

European Community

News Release

ZIMBABWE JOINS LOMÉ CONVENTION

In Luxembourg, on 4 November, in the presence of the foreign ministers of the nine European Community member states, representatives of the EC and Zimbabwe signed the agreement on the conditions for Zimbabwe's accession to the second Lomé Convention.

The Lomé II Convention provides for cooperation between the European Community and now 60 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in the areas of industrial, agricultural and transport development, as well as in the extraction of mineral resources. Lomé II also provides for systems to stabilize income from exports of agricultural products and minerals. The Convention, which came into effect in March 1980, will run for five years and make \$9.5 billion available to the EC's partners in the developing countries.

The request to accede to the Lomé Convention was the first international initiative taken by the Government of Zimbabwe when the country became independent this year.

The agreement signed on 4 November opens the door for Zimbabwe to receive a share of all the benefits resulting from the Lomé Convention. The agreement also provides for duty-free exports to the European Community of certain quantities of products from Zimbabwe, including beef, sugar and tobacco. Moreover, the EC has decided to increase the size of the European Development Fund available for developing countries by \$140 million.

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