

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

on the situation of ACP students and migrant workers in the European Community

(Rapporteur: H.E. Mr Raymond CHASLE)

- adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee on 24 February 1983

The Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly, meeting in Kingston, (Jamaica) from 21 to 24 February 1983,

- A. Having regard to the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly in Luxembourg (30.9.1981) and Rome (3.11.1982),
- B. Having regard to Annex XV to the Lomé Convention making a joint declaration on workers who are nationals of one of the Contracting Parties and are residing legally in the territory of a Member State or an ACP State,
- C. Having regard to the resolution concerning cooperation in the field of education (6 June 1974) adopted by the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council of the EEC,
- D. Having regard to the EEC Council Resolution (21 January 1974) concerning a social action programme,
- E. Bearing in mind the discussions held at the hearings with representatives of the economic and social sectors,

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- F. Taking account of Resolution No. 9(X)X adopted by the ACP Council of Ministers in December 1982,
- G. Recalling Recommendations Nos. 15 and 16 of the World Conference on Cultural Policies held in Mexico City (July/August 1982),
- H. Having regard to the resolution adopted by the European Parliament in November 1982 on the enrolment fees charged to foreign pupils and students in some Community countries,
1. Stresses emphatically that the situation of ACP migrant workers and students is an integral part of the sphere of ACP-EEC cooperation;
 2. Stresses that the discriminatory policies on enrolment fees which have been adopted for economic reasons deprive a large number of deserving students of access to education and training and therefore of opportunities to develop their potential to the full, and increase the risk of accentuating and perpetuating social inequalities;
 3. Draws attention to the fact that, quite apart from the problem of the high enrolment fees charged to ACP nationals, in many cases they are faced with a whole range of social and administrative problems which impede their studies and leave them isolated and confused;
 4. Recognizes that, until the ACP States are able to develop, on the national, regional and sub-regional levels, their own indigenous training capacity to meet their needs and aspirations, their nationals have no choice but to depend in large measure on the establishments of higher education and training in the EEC Member States;

5. Stresses also that the freedom for students to move between developing and industrialized countries, which is a logical concomitant of the sharing of knowledge, is an essential factor in promoting enriching cultural exchange of a kind which furthers reciprocal knowledge and better mutual understanding between host countries and countries of origin;
6. Points out that ACP migrant workers and students are an important component of the social and cultural diversity in Member States and make a not inconsiderable contribution to socio-economic life in the Member States;
7. Deplores, in these circumstances, the fact that appeals both to the Member States of the Community and to the Community itself regarding the increasingly serious situation of ACP migrant workers and students have so far had little effect;
8. Deplores also the EEC's Council failure to deal with these problems, despite repeated calls by the European Parliament, on the grounds that it lacks jurisdiction both at Community level and at the level of the ACP-EEC institutions;
9. Calls earnestly on the Community to ensure that the Member States concerned lift all discriminatory measures against students who are nationals of ACP countries which, in the first place, run counter to Community measures aimed at securing equal treatment for Community and extra-Community nationals in cultural and occupational training and in living and working conditions and, in addition, are contrary to the objectives, provisions and spirit of the present Lomé Convention;

10. Reaffirms that no ACP-EEC cooperation policy can enjoy true credibility if these problems remain unsolved;
11. Insists that the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers gives its urgent attention to this phenomenon, which is liable to provoke serious conflict and social tension and jeopardize ACP-EEC relations, with a view, through the broadest measure of cooperation between the ACP States and the Community, to finding appropriate solutions;
12. Requests the Commission to extend its study to cover the whole situation of ACP students and workers in Member States, and to devise and submit to the Community for adoption a Community social and cultural policy taking all aspects of this situation into consideration;
13. Expresses its gratification at the supportive action taken by the social and cultural service organizations in the Member States, which are doing outstanding work of particular help, in the present situation, both to Third World nationals and to their countries of origin;
14. Calls on the working party on cultural cooperation to collect all the relevant data, particularly of a statistical type, on the problems of ACP students and migrant workers in the Member States and to present to the next meeting of the Joint Committee a full report making reference to the social and cultural service organizations which give assistance to ACP nationals in the EEC countries;
15. Recommends to the Consultative Assembly that it consider the possibility of itself taking the initiative of setting up the foundation for the promotion of ACP culture, whose primary aim would be to contribute to solving the problems of ACP students and workers undergoing training in Europe, as recommended in the report on the implementation of the Luxembourg resolution.