



Cotonou Infokit

This Infokit

Designed for policy makers, practitioners and interested stakeholders in ACP and EU countries, the Cotonou Infokit brings together, in a readable form, basic information on the new Cotonou Partnership Agreement. This Infokit is conceived as work in progress. Additional fiches will be produced to complement the information base on future ACP-EU cooperation

One of the outcomes of the Centre's 1995-1996 consultations on the future of the Lomé Convention was the recognition that information on ACP-EU cooperation is difficult to find. For most people, the Lomé Convention was a 'mystery.'

Part of the problem was perceived to be inadequate access to existing information. The production of relevant information was also rather small and scattered.

In the past years therefore, ECDPM has invested in several information exchange and dissemination mechanisms to try and fill the information gap - the Lomé 2000 Newsletter, discussion papers, policy management briefs, Lomé negotiating briefs, and Euforic. In 1997, a pilot Lomé 'infokit' was published with fiches on the trade dimensions of the ACP-EU relationship.

Since then, despite a marked growth in the production of information on these issues, from all kinds of organisations, concise and readable information on the mechanics of ACP-EU cooperation is hard to find. The need for information on the recently-signed Cotonou Partnership Agreement and its provisions is especially pressing.

This Cotonou Infokit, named for the new Partnership Agreement signed in June 2000 by 77 ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) countries and 15 EU member states aims to address this need.

Focusing on key aspects of the new Agreement, it presents basic information and explains the main provisions and changes.

Each fiche in the kit is written in a plain and jargon-free manner, as far as is possible, and the reader is introduced to the key elements and guided to further sources of information and advice.

The Infokit is a work in progress and we welcome your comments or suggestions on the existing fiches or regarding any new topics you think should be addressed.

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— intro —

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Key Acronyms

ACP - Africa, Caribbean, Pacific
 CDE - Centre for the Development of Enterprise
 CFSP - Common Foreign and Security Policy
 CTA - Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
 DG - Directorate General
 EC - European Commission
 ECHO - European Community Humanitarian Office
 EDF - European Development Fund
 EIB - European Investment Bank
 EPA - Economic Partnership Agreement
 EU - European Union
 FTA - Free Trade Agreement
 GATT - General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
 GSP - Generalised System of Preferences
 LDC - Least Developed Country
 MED - Mediterranean Programme
 MFN - Most Favoured Nation
 NAO - National Authorising Officer
 NGO - Non governmental organisation
 NIP - National Indicative Programme
 REPA - Regional Economic Partnership Agreement
 RIP - Regional Indicative Programme
 SCR - Common Service for External Relations
 WTO - World Trade Organisation

The European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) is an independent foundation that aims to improve international cooperation between Europe and countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP). It does this through capacity building for policy management, the promotion of policy dialogue between ACP countries and Europe, and through the provision of information and facilities for knowledge exchange.

Designed for policy makers and practitioners in ACP and EU countries, the Cotonou Infokit brings together, in a readable form, information on the implementation of the new Cotonou Partnership Agreement. For further information on the infokit, please contact Kathleen Van Hove (kvh@ecdpm.org).

European Centre for Development Policy Management, Onze Lieve Vrouweplein 21, NL-6211 HE Maastricht, The Netherlands,

E-mail: info@ecdpm.org, Fax: (31)-(0)43-350 29 02, <http://www.oneworld.org/ecdpm/>

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