

Towards a new EU-ACP partnership: An opportunity to deliver on Agenda 2030

Wednesday, 23 January 2019

15:00 – 17:00

European Parliament (Brussels) – Room ASP 3H1

Background

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement that serves as a framework for relations between the EU and the ACP group of states is coming to an end in 2020. Negotiations for a new EU-ACP partnership agreement started in October 2018. The new partnership framework will need to be shaped around a long-term vision, with the objective to contribute substantially to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and to deliver on Agenda 2030.

The role of migration will also be a crucial and possibly debated topic during the negotiations between the EU and the ACP group of states. How to tackle the drivers of forced migration, including poverty and inequalities, the link between development aid and migration, the need to ensure legal migration pathways, the importance of regional migration, and the role of diaspora communities will be among the main issues on the agenda of the political discussions.

Objectives

Caritas Europa is organising a panel discussion in the European Parliament, with a wide variety of stakeholders that will be invited to participate to the debate: European Commission, representatives from ACP group of states and African governments, European External Action Service, EU member states, representatives from the Caritas network and other civil society organisations.

Main objectives of the debate are:

- Provide a forum for open discussion on the future of EU-ACP relations between different stakeholders;
- Present Caritas' positions and recommendations on the importance for the future of EU-ACP relations to implement Agenda 2030, based on Caritas' expertise and experience within its network;
- Gather different stakeholders to reflect in an open and transparent way on the role of migration in the future EU-ACP partnership.

Format and speakers

The event will take the form of a 2-hour debate, with interventions from a wide range of speakers, followed by an interactive Q&A session with the audience.

The debate will be shaped around two main topics, on which the speakers will be intervening:

- The importance for the new EU-ACP framework to contribute to the SDGs and deliver on Agenda 2030, eradicate poverty and fight inequalities.
- The role migration should play in the future EU-ACP framework, with a focus on the need to highlight its positive added value to sustainable development.

The event will be co-hosted by MEP Elly Schlein (S&D, Italy) and MEP Anna Záborská (EPP, Slovakia).

Other speakers will include:

- Mr. Domenico Rosa – Head of Unit Strategic partnerships EU-ACP, EU-African Union DG DEVCO, European Commission
- Dr. Shannon Pfohman – Policy and Advocacy Director, Caritas Europa
- Mr. Alexander Baum – Adviser to the Deputy-Secretary General for Global and Economic Issues on ACP and Post-Cotonou negotiations, European External Action Service
- Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou - Assistant Secretary General, Sustainable Economic Development and Trade, ACP Secretariat
- Mr. Tom Devriendt – Advocacy Coordinator, Caritas International Belgium
- Representative from the Permanent Mission of the African Union to the EU (tbc)
- Mr. Daniel Thiombiano - Programme Manager, Caritas Niger CADEV

Interpretation service in English and French will be provided.

About Caritas Europa

[Caritas Europa](#) is the network of Caritas organisations on the European continent. The united strength of its 49 members, present in 46 European countries, makes of Caritas Europa one of the major social actors in Europe. Caritas Europa has a heartfelt commitment to analyse and fight poverty and social exclusion as well as to promote true integral human development, social justice and sustainable social systems in Europe and throughout the world.



This event is part of the MIND project, which has received the financial assistance of the European Union Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme.