the end of the second year of its coming into effect.

On debt, the ACP-EC Council of Ministers in December 1999 decided to allocate the HIPC initiative a maximum amount of EUR 1 billion from the unallocated resources of the 8th EDF and the previous EDFs, for eligible ACP countries. The committee noted its intention to follow up this decision.

Structural adjustment support, once again in 1999, demonstrated its vitality as a fast-disbursement instrument through the same rate of accelerated commitment as that of previous years. Additional resources of EUR 250 million were allocated to it by ACP-EC Council decision of December 1999 to enable the instrument to meet to its obligations.

Stabex was relatively active in 1999 with transfer of resources to some 15 ACP eligible countries under the 1998 year of application. There were no new commitments on the balance of the Sysmin appropriation under the 7th EDF. Only one project of EUR 26 million was committed on the EUR 575 million appropriation under the 8th EDF, thus leaving the level of commitments for this Fund at only 4.5 % and that of payments at 0 %.

As for tenders and the award of contracts, the trends observed during the previous years continued as regards the three cate-

gories of markets (works, supplies and services) and the countries receiving the most awards for each of them. A slight improvement was observed in ACP businesses during the last year. A new and clearer presentation of the annual trends will be provided.

(b) ACP-EC Development Finance Cooperation Committee

The ACP-EC Development Finance Cooperation Committee, set up under Article 325 of the fourth ACP-EC Convention, held its eighth meeting at ministerial level on 28 July 1999.

It addressed the following items.

- Examination of the reports and resolutions of the ACP-EC Development Finance Cooperation Committee:

The committee approved the following reports (ACP-CE 2139/1/99 REV 1, ACP/81/003/99 REV 1) and agreed to call on the ACP-EC Council to adopt them.

- 1998 Implementation Report:

The draft report on the implementation of financial and technical cooperation in 1998 essentially provides statistical information and presents an in-depth analysis of achievements under the third and fourth conventions.

The committee noted that all in all, implementation of the convention proceeded better in 1998 than 1997 in terms of both decisions and payments. The main reason for this was the exhaustion of the 6th EDF and the gradual maturing of the 7th EDF cycle, decisions almost reaching the 90 % mark. This improvement was also attributable to almost maximum use of the quick-disbursing instruments, especially structural adjustment aid.

On national indicative programmes, resources of the 6th EDF, close to clo-

sure, were practically exhausted, while the 7th EDF chalked up an 85 % decision rate and 51 % payment rate, a marked improvement. For the 8th EDF the level of decisions against the total allocation (18.52 %) must be regarded as relatively satisfactory for the first implementation year of a Fund that did not enter into operation until 1 June.

Regional programmes under the 6th EDF are almost completed, with almost all 'Africa's' and 'Pacific's' now having reached 100 % decision rate while in the 'Caribbean' the decisions now stand at 94 % compared to 86 % last year. The situation of the 7th EDF evolved much less.

The sectoral breakdown highlighted the operations under the 'programme aid' heading. The rural development sector continued to account for a substantial share of the 6th EDF, though a much smaller one under the 7th.

The committee also noted that Stabex payments for the 1997 application year totalled almost ECU 89 million. For structural adjustment support, decisions under the 7th and 8th EDFs added up to ECU 587 million, while the payments under the two Funds stood at ECU 279 million. No Sysmin decisions were taken in 1998 under 6th, 7th or 8th EDFs payments stood at ECU 42 million under the 6th and 7th EDFs.

For the EIB, finance contracts accounted for nearly ECU 560 million, including almost ECU 270 million in risk capital from the EDF.

In terms of invitations to tender and contracts, the provisional 1998 figures confirm the general trend recorded in 1997 for all contracts. The breakdown of contracts won by the ACP States under the 6th and 7th EDFs also remained stationary.

- 1998 Evaluation Report:

The committee took note of the 1998 evaluation report and the activities mentioned in the report concerning regional cooperation in west Africa and the synthesis evaluation on ACP-EC cooperation; it noted that the synthesis report on the evaluation of Sysmin in 1996 and 1997 could not yet be completed. It approved the work programme for 1999 contained in the aforementioned report.

- Resolution on implementation in 1998:

The committee called on the ACP-EC Council of Ministers to adopt a resolution on the implementation of development finance cooperation in 1998. It noted with interest the improvement in the implementation of the convention in 1998 compared to little progress that had been made in the two preceding years on account, among other things, of resources under the 6th and 7th EDF having been exhausted, with both in their final phase. It further noted that this improvement was also attributable to almost maximum use of the quick-disbursing instruments, especially structural adjustment aid.

It called on the parties to maintain and bolster these advances in proceeding with those projects and programmes awaiting implementation, and to report to the next Council on the progress made.

On Sysmin, the committee also took note with concern that the cumulative level both of primary commitments and of contracts and payments remained practically unchanged between 1997 and 1998 due to the fact that no commitment had been registered during the year on the 8th EDF; took note nevertheless that some applications had been received and were being appraised; called again on the parties to look hard,

in the context of the specific procedures applying to Sysmin, for appropriate solutions that would speed up its implementation, in particular as regards contracts and payments.

On invitations to tender and contracts, it also noted that in spite of efforts made following the previous Council resolutions to improve the access of ACP citizens, companies and institutions to the various types of contract financed by the EDF, in particular service contracts, the situation had not registered significant changes; restated its calls on the parties to step up their efforts in this context to achieve a genuine improvement in the actual rate of participation in contracts by ACP citizens, companies and institutions, including the effective joint implementation of the training programmes announced in the joint declaration in Barbados in 1998 under item 8 of the Council's agenda.

It gave a reminder that the drafting and distribution of standard documents on special conditions relating to EDF-financed contracts as stipulated in the conclusions of the Article 193 Committee of November 1991 had not been carried out during the autumn of 1997, as had been agreed at the 22nd session for the Council in Luxembourg in April 1997; reiterated its concern at the delays which had occurred in fulfilling this commitment; requested therefore that this issue be followed up and invited the Development Finance Cooperation Committee to report to the Council at its next session.

- Simplification of EDF management:

The European Commission made a statement in which it said it had presented proposals to the Council of Ministers for measures in three steps simplifying EDF management by transferring to the 8th EDF all remaining credits from the

6th, 7th and earlier EDFs. The ACP side took note of the Commission's statement and informed the committee that it would make its position known once the concrete proposals had been made available.

- (c) EIB activities in the ACP States

Under the Lomé Conventions, funding from the European Investment Bank (EIB) is granted either from its own resources in the form of loans generally accompanied by interest subsidies or from European Development Fund (EDF) resources through risk capital operations. After a brisk upswing in activity in 1998 generated by the entry into force of the second financial protocol of Lomé IV, which had been well prepared during the long wait for ratification, the EIB's commitments in the signatory countries of the convention returned to a level comparable with that of previous years.

In the course of 1999, the Bank:

- **from its own resources**, signed 38 financing contracts for loans (26 of which were accompanied by interest-rate subsidies) for a total of EUR 182.9 million and disbursed EUR 172 million.
- **from risk capital**, granted a total of EUR 140.8 million and disbursed EUR 124 million.

The total amount of loans signed was therefore EUR 323.7 million.

In terms of the **sectoral distribution** of EIB operations, the bulk of the Bank's aid in 1999 was concentrated in the sectors of industry and services (EUR 165 million, 51 % of total financing), energy (EUR 94 million, 29 % of the total), communications infrastructure (EUR 42 million, 13 % of the total) and water management (EUR 23 million, 7 % of the total).



In terms of **geographical distribution**, the Bank operated in 17 ACP countries and carried out two regional scope operations. Operations in Africa totalled EUR 286.9 million (of which EUR 114 million in risk capital and EUR 172.9 million in own resources), in the Caribbean, EUR 28.3 million and in the Pacific, EUR 8.5 million.

Loans in **southern Africa** totalled EUR 85 million (of which EUR 43.4 million in own resources). Of these EUR 42.4 million were in Mozambique for the industry sector and a global loan to finance small and medium-scale investments as well as EUR 7 million to connect its power grid with those of South Africa and Swaziland. EUR 13.5 million was for electricity and mining projects in Zimbabwe, EUR 13 million for water, power and road projects in Namibia, EUR 8 million for a global loan in Madagascar to finance small to medium-sized loans and EUR 1 million for building a shrimp hatchery.

In **central and equatorial Africa**, Cameroon was granted a global loan of EUR 15 million, including EUR 10 million in risk capital, to finance small to medium-sized loans in the private sector.

In **west Africa** loans totalled EUR 93 million, including EUR 72 million in own resources. EUR 72 million were for Senegal to finance industrial and telecommunications projects, EUR 3 million for Mauritania to exploit granite deposits, EUR 12 million in global loans for these two countries for financing SMEs and EUR 6 million as a conditional loan for a regional operation to the **West Africa Enterprise Fund** to support the development of private-sector companies in the region.

In **east Africa**, loans totalled EUR 94 million, including EUR 52.5 million in own resources. EUR 73 million were in Kenya for power and steel projects and,

via a global loan, for small to medium-sized investments. EUR 11 million went to Uganda for creating a second national telecommunications network, EUR 9 million to Tanzania to finance SMEs in the private sector and EUR 1 million to the Seychelles for water projects.

In **the Caribbean** financing totalled EUR 28.3 million, of which EUR 18.3 million in risk capital. EUR 16 million were for Haiti for the repair and extension of a water supply network, EUR 10 million for Dominica for the construction of a power station and EUR 2 million to provide capital or quasi-capital to SMEs in the private sector.

In **the Pacific**, Vanuatu obtained EUR 5 million for its principal airport and a global loan of EUR 3.5 million went to Kiribati to finance small to medium-sized investments.

In **South Africa** four contracts were concluded for a total of EUR 149.6 million. These were for an extension of exploitation of gas deposits (EUR 40 million), the project to interconnect the South African, Swaziland and Mozambican power grids (EUR 14.6 million), the modernisation and technical upgrading of a toll road between Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal (EUR 45 million) and a global loan of EUR 50 million to the **Development Bank of Southern Africa** to finance small to medium-sized investments primarily in the water and sanitation sectors.

At the end of 1999, the total sum of the payments under both protocols of Lomé IV amounted to approximately EUR 1 724 million including EUR 1 025 million for loans from own resources and EUR 699 million for the capital.

## **5. INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION**

The ACP-EC Committee on Industrial Cooperation adopted the following decisions in 1999:

- Decision No 1/1999 of 15 October 1999 on the extension of term of office of a member of the Governing Board of the Centre for the Development of Industry;
- Decision No 2/1999 of 6 December 1999 on the adjustment of the remuneration and the tax brackets laid down in the conditions of employment of the staff of the Centre for the Development of Industry;
- Decision No 3/1999 of 6 December 1999 concerning amendments to Internal Regulation No S3/L.IV/93 applicable to staff of the Centre for the Development of Industry;
- Decision No 4/1999 of 31 December 1999 approving the budget of the Centre for the Development of Industry.

## **6. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COOPERATION**

The ACP-EC Committee of Ambassadors adopted the following decision in 1999:

- Decision No 1/1999 of 31 December 1999 adopting the budget of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (2000).

The ACP-EC Subcommittee for Cooperation on Agricultural and Rural Development adopted the following decision in 1999:

- Decision No 1/1999 of 28 October 1999 giving a discharge to the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation in respect of the implementation of the centre's budget for the financial years 1995 and 1996.

## **IV. RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA**

### **1. NEGOTIATION OF A TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

On 29 July 1999 the Council approved, and on 11 October 1999 the European Community and the Republic of South Africa signed, a trade, development and cooperation agreement (TDCA) which entered into force provisionally on 1 January 2000. The objectives of this agreement are to promote close relations between the parties, to support the efforts made by South Africa to consolidate the economic and social foundations of its transition process, to promote regional cooperation and economic integration in the southern African region and to promote the expansion and reciprocal liberalisation of trade and the integration of South Africa into the world economy.

The agreement envisages the establishment of a free trade area over a transitional period lasting, on the South African side, a maximum of 12 years and on the Community side a maximum of 10 years from the entry into force of the agreement. The free trade area covers the free movement of goods in all sectors and the agreement also covers the liberalisation of trade in services and the free movement of capital.

A Council regulation <sup>(1)</sup> implementing certain provisions of the TDCA was adopted on 17 December 1999.

Negotiations towards a wines and spirits agreement between the parties continued during 1999, although they were stalled by fundamental differences over the issue of protection for certain non-geographic traditional denominations of European Union wines and spirits. At the European Council in Berlin on

24 and 25 March 1999 a political agreement was reached between the EU and South Africa on the phasing out of the terms 'Port' and 'Sherry' (for non-EU products), and this agreement was reflected in Annex X of the TDCA, which also envisages a wines and spirits agreement between the parties. A joint statement on the wines and spirits agreement between South Africa and the European Community of 10 October 1999 contains the commitment by South Africa that 'the agreement will incorporate the agreement on port and sherry in the TDCA in the exact terms agreed in March'.

Negotiations for a fisheries agreement remained stalled throughout 1999.

### **2. EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EPRD)**

On 15 March 1999, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a regulation laying down the objectives and procedures for activities under the current Budget Heading B7-3200 'European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD)'.

The European Parliament (EP) delivered its opinion at first reading on 5 May 1999. Following the amendments of the EP and discussions at Council level (1st reading), the Commission transmitted a modified proposal to the Council on 14 July 1999. A political agreement on the common position (with a financial envelope of EUR 767.5 million for the whole duration of the regulation from 2000 to 2006) was reached at Coreper level on 16 December 1999.

The objective of this proposal is to ensure the continuation of financing activities as provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 2259/96 of November 1996 after its expiry on 31 December 1999. The budget line of the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa is intended to finance programmes aimed at contributing towards sustainable development, consolida-

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 2793/1999 of 17 December 1999

ting the foundations for a democratic society and the rule of law as well as improving the situation of the most disadvantaged groups in South African society. It further defines aims and sectors of future intervention in the light of the trade, development and cooperation agreement (TDCA) with the European Union, signed in July 1999.

## V. FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EU AND THE ACP STATES

Negotiations for the conclusion of a development partnership agreement with the ACP States

- (i) The formal negotiations to conclude a new partnership agreement to replace the fourth Lomé Convention, which began on 30 September 1998, continued with three ministerial conferences in 1999 — in Dakar on 8 and 9 February, Brussels, 29 and 30 July and Brussels on 8 and 9 December.

The December conference began by taking note, within the negotiating groups, of the progress achieved since the second negotiating conference in Brussels on 29 and 30 July 1999 and approving the agreement by both parties on the set of 'key sentences' drawn up and agreed at ambassador and Commission level. The negotiations continued with each of the groups examining a number of specific topics, as follows:

- **Central Group:** Political and institutional matters: Essential elements and non-execution clause, accession, migration/readmission and duration of the new agreement;
- **Group 2:** Private sector, investment and other development strategies;
- **Group 3:** Economic and trade cooperation: objectives, principles, modalities and procedures; trade regime applicable during the preparatory period; rules of origin; trade-related issues; Stabex/Sysmin;
- **Group 4:** Financial cooperation.

The conference made substantial progress on a number of the outstanding problems. After detailed discussions, ministers reached agreement, in particular on the questions of essential elements, good

governance, the non-execution clause, dispute settlement and accession to the convention. Another important point of agreement concerns the text relating to the objectives, principles, modalities and procedures of future ACP–EU economic and trade cooperation, subject, however, to final agreement on the item of market access during the preparatory period. The partners agreed on the need for further enhancing the performance and efficiency of allocation of financial resources under the future convention, as well as on a solution for handling the debt question. A great deal of progress was also made regarding the support in case of fluctuations of export earnings to succeed the current Stabex and Sysmin mechanisms.

In the final plenary session of the conference, the EU also presented its offer to the ACP countries under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) comprising the following resources (million EUR):

EDF ACP	13 500
of which	
— long-term	10 000
— regional	1 300
— investment facility	2 200
EIB loans (on own resources)	1 700
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 200</b>

At the end of the conference, the two parties concluded that the negotiations should be continued as soon as possible in order to finalise the still outstanding issues which comprise *inter alia* the items of migration/readmission, the duration of the new convention, market access during the preparatory period, and possibly, the investment facility.

## VI. ANNEXES

### ANNEX I

## CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY (CDI)

### THE YEAR IN BRIEF

#### *Evolution of the main indicators of the centre's performance*

The figures in the summary table attest to the high level of operational activity maintained by the centre. Overall:

- the number of enterprises assisted rose to 642, an increase of 7.5 % over the 1998 figure of 597; and
- the number of interventions rose to 845, an increase of 6 % over the 1998 figure of 795.

These results have been achieved through a sustained effort to improve the way in which the centre manages its operational activities. With current budget levels, however, it will be difficult to maintain the annual increase in the number of enterprises assisted without compromising the quality or the impact of the interventions.

#### **Budget**

The total annual budget for 1999 was EUR 17 448 000, a modest increase of 4 % over 1998. The level of commitment overall was 98.5 % compared to 99.2 % the previous year.

For the fourth year running, as a result of a general policy aimed at reducing administrative costs, it was possible to transfer funds within the budget to supplement the amount available for operational activities (Title III). In total, EUR 1 175 000 was re-allocated to operational activities. This also had a positive

effect on the ratio between administrative and operational expenditure. Administrative expenditure accounted for 45 % and operational expenditure for 55 %.

#### **Requests for assistance**

In 1999, 1 153 requests for assistance were registered. The slight decrease over last year's figure of 1 225 may be attributed to the emphasis that the centre has placed on improving the quality of the requests submitted. It has achieved this by training its ACP antennae to evaluate the requests they receive and to submit them with full substantiation for the assistance sought. An effort has also been made to improve the quality of the requests submitted by the ACP promoters.

A large number of requests are also emanating from direct actions, such as industrial partnership meetings that target specific sectors and key enterprises within these sectors.

With regard to the source of requests on a regional basis, the main source in 1999 was west Africa (21 %) followed by east Africa and the Pacific (each with 18 %) and southern Africa (16 %).

#### **ACP enterprises assisted**

Requests for assistance continued to exceed the centre's capacity to respond. However, as already mentioned, as a result of the transfer of funds within the budget to supplement the amount available for operational activities (Title III), the centre was able to assist a record number of 642 enterprises, compared to last year's figure of 597. The number of enterprises that received a first assistance in 1999 was 246.

The majority of enterprises assisted remained in the range of small and medium size. 72.5 % had an investment of under EUR 2 million, compared to 67 % in 1998.

If we consider the enterprises assisted on a regional basis, the three main regions in 1999

were southern Africa (23.1 %), west Africa (22.4 %) and east Africa (22.3 %).

If we consider the enterprises assisted on a sectoral basis, agro-industry remained the priority sector in 1999 with 39.1 % of the enterprises assisted. This was followed by the building materials sector with 34.8 %. Enterprises assisted in the leather and textile sectors accounted for 15.1 %.

Assistance to enterprises undergoing expansion or diversification increased from 32 % (in 1998) to 35.8 %. Assistance in the consolidation or rehabilitation of enterprises fell from 43 % (in 1998) to 40.4 %. Assistance in the creation of new enterprises fell from 25 % (in 1998) to 23.8 %. These figures reflect the centre's policy of providing longer-term assistance with more than one intervention per enterprise in order to increase the impact of its assistance.

The trend towards fewer of the enterprises having a partnership with a European enterprise continued. As in 1998, these accounted for only 37.2 %. France and Portugal were the main EU countries in this context.

### ***Interventions***

The number of active interventions rose again in 1999 to reach 845, compared to last year's figure of 795.

As interventions may stretch over two calendar years, the number of interventions started during each year has to be compared with the number completed during each year.

Therefore, out of the 845 interventions in 1999, 313 had been started in 1998 and were carried forward to 1999 for completion, while 532 were started in 1999.

In the same way, out of these 845 interventions, 498 were completed in 1999, while 347 were still active at the end of the year and were carried forward to 2000 for completion.

The average overall cost of the interventions processed in 1999 was EUR 24 071. The average contribution of the centre rose slightly to 47.75 %, as did that of the ACP promoters at 33.15 %. The average contribution of the EU partners fell slightly to 9.81 %, as did that of the EU institutions at 9.29 %.

With regard to the types of intervention undertaken, direct assistance to ACP enterprises accounted for 50.3 %, while diagnostics, feasibility studies and financial advice accounted for 31.2 %.

### ***ACP network***

Over the years the centre has established and consolidated a network of antennae throughout the ACP countries. This network has become an essential component of the centre's operational activity.

The antennae's main tasks are to represent and promote the centre in the field and to carry out a preliminary screening of the requests for assistance.

There has been a steady improvement in the quality of the requests for assistance submitted via the antennae. In line with the emphasis that the centre has been placing on the quality of the assistance it provides, the antennae are required to ensure that all proposals are adequately substantiated and give an indication of the impact that may be expected of the assistance requested.

The eligibility criteria applicable to requests for assistance submitted by the antennae reflect those applied by the centre itself. In some cases, however, there may be other considerations. For example, in countries or regions where the centre is focusing on one or more key sectors, the antennae may be encouraged also to focus on requests emanating from the latter. With a view to maximising the impact of assistance, enterprises may be grouped together, either within one country or within a region.

The antennae also provide the centre with support services that range from assistance on the occasion of the centre's industrial partnership meetings to assistance to staff during missions and to consultants contracted to carry out interventions.

### ***EU network***

The centre has an extensive network of contacts and cooperation agreements in all EU Member States.

The contacts include national or regional development and investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce, ministerial departments and other organisations and institutions related to development promotion in the ACP countries. The network also includes more and more EU technical, professional and sectoral bodies that work directly with enterprises.

The institutional cooperation agreements at national or regional level constitute one of the centre's main assets.

To this institutional and technical EU network must also be added the vast network of specialised consultants and companies that the centre engages to implement interventions and to help joint venture agreements between EU and ACP enterprises.

The EU network is one of the interfaces between the needs of the ACP enterprises and the specific interventions to be undertaken by the centre. Out of the total of 845 interventions in 1999, 384 were carried out by EU experts and 128 by the EU partners themselves.

In 1999, through the co-financing of programmes and projects, the EU network generated additional funding for a total amount of EUR 2 316 405. This figure is equivalent to 27 % of the total of commitments for operational activities. The co-financed activities were mainly twinning and partnership programmes, training programmes, missions of industrialists, and direct assistance to individual enterprises.

Portugal, Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Spain were among the most active EU countries in terms of co-financing programmes and projects with the centre in 1999. Respectively, they accounted for 29 %, 16 % and 9 % (for each of the last three) of the total co-financing generated. Co-financing from EDF programmes accounted for 10 %.

### ***Industrial partnership meetings and seminars***

Industrial partnership meetings have proved to be a very effective means of promoting ACP-EU industrial cooperation.

The centre first selects a specific sector as having potential for expansion, usually in export markets. It then identifies a group of 20–25 key companies in an ACP country or region and a similar number of EU companies interested in cooperation. In many cases, export marketing is the key interest. In the centre's experience, rapid commercial links develop, not only between European and ACP participants but also between the ACP enterprises. The centre monitors these contacts and provides technical and marketing assistance, as appropriate.

Industrial partnership meetings are often followed some months later by seminars that focus on key topics raised by the participants during the meetings. The seminars usually bring together ACP enterprises in the same field of activity. In this way, the participants can learn, not only from the ACP and European experts invited by the centre but also from each other's experience.

Another positive result of these events is to improve the centre's knowledge of specific industrial subsectors in the targeted ACP regions and/or in Europe. Each meeting is preceded by a sectoral survey that reviews, for example, availability and specifications of raw materials, enterprises that are active in the sector and their development plans, existing and potential markets (local or foreign), the need for new equipment or technical



upgrading. The conclusions enable the centre to be in a better position to focus its assistance on the most viable projects or programmes.

## EVOLUTION OF THE MAIN INDICATORS

	Total 1993	Total 1994	Total 1995	Total 1996	Total 1997	Total 1998	Total 1999
<b>A. Requests</b>	612	575	1 248	1 570	1 079	1 225	1 153
<b>B. Interventions</b>							
— Interventions carried over (situation end of previous year)	100	86	83	140	239	320	313
— Interventions started during the year	90	143	284	463	509	475	532
<b>Total of interventions processed</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>845</b>
— Active interventions (situation at the end of the period)	86	83	140	239	320	313	347
— Interventions finished within the year/period	104	146	227	364	428	482	498
<b>Total of interventions processed</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>845</b>
— Average value of CDI's contribution for the interventions processed during the period (EUR)	17 430	16 572	15 848	13 287	10 984	11 326	11 494
— Idem on budget article for the year only (EUR)	14 168	1 638	14 394	10 671	10 944	10 472	11 506
— Average contribution to the interventions							
CDI	49 %	43 %	44.5 %	46.0 %	46.6 %	46.7 %	47.75 %
Inst. (%)	23 %	18 %	18.8 %	15.9 %	13.7 %	10.6 %	9.29 %
EU part (%)	11 %	15 %	14.1 %	10.6 %	11.2 %	11.0 %	9.81 %
ACP part (%)	17 %	24 %	22.6 %	27.5 %	28.5 %	31.7 %	33.15 %
<b>C. Projects</b>							
<b>Number of projects having received a first assistance in the year</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Total number of projects processed in the year</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>642</b>
— New and pilot projects	40 %	34 %	32.8 %	31.6 %	29.8 %	25.0 %	23.83 %
— Existing enterprises (expansion or diversification)	27.3 %	34 %	36.5 %	30.4 %	26.3 %	32.0 %	35.82 %
— Existing enterprises (rehabilitation and consolidation)	32.5 %	31 %	30.7 %	38.0 %	43.9 %	43.0 %	40.35 %
Percentage of fully private projects	83.8 %	85 %	82.9 %	85.0 %	87.6 %	86.1 %	88.63 %
Percentage of projects with EU partnership	64.9 %	50 %	50.2 %	42.3 %	40.0 %	37.2 %	37.23 %
Distribution by sector (number of projects)							
Agro-industry	36 %	34 %	41.8 %	39.3 %	42.6 %	44.6 %	39.09 %
Construction, wood, metal	34 %	31 %	33.4 %	35.7 %	32.4 %	27.8 %	34.89 %
Others	30 %	35 %	24.8 %	25.0 %	25.0 %	27.6 %	26.02 %
Geographical distribution (number of projects)							
west Africa	24 %	23 %	28.2 %	22.4 %	24.9 %	24.6 %	22.43 %
southern Africa	20 %	21 %	20.9 %	24.1 %	20.7 %	21.1 %	23.05 %
east Africa	18 %	24 %	19.9 %	19.4 %	21.2 %	21.8 %	22.27 %
Caribbean	18 %	18 %	16.7 %	11.8 %	12.8 %	11.6 %	11.84 %
Central Africa	14 %	7 %	8.4 %	13.7 %	10.0 %	9.2 %	7.79 %
Pacific	6 %	6 %	5.9 %	8.5 %	10.4 %	11.7 %	12.62 %

NB: NC = not communicated

## **ANNEX II**

### **SUMMARY REPORT OF CTA ACTIVITIES IN 1999**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

CTA's activities concern the development and provision of information services for agricultural and rural development, and the strengthening of the information and communication management (ICM) capacities of relevant organisations in ACP countries. More specifically, the centre assists ACP organisations with the development and adaptation of ICM policies and strategies, promotes the exchange of information through meetings and studies, provides information on demand through the production and distribution of published outputs, and strengthens ACP capacity in ICM. The centre has four operational departments which develop and implement programmes to address each of these areas; the activities of each department are outlined. The introduction begins with an overview of CTA's activities in 1999, and then considers four specific programme areas: the role of women in rural development, the impact of globalisation on ACP agriculture, concerns about natural resources management, and CTA's evolving mandate post-Lomé.

CTA's programmes are evolving as a consequence of the transformations that were anticipated in the centre's mid-term plan 1997–2000. They are, of course, influenced also by other factors such as global changes, which affect all aspects of development, and the emerging priorities of the new ACP–EU cooperation arrangements destined to replace those of the fourth Lomé Convention.

#### **The focus of CTA's 1999 programme**

The development of information and communication policies and strategies is addressed by CTA's Information Policies and Partnerships Department. Two trends which are influencing its current work are, first, the

need to ensure that information services are demand-driven and, second, the need to increase support for localised, or decentralised, services which serve specific communities or subsectors. Support for the development of regional agricultural information networks and programmes was provided to several regional organisations. CTA's assistance in these areas is providing for consultations and feasibility studies, system design, prototype development, equipment purchase, staff training and the development of new information and communication products. Other activities in 1999 included reviews and feasibility studies on various topics, including small-scale food processing, global trade negotiations and natural resources management.

The programmes which promote the exchange of experience and expertise are directly influenced by the principles set out in the mid-term plan, especially the priority accorded to specific information themes. The need for ACP agriculture to become more competitive ensured that the highest priority in 1999 was accorded to issues which fall within the centre's priority information theme 'promoting market-led development'. There is, of course, a great diversity of topics to be addressed within this context: among those covered this year were marketing and export, particularly the marketing of perishable foodstuffs, small-scale food processing, and the production and marketing of organic bananas.

Second in importance to market-led development in 1999 was natural resources management, particularly the sustainable management of water resources. Another major theme, addressed in the context of mobilising civil society, was the identification of means of encouraging income-generating activities which would promote the economic role of women in rural development. This report will return to these two meetings, which were held in Spain and Greece, respectively.

Although the thematic content of CTA's publishing and distribution activities reflects the activities carried out by other departments, the Publications and Dissemination

Department proactively seeks opportunities to establish partnerships with others outside CTA. In each aspect of the department's work — the identification of appropriate thematic content, the selection of co-publishing partners and the mode of delivery and presentation — various trends are emerging. Among the priorities in 1999 was the further development of new serial co-publications. These are being developed with both new and existing partners, including a new partner based in France. ACP participation is now a basic requirement. The new series will address familiar priority topics: production of export crops, food processing, and commercialisation. Links with South Africa's publishing industry, in particular, were strengthened during the year, but the development of closer links with ACP authors and publishers in general continues, and increasingly derives from CTA's training activities. This trend is one that was facilitated by closer interdepartmental linkages in the publishing programme, which in turn resulted from the implementation of the recommendations of an evaluation completed at the end of 1998. The involvement of ACP authors and publishers continues to be enhanced by CTA's support to authors' workshops in ACP countries.

Electronic publishing, mainly via CTA's web site, continues to expand; and increasing use is being made of the web site to help people register as subscribers and, subsequently, to select the publications they require. Over 90 % of publications are distributed on demand. CTA continues to give priority to increasing the number of publications provided to policymakers and middle managers, to women readers and to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). For the majority of beneficiaries of CTA's publishing activities, the most noticeable change in 1999 was the new format adopted for *Spore* and *Esporo*, CTA's flagship publications. These changes reflect many trends, among them the need for enhanced readability in publications of this kind and the need to reach specific groups, such as women and traders, more effectively. A special supplement entitled 'Joining the circles of life' was published in the December issue of *Spore* to celebrate the new millennium; it focused

on prospects for ACP agriculture in the longer term.

The trend towards the decentralisation of information services was mentioned earlier, and a major preoccupation of the Information and Capacity Development Department was to further implement CTA's policy of decentralising its question-and-answer service. Whilst the main focus of activity was eastern and southern Africa, new sites in west Africa and the Pacific were also identified.

The principle of enhanced participation of beneficiaries — in book selection and in information services — mentioned earlier appears again in the context of the Dissemination of Reference Books on Agriculture (DORA), CTA's programme to provide packages of books to African training institutions. The diversity of topics on which training courses were provided in 1999 (from journal management to public awareness, and from rural radio programme production to managing a question-and-answer service) was impressive, as was the number of individuals who benefited — 245, taking part in 10 regional and 7 national training courses.

The promotion of Agricta, a cooperative Internet initiative, has been another new venture for CTA. This is essentially a service to provide thematic gateways to information sources of relevance to ACP countries. Three prototype mini-gateways were produced during the year; they concerned small to medium enterprises, information and communication technologies (ICTs) in agriculture, and agricultural research. Whilst Internet technologies were promoted, CD-ROM technology, which CTA began providing some 13 years ago, continues to be important. In order to promote awareness of the value of ICTs in institutional development, CTA helped leaders of agricultural institutions to develop strategies for incorporating ICTs into their programmes.

Another new initiative for CTA was the organisation of an online forum on the use of ICTs in African agriculture and natural resources

management; this initiative demonstrated the need to overcome the technology-driven, supply-side thinking that predominates at present. Finally, the CTA Observatory on ICTs in agriculture met in September; this serves as a forum for sharing ideas on how best to employ ICT applications under the conditions prevailing in ACP countries.

### Promoting income-generating activities for rural women

Interest among policy-makers and development practitioners in the roles women play in economic and social development, and in the need for equality between men and women, is not new, but it is destined to be one of the issues mainstreamed in the successor agreement to the fourth ACP–EU Lomé Convention. The changes in the State's relationship to the economies of sub-Saharan African countries, and the changes in the agricultural sector in particular, have often aggravated the situation of women.

In order to promote the exchange of information and experience of the roles played by women in rural development, and to identify their opportunities and the challenges facing them, CTA co-organised and co-funded a seminar entitled 'The economic role of women in rural and agricultural development: the promotion of income-generating activities'. The meeting was held in October in Athens, Greece; it was co-organised with the Greek Ministry of Agriculture and the Austrian Development Cooperation and was implemented in collaboration with the University of Helsinki, the South African Department of Agriculture and the Tanzania Home Economics Association.

The recommendations of the seminar focused on means of enhancing the economic impact of women's work, the value of promoting socio-cultural factors such as education and literacy, the need to enhance the legal status of women, and policy and institutional strategies that would promote income-generating activities for rural women.

### Assessing the impact of the globalisation of agricultural trade on ACP countries

Partly as a follow-up to the workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998 on multilateral trade negotiations and partly in response to a request from the ACP Subcommittee for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, CTA commissioned a series of studies on the impact of the globalisation of agricultural trade on ACP countries. Three reports were completed during the year. The objective is to provide ACP negotiators and others with timely and pertinent information which will strengthen their position in the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations.

The first of these reports, which gave an overview of the situation, underlined the potential advantages arising from the liberalisation and deregulation of international trade, but warned that many ACP countries lack the technical or financial resources to take full advantage of these opportunities. The report suggests that ACP countries should join with other developing countries to press for better representation. At the national level, countries should take advantage of the development assistance being offered to improve food quality standards and to make their products more competitive on international markets. In preparing for greater involvement in international trade, however, there remains a need to maintain vigilance with regard to national food security and the welfare of rural communities. The subsequent reports provided updates. CTA has made these reports available to the ACP General Secretariat and to ACP regional organisations involved in agricultural policy analysis; they are also available on CTA's web site.

## Enhancing natural resources management

The effective design and implementation of natural resources management and environmental protection policies requires good information and data on natural resources. Two events held during the year addressed this challenge. The first was a workshop on information support to policy formulation on natural resources management, held in January in Wageningen and attended by representatives of 13 ACP countries. Increasingly, ACP countries are developing national environmental policies across a number of sectors, such as energy, agriculture and transport. For these efforts to be coordinated at national level, transparent and well-supplied information systems are needed; problems will arise if the information is perceived by some to be unreliable. Important criteria for such systems are political and institutional commitment, access to information, standardised formats and agreed classification schemes; other key factors include financial sustainability, inter-sectoral partnerships, communication skills and quality control. Finally, a networking culture is needed to ensure that the information flows.

Another CTA meeting, held in Cordoba, Spain in September focused on a key component of the natural resource base, water — specifically the fair, efficient and sustainable management of water for the agricultural and rural development of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. Increasingly, agriculture must compete with urban requirements, industry and fisheries for access to water resources. As CTA's Advisory Committee has pointed out, water management is becoming an area of increasing concern which, in the past, has received less attention than land tenure. In view of the extensive changes in the management of irrigation schemes resulting from government cutbacks, the meeting considered current irrigation practices. It noted, in particular, the change of approach from a schemes-based one to an agro-ecological systems-based one.

## Post-Lomé issues

The introduction last year described CTA's evolving objectives in the context of the post-Lomé negotiations. The draft partnership agreement between the ACP and EU States is undergoing final revisions. Annex III of the 'Cooperation strategies' concerns institutional support to CTA. This states that cooperation shall 'strengthen and reinforce the role of CTA in ACP institutional capacity development ... for increasing agricultural productivity, commercialisation, food security and rural development'.

The CTA mandate continues to evolve, building on the transformation of the programme charted in the mid-term plan (approved in 1996 and discussed in the past four annual reports) and reflecting the strategies needed to overcome the constraints to agricultural and rural development. These strategies require the development and implementation of appropriate policies, together with a strengthening of the performance of ACP agricultural and rural development organisations. The principal change in the mandate outlined in Article 3 of Annex III is the increased emphasis given to strengthening ACP capacity to formulate rural development policies and strategies at national and regional levels through improved information and communication management. This is a further evolution of CTA's capacity development programme. The intention is to 'assist such organisations ... to reduce poverty, promote sustainable food security, preserve the natural resource base and thus contribute to building self-reliance in ACP rural and agricultural development'.

After the post-Lomé partnership agreement is finalised, CTA needs to embark on a second strategic planning exercise for the period 2001–05, similar to the exercise which led to the mid-term plan 1997–2000. This will define the strategic framework for CTA's annual programmes in this period. The exercise will draw on the consultative seminars and reviews already agreed for the programme for 2000, in parallel with ongoing consultations

with ACP partners and EU resource organisations, the CTA Advisory Committee and CTA staff working groups.

### **DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

The work carried out by CTA's Information Policies and Partnerships Department (IPPD) is aimed at assisting ACP agricultural organisations develop effective information and communication management (ICM) policies and strategies. The centre's ACP partners have identified a need for such assistance, based on the crucial role that information plays in the formulation and implementation of agricultural development policies.

IPPD's activities cover a wide range of issues, including agricultural policy analysis, natural resources management, market-led development and market information systems, impact assessment, research management and agricultural extension. The department adopts a consultative, problem-solving approach in helping ACP organisations find solutions and formulate strategies relevant to their work and context.

A key constraint to the role of information in development is the limited number of decentralised, demand-driven agricultural information systems in ACP countries. To address this problem, CTA is promoting the establishment of information systems which serve a particular community or agricultural subsector and are operated by the groups the systems are designed to benefit. A number of CTA's regional partners are adopting this concept, but inadequate technical, financial and human resources have forced them to maintain their ICM activities at a modest level. The ICM capability of national organisations is even weaker and the role of information in these organisations is often poorly defined. IPPD's activities at the national level focus mainly on designing and testing pilot information systems, while at the regional level the emphasis is on providing organisations with the

resources needed to establish information networks and programmes.

The regional information systems being supported are all in their early development phase, a period when attention to strategic issues is very important and the adoption of poor ICM policies and strategies could undermine the effectiveness of the information systems. In 1999 support was provided to eight regional organisations and networks in the form of conducting consultations and feasibility studies, designing information systems, producing a prototype database, purchasing equipment, training staff and launching new information and communication products. These organisations and networks include Ecapapa (eastern and central Africa), FANR-PAN (southern Africa), UEMOA (west Africa), CMA/AOC (west and central Africa), CARDI (Caribbean) and IRETA (Pacific). At the national level, IPPD launched four pilot ICM programmes in collaboration with NGOs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Uganda, a pilot market information service in Ghana, and three pilot studies on impact assessment in Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Other activities carried out by the department during the year included studies and consultations on small-scale food processing (in Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia), global trade negotiations, market information systems (for Ghana, Uganda, west Africa and the Caribbean), functional literacy, natural resources management (including a workshop attended by representatives of 5 EU and 11 ACP countries, and case studies in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Madagascar and Namibia), extension management strategies (including support for a workshop in the Caribbean attended by 142 delegates) and the impact of agricultural research (identifying and designing pilot studies to be conducted in collaboration with organisations in Mozambique, Trinidad and Tobago, and Papua New Guinea). IPPD also coordinated the external evaluations carried out on CTA's selective dissemination of information (SDI) service and on its regional branch offices in the

Caribbean and Pacific. The evaluations were completed during the year. An evaluation commissioned on the mid-term plan 1997–2000 is scheduled to be completed by mid-2000.

### **PROMOTING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

The efforts of ACP countries to make the changes necessary for them to compete in international markets within the context of new global agricultural trade conditions was reflected in the subject matter addressed by most of the activities of CTA's Seminars and Studies Department (SSD) in 1999. For the first time, the largest slice of the department's budget (37 %) was spent on the priority information theme 'promoting market-led development'.

A series of seminars was organised with institutions with expertise in this area. Some seminars put the emphasis on finance and marketing, including one on cooperatives in west Africa, organised in Côte d'Ivoire with a finance institution and attended by 51 participants, one on assisting producer associations to acquire financial resources and skills, organised in Chad with ILO and UNDP (37 participants), and a third on the development of small-scale food processing businesses, organised in Senegal with CIRAD (63 participants). At other meetings the emphasis was on the technical aspects of producing agricultural products for regional and world markets. These included a seminar in Spain on marketing and distributing perishable products, organised with Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (22 participants), a meeting in the Dominican Republic organised with CABI and Inibap on the production and marketing of organic bananas (70 participants), and a workshop in Fiji on quality control of agricultural goods produced for export (40 participants).

Finance was also the focus of a study visit CTA organised with IRAM. The 20 participants, drawn from micro-finance institutions

in eight African countries, studied rural credit and micro-finance schemes in Cameroon. The technical aspects of producing agricultural products for export were addressed in a study visit in Fiji organised by IRETA and focusing on fresh produce (11 participants).

Water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, and its management is a priority for all ACP regions. CTA decided to devote its single seminar in 1999 to this subject; it falls under the information theme 'protecting the environment and managing natural resources', which accounted for 27 % of the department's budget for the year. The seminar was held in the Cordoba region in southern Spain, where irrigation has been practised for centuries by small communities, providing useful models on which water management schemes could be based as ACP governments transfer responsibility for natural resources management to private institutions and local communities.

Other topics addressed by meetings co-organised by CTA in 1999 were the management of fallow land in tropical Africa (held in Senegal, attended by 250 participants), the development of urban agriculture (Cuba, 70 participants), a post-harvest technology network in the Caribbean (Grenada, 18 participants), and the economic role of women in agricultural and rural development in Africa (Greece, 60 participants). The meeting on fallow land was based on a long-term research project involving many teams and coordinated by CORAF. The venue selected for the seminar on urban agriculture was Cuba, where considerable government resources have been devoted to developing this sector. For the seminar on the economic role of women in development, held in Greece, CTA did a great deal of preparatory work; this was the first of a series of meetings which will be organised with CTA support to enable rural women in ACP countries to exchange experiences and promote their role in development.

In addition to the study visits in Cameroon and Fiji, two other study visits were organised. The first was to Zimbabwe, to provide seed experts from eastern and southern Africa



with an opportunity to study the country's seed production and marketing systems (17 participants). Malawi was the venue of a study visit on integrated agro-pisciculture systems, organised with the local Iclarm office in an effort to promote the potential of fish farming in Africa (17 participants). During the year CTA also provided financial support for a study on indigenous knowledge and its use in agricultural and rural development in Africa.

### **PROVIDING INFORMATION ON DEMAND**

Meeting the demand from ACP countries for information on agricultural and rural development through the publication, purchase and distribution of books and periodicals is the main responsibility of CTA's Publications and Dissemination Department (PDD). Over 90 % of the publications are distributed in response to specific requests from subscribers to the centre's publications distribution service (PDS) under the subscription system introduced in 1997.

Over the past few years evaluations have been carried out on the department's various activities. An evaluation of *Spore and Esporo*, CTA's flagship publications, was carried out in 1998, and in 1999 a separate evaluation focused on the rest of the department's publishing programme. The content of the publications on CTA's list was judged relevant to the needs of the centre's subscribers. The co-publishing activities were seen as cost-effective and as filling an important gap by ensuring the publication of ACP agricultural and rural development texts that other publishers would have rejected on commercial grounds. In response to the evaluation report recommendations, emphasis is being placed on producing publications that reflect the activities of all CTA's departments; there will be a greater focus, in particular, on publications that support ICDD's training programme.

The total number of titles published by CTA in 1999 was 14. In addition, a new 'working

document' series was launched, consisting of documents prepared in connection with CTA activities and of interest to a wider group of people than those directly involved in these activities, but which do not justify the expense of formal publication. The titles in the series have a uniform appearance and are produced quickly and cheaply with little or no editing by CTA. Twelve 'working document' titles were published during the year.

Major objectives of the co-publishing programme in 1999 were to involve more ACP publishers and partners in CTA's publishing activities and to develop new series with new publishing partners. Titles co-published with ACP publishers included a training manual compiled by a Ugandan author and publisher, aimed at NGO publishing personnel. The first title in a new series on food processing was prepared for publication and a new French co-publishing partner was identified. The total number of titles co-published by CTA in 1999 was 21, with support provided for a further three seminar proceedings, six IFPRI policy briefs and eight periodicals.

The redesigned format of *Spore* and *Esporo*, introduced in April, has proved popular with readers. CTA's activities are covered more effectively, there is more interaction with the readership, and the content is more relevant to readers' needs and to groups such as women and traders. In compiling the bulletins, input from ACP journalists has increased and more use is being made of the Internet. A special millennium supplement, focusing on issues likely to affect agricultural development in ACP countries in the 21st century, was included in the December editions of *Spore* and *Esporo*.

In terms of volume, the PDS comfortably exceeded the targets set for distributing publications to subscribers. Priority was given to women, institutions focusing on issues of relevance to women and the private sector. A pilot project to improve the distribution of publications on CTA's list in Burkina Faso was implemented, and preparations were made for a similar project in Zambia. As part

of the PDS' promotional activities, a more user-friendly catalogue was published and was loaded onto CTA's web site. Using the information now stored on an expanded electronic database on all publications on CTA's list, a more targeted and structured approach to promotional activities, such as offering discounts and producing flyers on slow-moving titles, has been adopted.

The centre's representatives at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair in 1999 took the opportunity to reinforce partnerships with publishers from both anglophone and francophone Africa. Seminars held on the book fair theme of 'gender, books and development' gave useful insights into why comparatively few Spore readers and PDS subscribers are women. There were also opportunities to meet PDS subscribers, who endorsed the new subscription-based service.

### **STRENGTHENING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT**

The emphasis in the programme implemented by CTA's Information and Capacity Development Department (ICDD) in 1999 was on strengthening institutional management and output through electronic networking and effective communication strategies. The programme also aimed to consolidate a number of activities initiated in 1998 on information and documentation support, training in communication, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). All these activities provided CTA with opportunities to initiate and strengthen partnerships with regional organisations such as Asareca, CORAF and Saccar and public and private sector institutions in the national agricultural systems.

Information and documentation support activities included installing past and present resource packs produced under CTA's rural radio programme on the centre's web site, with links to other rural radio sites. Four resource packs were produced in 1999 and

were distributed to 150 radio stations. The programme also supported an Inades initiative to produce and exchange radio programmes. An evaluation of the selective dissemination of information (SDI) service was conducted and new monitoring procedures were put in place. Under the dissemination of reference books on agriculture (DORA) programme, procedures were implemented to improve the selection and use of books; 38 African institutions benefited from the programme in 1999. CTA's strategy to decentralise the question-and-answer service involved strengthening the southern African site operated by the programme for agricultural information services (PRAIS), establishing sites in eastern Africa, the Indian Ocean region and the Caribbean, and identifying sites in west Africa and the Pacific region.

The department organised 10 regional and 7 national training courses during the year and provided support for various national training activities. The courses were attended by a total of 245 people from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Jamaica, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tomé, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St Lucia, Swaziland, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The themes included annual report production, public awareness of agricultural research and development, scientific editing, micro-computing in agricultural information management, rural radio programme production, journal management, and web design and electronic networks. Among the studies carried out was one aimed at developing Interface, the west African network of small and medium-sized business enterprises, and two aimed at developing communication strategies for CNRA in Côte d'Ivoire and for FENOP, the Federation of Producer Associations in Burkina Faso.

ICT activities included organising a workshop aimed at raising awareness among insti-

tutional leaders of the value of ICTs in institutional development and taking steps, through the CTA Observatory, to set up a 'virtual' centre providing ICT information and products. The centre also produced policy briefs on ICTs in five African countries and established an online forum, afagrict-1, on the use of ICTs in African agriculture and natural resources management. These activities demonstrated the poor state of telecommunications in much of the continent and the need to improve access to global information systems. A survey was conducted on the possibility of linking beneficiaries of CTA's CD-ROM and SDI services to the electronic reference library (ERL), a gateway service suited to institutions with good Internet facilities.

### **CTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The CTA Advisory Committee provides technical and scientific assistance to the director of CTA in planning and implementing the centre's programmes. The committee consists of 15 members representing the EU Member States and 15 members representing the ACP Group of States. Representatives of the European Commission (DG VIII), the Secretariat of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and the ACP General Secretariat attend committee meetings as observers. The committee's annual meeting is normally held in June. It is preceded in April by a meeting of

the Restricted Group to prepare the annual meeting; the Restricted Group also meets in October to discuss matters arising from the June meeting.

At the Advisory Committee's 14th annual meeting, held in Wageningen, 1-4 June, the following were elected to office:

- Chairman: Ms T. Ngomane  
(South Africa)
- Vice Chairman: Mr J. Flanagan (Ireland)
- Restricted Group: Dr J.-F. Giovannetti  
(France)  
Mr J. P. Toihen (Benin)
- Rapporteurs: Dr D. Duggal  
(Trinidad and Tobago)  
Mrs H. Boulkou  
(Greece)

At the meeting Mr E. C. Sitapai (Papua New Guinea) was represented by Dr S. Lahis, Mr C. Murdock (Secretariat of ACP-EU Council of Ministers) by Mrs M.-L. Lindorfer, and Mr U. Werblow (DG VIII) by Mr R. Carreau. Mr L. P. Gakale (Botswana), Mr D. W. S. Mbilima (Tanzania), Mr L. V. Raturvuki (Fiji) and Mr A. O. Ashiru (ACP General Secretariat) were absent, with apologies.

The Advisory Committee adopted the report of its 13th meeting and examined the reports of the Restricted Group meetings held on 12 and 13 October 1998 and 12 and 13 April 1999. It also reviewed the CTA Annual Report 1998, the centre's activities in 1999 and the draft programme of activities for 2000. Apart from these routine activities, the committee discussed two issues raised at the April meeting of the Restricted Group: the policy and institutional aspects of poverty reduction and agricultural development; and the introduction of the CTA issue to the post-Lomé negotiations.

In June the summary report, conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee meeting, and the draft programme and budget for 2000, were submitted to the ACP–EU Committee of Ambassadors. They were approved by the EU and the ACP Group before the end of the year.

On 21 and 22 October the Restricted Group met at Wageningen to finalise the report of the annual meeting, to further examine the 1999 and 2000 programmes and to prepare for its meeting in April 2000. CTA's director reported on the ongoing negotiations for the successor agreement to the fourth Lomé Convention.

## **Acronyms and abbreviations**

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Asareca	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (UK)
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CMA/AOC	Conference of Ministers of Agriculture/west and Central Africa
CNRA	Centre national de recherche agricole (Côte d'Ivoire)
CORAF	Conférence des responsables de recherche agronomique africain
DG VIII	Directorate-General for Development (EC)
DORA	dissemination of reference books on agriculture (CTA)
ERL	electronic reference library
EU	European Union
FANRPAN	food, agriculture and natural resources policy network (SADC)
FENOP	National Federation of Farmers Organisations (Burkina Faso)
ICDD	Information and Capacity Development Department (CTA)
Iclarm	International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
ICM	information and communication management
ICO	International Consumers Organisation
ICT	information and communication technology
Inades	Institut africain pour le développement économique et social (Burkina Faso)
Inibap	international network for the improvement of bananas and plantains
IPPD	Information Policies and Partnership Department (CTA)
IRAM	Institut de recherches et d'applications des méthodes de développement
IRETA	Institute for Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture (Pacific)
NGO	non-governmental organisation
PDD	Publications and Dissemination Department (CTA)
PDS	publications distribution service (CTA)
PRAIS	programme for agricultural information services (SADC)
Saccar	Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Training
SDI	selective dissemination of information
SSD	Seminars and Studies Department (CTA)
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme



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