

# 34th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

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**Economic trends and security are set to dominate debates at the 34th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Haiti, starting on 18 December.**

The 34th plenary session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly takes place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 18 to 20 December. It will be officially opened by its Co-Presidents, Louis Michel for the European Parliament and Ibrahim Rassin Bundu for the ACP states, in the presence of President of the Republic of Haiti Moïse Jovenel, and President of the Senate of Haiti Youri Latortue.

The plenary session will be preceded and prepared by meetings of the three standing committees - on Economic Development, Finance and Trade, Political Affairs and Social Affairs and the Environment - on Saturday 16 December. A Bureau meeting will take place on Sunday 17 December.

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# Background

## What will be discussed in Port-au-Prince?

MPs and MEPs will debate **Sustainable tourism** with Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), on the morning of 19 December.

The role of natural resources in promoting sustainable development (Tuesday morning) and the Consolidation of the Rule of Law in the Central African Republic (late Tuesday morning) will also be discussed.

On 20 December, the Assembly will also debate and vote on three resolutions on:

- **Challenges in the field of the security-development nexus in ACP and EU policies** (debate Tuesday afternoon, Co-Rapporteurs: Mohammed Goumaneh (Djibouti) and Enrique Guerrero Salom (ES))
- **Improving access to basic health systems, notably to medicines, in the fight against infectious diseases** (debate Wednesday morning, Co-rapporteurs: Mfanawemakhosi Dlamini (Swaziland) and Ana Zaborska (PL)) and
- **The blue economy: opportunities and challenges for ACP States** (debate Tuesday morning, Co-rapporteurs: Oumouri Mmadi Hassani (Comoros) and Thierry Cornillet (FR))

Two urgent topics will be debated and wrapped up by resolutions:

- **Enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters in ACP States** (debate Monday, vote Wednesday), and
- **the situation in Mauritania** (debate Tuesday morning, vote Wednesday).

The official opening of the 34th session of the JPA will be held on Monday 18 December in the presence of President of the Republic of Haiti Moïse Jovenel, and President of the Senate of Haiti Youri Latortue.

MPs and MEPs will also hold debates with EU Commissioner Neven Mimica on Monday 18 December and representatives of the rotating presidencies of the ACP and EU Councils on Wednesday 20 December.

On the fringe of the plenary session, MPs and MEPs will meet at the **Women's Forum** on the morning of Saturday 16 December. They will also meet young Haitians at a **Youth Conference** on the afternoon of Sunday 17 December.

# Background

## How to follow the debates?

The entire event programme is available on the [Joint parliamentary assembly ACP-EU website](#).

Further information:

[Programme](#)

# Background

## **Why is there a need for ACP JPA meeting? What tangible results can be achieved?**

The EU maintains a special partnership with the ACP countries, due to historical ties between them and with many EU Member States. This partnership is established by the Cotonou Agreement, signed in June 2000. It is essential this partnership has a parliamentary dimension, allowing democratic overview of the government and executive. Therefore parliamentary representatives of the 78 ACP countries and 78 Members of the European Parliament meet twice a year in the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, once in the EU country holding the EU Council Presidency and once in a country determined by the ACP. Apart from the full plenary sessions, Members regularly meet in committees and Bureau.

*See also:*

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/20\\_01/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/20_01/default_en.htm)

Further information:

[Why a Joint Parliamentary Assembly?](#)

# Background

## What tangible results have been achieved during previous meetings?

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has no decision-making powers as such; its importance is due to the fact that it is the only forum where ACP parliamentary representatives can voice their needs and worries to the EU and vice versa. It also allows elected representatives of ACP countries to address their concerns directly to the EU Commission and inform themselves on the state of negotiations on trade agreements with their countries. The resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU JPA have fed into current ACP-EU agreements and will continue to do so.

*Some examples:*

- Improving the role of women in the development process,
- Integrating environment policy in development projects,
- Promoting trade as a tool for development, particularly through the Economic Partnership Agreements, provided for in the Cotonou Agreement,
- Rural development programmes and micro-projects tailored to the needs of specific communities,
- Improvement of measures to combat epidemics and reinforce health and hygiene services,
- Creation of decentralised development policies,
- Annual meetings between economic and social partners,
- Promoting regional, political and commercial cooperation,
- Closer cooperation with non-governmental organisations engaged in development,
- aid for indebted countries pursuing structural adjustment policies to allow them to maintain essential services,
- Measures to enhance the cultural dimension of North-South cooperation,
- Accelerating aid procedures and increasing funds for refugees and for displaced persons, and
- Measures to reinforce the commitment to respect and defend human rights and human dignity.

# Background

## How are venues chosen?

The JPA meets twice a year, once in the EU, traditionally in the member state who has presidency in the EU Council of Ministers, and once in an ACP country, determined by the group of ACP countries.

Previous JPAs:

- Wiesbaden, Germany, 23-28 June 2007,
- Rwanda 17-22 November 2007,
- Ljubljana, Slovenia, 17-20 March 2008,
- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 29 November / 1 December 2008,
- Prague, Czech Republic, 4-9 April 2009,
- Luanda, Angola, 30 November - 3 December 2009,
- Tenerife, Spain, 29 March - 1 April 2010,
- Kinshasa, RD Congo, 2-4 December 2010,
- Budapest, Hungary, 16-18 May 2011,
- Lomé, Togo, 21-23 November 2011,
- Horsens, Denmark, 28-30 May 2012,
- Paramaribo, Suriname, 27-29 November 2012,
- Brussels, Belgium, 17-19 June 2013,
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25-27 November 2013,
- Strasbourg, France, 17 - 19 March 2014,
- Strasbourg, France, 1 - 3 December 2014,
  
- Suva, Fiji, 15-17 June 2015,
- Brussels, 7-9 December 2015,
- Windhoek, Namibia, 13-15 June 2016, and
- Nairobi, Kenya, 19-21 December 2016,
- St Julian's, Malta, 19-21 June 2017.

# Background

## **When and where will the next Joint parliamentary assembly be held?**

The 34th session of the ACP-EU JPA will take place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 18 to 20 December 2017. The 35th session of the ACP-EU JPA should take place in one of the EU countries in the first half of 2018 (date and venue to be determined).

# Background

## Who chairs the ACP-EU JPA?

Two Co-Presidents, one from the EU (currently Louis Michel, ALDE, BE) and one from an ACP country (currently Ibrahim Rassin Bundu, Sierra Leone).



# Background

## How is the ACP-EU JPA organised?

78 MEPs (Members of European Parliament) and 78 MPs from the ACP countries.

Two Co-Presidents, one from the EU (currently Louis Michel, ALDE, BE) and one from an ACP country (currently M. Netty Baldeh from Gambia).

24 Vice-Presidents (12 MEPs and 12 MPs from ACP countries). They constitute the Bureau (the presidium) together with the two Co-Presidents.

There are meetings of the three standing committees (Political affairs; Economic development, Finance and Trade; Social Affairs and Environment) and a plenary session.

# Background

## Who makes up the EP delegation?

78 members

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/dacp/home.html>

31 MEPs have registered for the meeting in Port-au-Prince so far (29 November 2017):

Name of the Members	First names	Political group	Languages
ARENA	Maria	S&D	FR
BAREKOV	Nikolay	ECR	BG
CHRISTENSEN	Ole	S&D	DK
CORNILLET	Thierry	ALDE	FR
DANCE	Seb	S&D	EN
ENGEL	Frank	EPP	LU
FERREIRA	João	GUE/NGL	PT
GAHLER	Michael	EPP	DE
GERICKE	Arne	ECR	DE
GUERRERO SALOM	Enrique	S&D	ES
KYENGE	Kashetu	S&D	IT
LÓPEZ AGUILAR	Juan Fernando	S&D	ES
MANSCOUR	Louis-Joseph	S&D	FR
MICHEL	Louis	ALDE	FR
NART	Javier	ALDE	ES
NEUSER	Norbert	S&D	DE
NOICHL	Maria	S&D	DE
RIVASI	Michèle	Greens/EFA	IT
ROSATI	Dariusz	PPE	PL
SCHUSTER	Joachim	S&D	DE
SENRA RODRIGUEZ	Maria Lidia	GUE/NGL	ES
SERRÃO SANTOS	Ricardo	S&D	PT
STOLOJAN	Teodor Dumitru	EPP	RO/EN
THEOCHAROUS	Eleni	ECR	EL
VALERO	Bodil	Greens/EFA	ES, SE
WARD	Julie	S&D	EN
WENTA	Bogdan	PPE	PL
WISNIEWSKA	Jadwiga	ECR	PL
ZELLER	Joachim	EPP	DE
ZORRINHO	Carlos	S&D	PT
ZWIEFKA	Tadeusz	PPE	PL

# Background

## Which ACP countries are represented?

78 countries

Angola - Antigua and Barbuda - Bahamas - Barbados - Belize - Benin - Botswana - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cape Verde - Cameroon - Central African Republic - Chad - Comoros - Congo - Cook Islands - Côte d'Ivoire - Cuba - Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - Djibouti - Dominica - Dominican Republic - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fiji - Gabon - The Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Republic of Guinea - Equatorial Guinea - Guinea-Bissau - Guyana - Haiti - Jamaica - Kenya - Kiribati - Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands - Mauritania - Mauritius - Micronesia - Mozambique - Namibia - Nauru - Niger - Nigeria - Niue - Palau - Papua New Guinea - Rwanda - St Kitts and Nevis - St Lucia - St Vincent and the Grenadines - Samoa - Sao Tome and Principe - Senegal - Seychelles - Sierra Leone - Solomon Islands - Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland - Tanzania - Togo - Tonga - Trinidad and Tobago - Tuvalu - Uganda - Vanuatu - Zambia - Zimbabwe

*Note:* Cuba is also an ACP country, but as it did not sign the Cotonou agreement, it is not represented in the JPA.

# Background

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