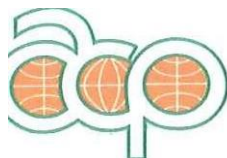


Organisation of  
African, Caribbean and  
Pacific States (OACPS)



Organisation des Etats  
d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et  
du Pacifique (OEACP)

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**Brussels, 1 June 2022**

**NEW OACPS-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:  
STATE OF PLAY AND NEXTS STEPS**

## **NEW OACPS-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: STATE OF PLAY AND NEXTS STEPS**

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1. The new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement was initialled by the Chief Negotiators, H.E. Professor Robert Dussey, Togolese Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad, (*for the OACPS*) and Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships (*for the European Union - EU*) - on Friday, 15 April 2021.
2. The initialling marked the formal conclusion of the negotiations.
3. It set the framework for cooperation between the Parties for at least twenty years. However, the definition of the EU Party was to be finalised later.
4. The European Commission (EC) proposed to the EU Council to sign the agreement as an EU-only agreement. However, the EU Member States proposed to turn the agreement into a mixed agreement, namely between the EU and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the OACPS of the other part.
5. To that effect, the EU Council proposed amendments to the initialed text by changing the nature of the agreement. These were transmitted to the OACPS side by the EC, which underlined its unchanged position on the EU only nature of the Agreement.
6. The OACPS Council subsequently approved the EU's amendments, which also included provisions allowing for accession to the new Agreement should a country join the EU and a text on quorum introduced to cater for the participation of EU Member States in joint OACPS-EU meetings.
7. In addition, a revision was made on the Article on provisional application to operationalise the agreement as soon as possible after signature.
8. Further amendments of a legal/linguistic nature were proposed by the EU Council. The members of the OACPS have examined them for any implications. There is no major outstanding issue that will require an amendment to the existing text.

9. Moreover, the EU gave a list of provisions to be excluded from provisional application until the entry into force of the Agreement. This is linked to the functioning of the EU internal order and the issue of competences between the EU and its Member States. It is affirmed that its implications are circumscribed and limited in time until the full entry into force of the agreement.
10. Meanwhile, the transitional measures to extend the application of the Cotonou Agreement which were to expire on 30 November 2021 were further extended until 30 June 2022, to avoid a vacuum in the OACPS-EU relations. Should the delay in signing become prolonged, it may be necessary to once again extend the transitional measures.
11. The need for signing to be completed as soon as possible can not be over-emphasised. Available information is that some political events related to elections in some EU member states have delayed the completion of EU internal processes.
12. The partnership between the OACPS and the EU has been somewhat affected, in the area of holding of joint meetings at the levels of Ambassadors and Ministers. However, these meetings will resume soon after signing the new Agreement, where engagement will take place not only in Brussels but also in the three Regions of the OACPS - Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The holding of Joint Parliamentary meetings has not been affected. The meetings have taken place although virtually due to COVID restrictions. An in-person meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly completed its session in Strasbourg on Sunday, 3 April 2022.

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