

Groupe des Etats d'Afrique
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
(Groupe ACP)



African, Caribbean and
Pacific Group of States
(ACP Group)

REFERENCE

ACP/00/0011/06 Rev.1

Brussels, 27 June 2006

**Proposal for the comprehensive review of EPA negotiations in
accordance with Article 37.4 of the Cotonou Agreement**

The following guidelines on the approach, timing and conduct of the comprehensive review of the EPA negotiations in accordance with Article 37.4 of the Cotonou Agreement, has been approved by the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee:

1. Terms of reference will be developed on the basis of elements contained in Decision No. 2 of the 83rd Council of Ministers held in Papua New Guinea. The elements will be modified and enriched by the contributions made by the Ministerial Trade Committee on 26 – 27 June 2006.
2. The broad-based terms of reference will, *inter alia*, be used to identify a consultancy to undertake the required tasks in each of the ACP negotiating regions and prepare a consolidated report on the ACP situation.
3. The review study will be implemented during the period mid-July – end September 2006 and the overall study will require a total of 15 man months for all ACP regions or two and a half (2 1/2) months for each region.
4. The Secretary-General is mandated to seek funding for the conduct of the study.
5. The appointed Consultancy will submit the following reports to the negotiating region concerned and the ACP Secretariat:

- (i) Inception report (within 2 weeks of the signing of the contract); the inception report will contain a description of the overall methodology and the annotated plan of the final report;
- (ii) Draft final report after approximately 6 weeks of the presentation of the inception report. A 2-day validation seminar for all the 6 review studies will be held in mid-September to examine and approve the recommendations in the draft final report will be convened at the ACP Secretariat with the involvement of all ACP regions.
- (iii) Final report within 2 weeks of receipt of comments from the validation seminar on the draft final report.

6. The Final report will be presented to a meeting of the Ministerial Trade Committee in mid-October prior to the European Union General Affairs and Economic Relations Council meeting in Luxembourg. The Ministerial Trade Committee will examine the report and provide guidance on the way forward. A meeting of ACP senior officials responsible for trade will precede the Ministerial Trade Committee.
7. The Ministerial Trade Committee will in turn prepare a report for consideration by the ACP and Joint ACP-EU Council of Ministers and thereafter endorsed by the Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government in Khartoum, Sudan, scheduled to take place from 4 – 10 December 2006.
