



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**SESSION DOCUMENTS**

English Edition

20 December 1990

A 3-0375/90

R E P O R T

of the Committee on Development and Cooperation
 on the results of the work of the ACP-EEC
 Joint Assembly in 1990 in Port Moresby
 (Papua New Guinea) and Luxembourg

Rapporteur: Mrs Barbara SCHMIDBAUER

DOC_EN\RR\101710

A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

PE 145.078/fin.

Or.De.

* = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

**II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment

**I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

*** = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Procedural page.....	3
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION.....	4
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	10
I. Role and duties of the Joint Assembly	10
II. Informing the Parliament about the decisions of the Joint Assembly	11
III. The work of the Joint Assembly in 1990	12
1. The fourth ACP-EEC Convention	12
2. Effects of the Single Market on the ACP States	13
3. Report of the Co-Presidents Diop and Tindemans on the mission of an observer delegation to monitor elections in Namibia	14
4. Particular problems in Senegal and West Africa	14
5. Specific problems in the Pacific region	14
6. Human Rights	15
7. Consideration of and involvement of women in the development process	16
8. Work of the ad-hoc working groups	17
9. Some further resolutions on important topics adopted by the Joint Assembly	17

By letter of 24 April 1990 the Committee on Development and Cooperation requested authorization to draw up a report on the results of the work of the Joint Assembly.

At the sitting of 11 June 1990 the President of the European Parliament announced that the committee had been authorized to report on this subject.

At its meeting of 20 April 1990 the committee appointed Mrs Schmidbauer rapporteur.

At its meeting of 27 November 1990 the committee considered the draft report and on 18 December 1990 adopted the motion for a resolution by 14 votes with 5 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Bindi, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Aulas, vice-chairman; Schmidbauer, rapporteur; Christiansen (for McGowan), Fernandez Albor, Gutierrez Diaz (for Rossetti), Hermans (for Tindemans), Jackson, Lomas, Melandri, Mendes Bota, Morris, Musso (for Ukeiwe), Napoletano, Perschau, van Putten, Sanbaek (for Ewing), Van Hemeldonck and Verhagen.

The report was tabled on 20 December 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the results of the work of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly
in 1990 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) and Luxembourg

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the following resolutions, adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly on 22 March 1990 at its meeting in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)¹ :
 - on the effects of the Single Market on ACP States (Doc. ACP-EEC 81/90/A/final),
 - on economic and political support for Namibia prior to its accession to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention (Doc. ACP-EEC 60/90/final),
 - on the situation in South and Southern Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 165/90/final),
 - on the release of Nelson Mandela (Doc. ACP-EEC 150/90/final),
 - on the implementation of the Lomé Convention and the specific problems of Senegal and West Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 78/90/final),
 - on the implementation of the Lomé Convention in the countries of the Pacific, and specific problems with regard to the region (Doc. ACP-EEC 132/90/final),
 - on the French nuclear tests in the Pacific (Doc. ACP-EEC 160/90/final),
 - on the protection of coral reefs and mangroves (Doc. ACP-EEC 96/90/final),
 - on working and living conditions in the Pacific region (Doc. ACP-EEC 152/90/final),
 - on the situation of coffee producers in developing countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 104/90/final),
 - on coffee (Doc. ACP-EEC 121/90/final),
 - on the use of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter in the manufacture of chocolate (Doc. ACP-EEC 120/90/final),
 - on ACP bananas (Doc. ACP-EEC 158/90/final),
 - on ACP sugar (Doc. ACP-EEC 134/90/final),
 - on the export of pharmaceuticals from the EEC to ACP countries and on drug donations (Doc. ACP-EEC 159/90/final),
 - on cooperation policy with the ACP countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 99/90/final),
 - on the protection of tropical forests (Doc. ACP-EEC 107/90/final),
 - on the effects of recent developments in Eastern Europe on ACP-EEC cooperation by the ACP group (Doc. ACP-EEC 154/90/final),
 - on the environment (Doc. ACP-EEC 113/90/final),

¹OJ No. C 218, 3.9.1990, p. 10ff

- on the situation in Ethiopia (Doc. ACP-EEC 162/90/final),
 - on racism and xenophobia (Doc. ACP-EEC 119/90/final),
 - on the world conference on universal education (Doc. ACP-EEC 124/90/final),
 - on developments in Haiti (Doc. ACP-EEC 161/90/final),
 - on support for the participation of the people in the development process (Doc. ACP-EEC 135/90/final),
 - on the need to relaunch North-South dialogue (Doc. ACP-EEC 138/90/final),
 - on the world conference on education (Doc. ACP-EEC 139/90/final),
 - on the free movement of ACP workers and students in the Community (Doc. ACP-EEC 141/90/final),
 - on the supply of food products to ACP countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 142/90/final),
 - on the international efforts to combat torture (Doc. ACP-EEC 145/90/final),
 - on the implementation of an African Charter for Human and Peoples' Rights (Doc. ACP-EEC 146/90/final),
- having regard to the following resolutions, adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly on 26 September 1990² and 27 September³ at its meeting in Luxembourg:
- on priorities to be observed in implementing Lomé IV in order to improve the economic and social situation in the ACP States (Doc. ACP-EEC /final),
 - on the conflict in Ethiopia (Doc. ACP-EEC 190/90/final),
 - on the spread of AIDS and likely trends in Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 210/90/final),
 - on the environment and the destruction of chemical weapons in the Pacific (Doc. ACP-EEC 220/90/final),
 - on the UN World Summit for Children on 29 and 30 September 1990 in New York (Doc. ACP-EEC 230/90/final),
 - on the least-developed countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 241/90/final),
 - on the political situation in Haiti (Doc. ACP-EEC 247/90/final),
 - on the death penalty in ACP and EEC countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 248/90/final),
 - on racism and xenophobia (Doc. ACP-EEC 251/90/final),
 - on vocational training in the ACP countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 193/90/final),
 - on the basic education and training of young people in developing countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 258/90/final),
 - on demographic trends and development (Doc. ACP-EEC 194/90/final),
 - on the destruction of US chemical weapons on Johnston Atoll (Doc. 170/90/final),
 - on constant violations of human rights in Liberia and the civil war in Liberia (Doc. ACP-EEC 267/90/final),
 - on the situation of refugees and displaced persons from Liberia (Doc. ACP-EEC 232/90/final),
 - on the consequences of the Gulf crisis on the ACP States (Doc. ACP-EEC 225/90/final),

²AP/273

³AP/274 and AP/275

- on the situation in South and Southern Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 268/90/final),
 - on the Uruguay Round (Doc. ACP-EEC 264/90/final),
 - on the indebtedness of the ACP countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 265/90/final),
 - on measures to reinforce policy on Women and Development (W & D) in the framework of Lomé IV (Doc. ACP-EEC 266/90/final),
 - on the situation in East Timor (Doc. ACP-EEC 261/90/final)
 - on the situation of the refugees and displaced persons in Senegal and Mauritania (Doc. ACP-EEC 237/90/final),
 - on sugar (Doc. ACP-EEC 242/90/final),
 - on ACP bananas (Doc. ACP-EEC 262/90/final),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. A 3-0000/90),
- A. whereas the Joint Assembly is the independent parliamentary body of the ACP-EEC Convention and has the important duty to create a better understanding between the peoples of the Member States of the EC and the ACP States,
- B. whereas there is a need to ensure that regularly informing the European Parliament of the main activities and decisions of the Joint Assembly will lead to greater transparency and coherence in the application of the Lomé Convention and should help the Parliament to avoid adopting decisions which are contrary to those of the Joint Assembly,
- C. whereas the meetings in Port Moresby and Luxembourg took place in a particularly important phase, because the talks on Lomé IV had been concluded and, at the same time, the economic situation of many ACP States had worsened, in some cases dramatically,
1. Welcomes the positive results of ACP-EEC parliamentary cooperation and supports the resolutions and initiatives of the Joint Assembly, which have, over the years, had a positive effect on the implementation of the Lomé Convention; particularly welcomes the fact that the debates in the Assembly have reached a higher political level and that it has now become possible to discuss difficult policy issues in the Assembly;
 2. Stresses, in particular, that the Joint Assembly is not to be confused with European Parliament delegations and therefore reinforces the need to give the European Members of the Assembly budgetary autonomy, in order to guarantee the independence of the institution and its working groups; refers in this context to paragraph 11 of the resolution in the Napoletano report⁴;
 3. Welcomes the fact that the number of parliamentary representatives from ACP countries in the Assembly has increased; regrets, at the same time, however, that many ACP States continue to be represented by their ambassadors and considers it unacceptable that embassy secretaries often stand in for ambassadors for voting purposes; therefore calls on the Assembly Bureau to consider this fact in its rules of procedure and to do everything possible to increase the political significance and influence of the Assembly; would also welcome a greater number of female representatives from the ACP States in the future;

⁴OJ No. C 38, 19.2.1990, p.140

4. Notes with regret that many European representatives are often not present at meetings of the Assembly held in Europe, a fact which is contrary to the dignity of this parliamentary body; considers it to be particularly serious that the attendance of European representatives at meetings of the working groups in Brussels is even poorer; wishes to see positive changes taking place soon, and requests that this matter be sorted out in the political groups of the European Parliament;
5. Criticizes the lack of press coverage of the work of the Assembly and calls in particular on the press service of the Parliament to strengthen its media contacts and calls for European meetings to be held in the country which holds the EC Presidency;
6. Considers it necessary that the decisions of the Assembly influence the work of the European Parliament and therefore calls on its relevant committees to take account of the most important resolutions of the Assembly in drawing up their reports and resolutions; stresses that the Parliament and Assembly should express a coherent opinion on central questions of development policy;
7. Welcomes the fact that the Assembly has presented short-, medium- and long-term objectives and procedures in 1990 to improve the economic and social situation in the ACP States and that in the past the Assembly took several initiatives which contributed to a substantial improvement of the text of Lomé IV; agrees with the Assembly that the new Convention has numerous shortcomings, both qualitative (insufficient funding, no compensation for erosion of the GSP, nor for the probable effects of the single market of 1993 and the GATT agreements, or the withdrawal of investment affecting the ACP countries) and quantitative (insufficient studies, either before or after the event, of the environmental impact of projects and of the movement of toxic waste; the administrative inertia deplored in Lomé III in the implementation of programmes; and in general the priority of the short term over the long term);
8. Agrees with the statements of the general report, and shares the Joint Assembly's view that the Community not only has a duty to provide material aid, but also to work for a solution to the debt and commodities problems in international bodies as well as for a greater liberalization of world trade;
9. Agrees totally with the Assembly that aid must, in the end, benefit the poorest levels of the population and that the people must participate in the development process through democratic structures and economic policies and structures favouring private initiative being set up in the ACP countries;
10. Considers that, in the light of the preceding paragraph, the recognition of the right of association and the promotion of human rights remain essential if representatives of private organizations (parties, NGOs, pressure groups, unions, churches etc.) are to be involved in a democratic way in the development process;
11. Supports the demand of the Assembly that structural adjustment programmes must contain measures to limit social impact so that no adverse effects are allowed to arise for the poorest levels of the population and that a

sustainable economic development must be achieved by means of finding a solution for the debt problem;

12. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to cancel the ACP countries' debt to it; notes, however, that compared to the total amount of the ACP countries' debt, the amount owed to the Commission is limited, and therefore calls for the cancellation of the ACP states' debt to the Member States;
13. Considers that the establishment of the 1993 Single Market and the development of relations between Western Europe and Eastern Europe risk having severe social, environmental and economic effects on the ACP states and that structural measures should be provided for immediately to compensate for these effects;
14. Supports the resolution on a mission of an observer delegation of the Assembly to monitor elections in Namibia and also supports taking early economic and financial support measures for Namibia; declares its support for the use of this type of delegation to be extended to all elections in ACP countries and for material aid for major elections;
15. Endorses the demands of the Assembly on economic support for states in the Pacific region and also calls for a ban on atomic weapons testing and on the storage and transit of toxic and radioactive waste in the Pacific;
16. Considers it extremely important that the Assembly should regularly deal with the question of human rights and supports the Assembly's comment that, as indicated in the provisions of Lomé IV on human rights, real progress can only be achieved under Lomé IV when the observance of human rights, the right to development and the continuation of democratizing measures are realized jointly;
17. Agrees with the resolution on the eradication of apartheid in South Africa and, like the Assembly, welcomes the statements made by President De Klerk which for the first time give grounds for hope that crucial political changes may be about to happen in South Africa;
18. Supports all measures taken to achieve a pluralist and democratic society in South Africa by peaceful means, and agrees with the Assembly's calls for political, economic, financial and cultural sanctions to be maintained until the apartheid system has been abolished;
19. Welcomes the fact that a hearing took place in Luxembourg on the important topic of the role of women in the development process and agrees with the Assembly that, in the areas of health, nutrition, agriculture and family planning, positive changes can only come about if women are involved in the planning and implementation of projects at all levels; in order to see the real impact of development projects on women, calls on the Commission to ensure that all development projects under Lomé IV describe explicitly, from the funding proposal stage:
 - the role of women,
 - their place in the land ownership system,
 - their opportunities of access to credit and advisory services,
 - their main source of income,
 - their influence in the decision-making process;

20. Declares, in common with the Assembly, its solidarity with children, supports the UN Convention on children's rights and calls for vigorous support for the planning and implementation of education and training programmes for children;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Joint Assembly, the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the governments of the EC Member States, the governments of the ACP Member States of the Lomé Convention, the Council and Commission.

B
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. Role and functions of the Joint Assembly

The ACP-EEC Joint Assembly is the independent parliamentary body of the fourth ACP-EEC Convention (Article 350, 351). It considers the annual report drawn up under Article 342(4) by the Council of Ministers and may adopt resolutions on all matters concerning the Convention. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers examines the recommendations and resolutions of the Assembly and may take them into consideration in establishing its policies. Article 342(1) explicitly provides for an optional rather than a mandatory provision. However, the Joint Assembly is the only body of the Lomé Convention, an international agreement, where dialogue between representatives of the European Parliament and the ACP States takes place. It can be noted with satisfaction that the debates have reached a higher political level in recent years and that today matters are discussed in the Assembly (including human rights and policy dialogue), which could not have been included in the agenda at one time, owing to the dismissive attitude of the ACP representatives.

The Joint Assembly should on no account be confused with European Parliament delegations as was attempted in the past by various bodies of the European Parliament and at times still is. For this reason, the Joint Assembly should be given budgetary autonomy for its European Members, in order to guarantee the independence of the body and its working groups. The enlarged Bureau of the European Parliament and the Committee on Budgets should decide on a budgetary plan on an annual basis to cover the costs of the meetings of the Assembly and its bodies, in consultation with the European members of the ACP-EEC Bureau, which should have sole responsibility for implementing the budgetary plan.

It is extremely regrettable that many ACP States are not represented in the Assembly by members of their parliaments, but by ambassadors or even embassy secretaries. The Assembly Bureau has also referred to this in the Napoletano report on improvements in organization of the work of the Joint Assembly⁵ and has requested that provisions under Article 32 (Lomé IV) should be applied as far as possible. This fact has been criticized for years and more attention must be paid to it in future. If the ACP countries are unable to send parliamentary representatives to the meetings of the Assembly for any reason, it should at least be laid down in the Rules of Procedure that ambassadors may not be replaced by embassy secretaries. It is noticeable that over the last few years the number of women representing ACP States in the Assembly has decreased, which is a disadvantage in view of the importance of women for progress in development policy cooperation.

A point which also deserves criticism is the fact that when meetings of the Assembly take place in Europe there are always fewer representatives of the European Parliament present than at meetings held in an ACP country. It is incumbent upon the Joint Assembly to create better understanding between the peoples of the Member States of the EC and the ACP States, to discuss fundamental questions pertaining to ACP-EEC development cooperation and to encourage the competent authorities of the contracting parties to implement

⁵AP/62/rev.

the Convention efficiently so that its objectives can be achieved fully. In the past the Joint Assembly has been very successful in fulfilling this task. When the new conventions were negotiated significant additions and improvements were included in the text, based on their initiatives and resolutions. This is particularly true of the third Lomé Convention, which was given a new chapter on cultural and social cooperation based on the preparatory work of the Assembly. On the basis of many decisions of the consultative Assembly various provisions were either extended or included in Lomé IV for the first time. This was particularly true for the following areas: human rights, human capital, environment, technology and education, rural development and food security, cultural and social cooperation, with particular consideration of the topics of population, demography and including women in the development process, regional cooperation, improved cooperation in the field of trade and commodities, polycentric development, as well as structural adjustment policy and solving the debt problem. The new Convention specifically calls for the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of democratic structures in South Africa, a demand which the Assembly has been making for years. The Assembly has constantly been striving to indicate short, medium and long-term development objectives and ways of realizing them.

Unfortunately it must be noted with regret that the work of the Assembly does not always meet with the necessary press response. Particularly at the Luxembourg meeting the press were present only in very small numbers and the press service of the European Parliament would be well advised to extend press contacts considerably for the Assembly's European meetings. If the European meetings took place in the country which currently held the EC Presidency there might be more interest in Joint Assembly meetings. It is also important to look at how the populations of the ACP States are to be informed about the most important decisions made at European meetings of the Assembly.

II. Informing the European Parliament about the decisions of the Joint Assembly

The main aim of this report is to inform the Members of the European Parliament about the political aims and the most important resolutions of the Joint Assembly. This is not just a matter of form, but an important political concern. Informing the European Parliament regularly and extensively about the work of the Assembly is essential if both parliamentary bodies within ACP-EEC cooperation are to express a coherent opinion. For this reason, it is important that the most important decisions made by the Assembly are taken into account by the relevant parliamentary committees, because they in themselves can have an economic, social and financial and trade policy influence on the ACP countries. In the light of the increasing economic problems faced by the ACP countries, particularly with regard to debt, structural adjustment, falling commodity prices, negotiations within the framework of the Uruguay talks, agricultural policy and balance of payment disequilibrium, it is urgently necessary, that the Parliament and the Joint Assembly should stress the same points on crucial development policy matters. It must be avoided at all costs that the Parliament make decisions which are contrary to the interests of the ACP countries.

III. The work of the Joint Assembly in 1990

In 1990 the Joint Assembly has held two meetings: the first was held on 19-23 March 1990 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), and the second on 24-28 September 1990 in Luxembourg.

Both meetings were particularly important because the talks on the fourth ACP-EEC Convention were concluded and, at the same time, the economic situation of most of the ACP States had grown dramatically worse, in particular due to falling commodity prices, increasing debt and a decline in their share of world trade.

As in the past, the 1990 Assembly made important decisions on the most important ACP-EEC cooperation matters. In all areas of ACP-EEC cooperation it indicated short-, medium- and long-term objectives and procedures to improve the economic and social situation of the ACP States. The Assembly was constantly concerned to enforce the observance of human rights and to make a constructive contribution to the eradication of the apartheid policy in South Africa. Although the Assembly was not officially involved in negotiations leading to Lomé IV, they took various initiatives in 1989 and in the preceding years to influence the negotiating partners. At the meetings held in 1990 the Assembly considered the new Convention and made a critical assessment of the text.

1. The fourth ACP-EEC Convention

The general rapporteur, Mr Perschau, submitted an initial document at the March meeting on priorities to be observed in implementing Lomé IV in order to improve the economic and social situation in the ACP States. At the same meeting the new ACP-EEC Convention and the explanations made by the general rapporteur and by Commissioner Marin were central to the debate, during which the improvements contained in Lomé IV were emphasized but its shortcomings, particularly the inadequate financial provisions, were also pointed out. The Commissioner expressed the opinion during the discussion that it would not be possible to solve all the economic problems of the ACP States using the instruments and financial resources in Lomé IV because many factors which are responsible for the present situation were beyond the scope of the Lomé instruments.

The final version of the Perschau report, which incorporated the majority of the Assembly's suggestions, was adopted in September in Luxembourg. The report particularly stresses that it is the responsibility of all the contracting parties to implement Lomé IV to the greatest advantage of the ACP States. The role of the Community is not only to provide material aid but also to work towards a solution for the problems of debt and commodities within international bodies and organizations as well as for a greater liberalizing of world trade. The contribution of the ACP countries should be to reform their administrations, making them more flexible and efficient, and in particular to create favourable framework conditions for investment and private economic cooperation. It is a particular demand of cultural and social cooperation that aid should reach the poorest levels of the population and that the population should be able to participate directly in the development process through the creation of democratic structures. The general rapporteur referred to an important resolution on this matter which had been adopted in Port Moresby by the Assembly. The Executive Secretary of

the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr Adebayo Adedeji, had already expressed similar views on 27 February 1990 to the Committee on Development.

The report particularly welcomes the fact that the issues of structural adjustment and debt are included in Lomé IV. In this context it underlines that structural adjustment programmes must be tailored to the needs of a particular country and that measures must be taken to limit the social impact so that no adverse affects arise for the poorest of the poor as a result of the programmes. It is also important that the Commission is given the right to have a say on current and future IMF/World Bank structural adjustment programmes in the ACP States in order to avoid the effect of social hardships. The report favours partial debt relief (for debts owed by ACP countries to the Community, and STABEX) and a just solution to the debt crisis in order to achieve sustainable economic development by cancelling debts. However, this will only be possible if the Community opens up its market for ACP products including agricultural produce and if the ACP States receive appropriate prices for their commodities.

The report's view on the fears of the ACP States that political and economic changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the financial agreements with the former Eastern bloc countries will bring disadvantages for their own economic development is that North-South cooperation could gain new impulses from East-West détente. In the resolution it is particularly emphasized that EC solidarity with Eastern Europe should not have an adverse impact on solidarity with the South. The EC is therefore called upon to prove by means of its aid to the ACP countries that aid for Eastern Europe and the Third World is not a question of 'either or' but that both are possible in view of the economic strength of the Community.

2. Effects of the Single Market on the ACP States

After the ACP States had expressed their concern about the consequences of the completion of the Single Market in 1992, the Assembly set up an ad-hoc working group to examine this important matter in detail and to advise on measures to prevent the Single Market from having an adverse impact on the economies of the ACP States. The rapporteur, Mr Wurtz, submitted an initial interim report in Versailles in September 1989 based on the working group's deliberations. At the Port Moresby meeting the final version of the report was submitted and the accompanying resolution was adopted by the Assembly.

The Assembly welcomed the economic and political initiative shown by the EC and its Member States in introducing the Single Market, but, at the same time, expressed its commitment to taking due and, above all, timely consideration of the economic interests of the ACP States, in view of the possible negative impact on them, especially in the light of changes in Eastern Europe. Reference was made again to an earlier Assembly proposal to set up an ACP-EEC development bank jointly with those ACP States who wished to participate. The Commission and its Member States were called upon to initiate and organize a world economic conference. The view was expressed that the EC market could import more products from ACP States, which would mean that the Community, its Member States and its trade and industry sectors would be in a stronger position to increase their efforts in development aid measures and investment aid for the ACP countries. The resolution particularly welcomed the pledge made by the Community to protect banana producers in the ACP countries and the agreement on the rum trade under Lomé IV.

3. Report by Co-Presidents Diop and Tindemans on the mission of an observer delegation of the Assembly to monitor the elections held in Namibia

Following resolutions adopted by the Joint Assembly on Namibia in Arusha (February 1987) and Barbados (January 1989), a further resolution on Namibia was unanimously approved at the Versailles meeting (September 1989), paragraph 3 of which calls for an observer delegation to visit Namibia to monitor the elections. Both Co-Presidents presented detailed reports on the results of the mission in Port Moresby and were in agreement about one of the Assembly's most important 'fact-finding missions'. All the Members had been impressed with the execution and organization of the elections according to the rules laid down and were of the opinion that the elections could serve as an example for future elections to be held in the Republic of South Africa. The resolution tabled by the Co-Presidents and approved by the Assembly called on the Commission and its Member States to adopt economic and financial support measures for Namibia and take steps to provide immediate aid in areas such as agriculture, education, training, housing and health care.

4. Particular problems in Senegal and West Africa

A resolution tabled by the Assembly Bureau on the implementation of the Lomé Convention and the particular problems of Senegal and West Africa stresses that cooperation between the Community and this African region must be strengthened. It is the subject of particular regret that the sixth EDF resources have been used only to a minimal extent to the benefit of some countries in the region. The resolution examines one matter, which is also considered critically in the Perschau report. The efforts of the countries in West Africa to improve their self-sufficiency in foodstuffs and to reduce their dependence on food imports is welcomed and the EC is called on to strengthen cooperation in the area of rural development and infrastructure.

5. Specific problems of the Pacific region

Whilst the Barbados meeting looked at the particular problems of the Caribbean, the specific problems of the Pacific were the subject of wide-ranging discussion in Port Moresby. The isolated position, owing to large distances, the small size of most of the states, the reduction of fish stocks due to the use of so-called death-nets and the ecological damage they cause, natural disasters and the extreme distances from world markets and the resulting high levels of transport costs were central points in the discussion. The Pacific representatives expressed the view that the countries in the region should rely on trade rather than on development aid to promote the economy. For this reason they called for support to promote diversification, increased resources from the STABEX fund and a more flexible organization of the rules of origin. The foreign minister of Papua New Guinea went into some detail on environmental problems, particularly on the concerns surrounding nuclear tests and the storage of toxic and radioactive waste. During the discussion the same concerns on the environment and the destruction of chemical weapons in the Pacific region were expressed as were voiced when the resolution was adopted in Luxembourg.

In the resolution adopted in Port Moresby the Community is called on to increase support for the efforts of the Pacific States to improve their communications and transport systems in order to achieve the level which is indispensable for regional development. Particular efforts and investment programmes must be undertaken in the areas of agriculture, fisheries,

forestry, mining and energy. Further resolutions concerned the testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific and working and living conditions in the Pacific region.

6. Human rights

The third ACP-EEC agreement was the first Lomé Convention to make a specific reference to human rights. The fourth Lomé Convention, which was signed on 15 September 1989, contains in Chapter 1 (Objectives and principles of cooperation) practical guidelines of the observance of human rights, which are considerably more far-reaching than those contained in Lomé III. In the joint declaration under Article 5 (Annex IV of the new Convention) the Contracting Parties declare their determination to work effectively for the eradication of apartheid which constitutes a violation of human rights and an affront to human dignity.

It is self-evident that the Joint Assembly, the parliamentary body of the Convention, has been regularly concerned with the observance of human rights and that the human rights issue has become a keystone of ACP-EEC cooperation. In 1985 the Joint Assembly meeting in Inverness adopted a resolution on human rights which has subsequently turned out to have an extremely positive effect on the work of the parliamentary body, since violations of human rights have been condemned and associated resolutions have been adopted at all subsequent meetings.

At Port Moresby an extremely important resolution on the participation of the people in the development process was adopted which contains the statement that the problems of development must be tackled by increasing the participation of the people and by extending political democracy in the countries concerned. The general rapporteur has also considered in detail the promotion of human resources and the observance of human rights, in his chapter on acknowledging the importance of socio-cultural aspects of development policy cooperation. His report thus makes the important point that effective progress will only be made in the fourth development decade, which is concurrent with the period of application of Lomé IV, if the observance of human rights, the right to development, the participation of the people in the development process and the continuation of democratization measures are realized jointly.

In Port Moresby the following resolutions were adopted which are concerned with the same topics: racism and xenophobia, international efforts to combat torture and the implementation of an African Charter for Human and People's Rights.

Some of the resolutions adopted in Luxembourg were also concerned with human rights: the situation in East Timor, the death penalty in ACP countries, which noted that the use of the death penalty is still permitted in 49 ACP countries, racism and xenophobia and constant violations of human rights in Liberia.

As in previous years, the Joint Assembly meetings held in Port Moresby and Luxembourg looked at the problem of apartheid and the difficult political situation in South Africa. Since the Versailles meeting, important events had taken place in South Africa which needed to be noted, above all the release of political prisoners, including the eventual release of Nelson Mandela in February 1990. Both resolutions adopted at the meeting in Port Moresby

welcome the release of Nelson Mandela and reaffirm support for and solidarity with the ANC and the other anti-apartheid movements in South Africa. The statements made by President De Klerk, which for the first time give grounds for hope that decisive change may be imminent in South Africa are also welcomed. It is reaffirmed that lasting peace and stability can only be achieved in South Africa if the system of apartheid is totally abolished. Therefore, the EC Member States are called on to apply pressure on the South African Government by maintaining the existing political, economic, financial and cultural sanctions. The Luxembourg resolution welcomes the progress made in the talks between the South African Government and the ANC and calls on the South African Government finally to remove all the structures of apartheid and to ensure that acts of violence are prevented, as in the past. The signatory states of the Lomé Convention are, furthermore, called on strictly to observe the sanctions which have been decided and to continue to strengthen efforts to eradicate apartheid and set up democratic conditions in South Africa consonant with human dignity.

7. Considering and involving women in the development process

The special consideration of the role of women in successful development policy efforts has been a guiding theme in the Assembly's discussions over the years. A working group on this topic was set up and the rapporteur, Mrs Waruhiu, a Member of Parliament in Kenya, submitted two extensive reports ('The Role of Women in the Development Process' and 'Women, population and development') which formed the basis for discussions in the Joint Assembly. At the Luxembourg meeting a hearing was held on the role of women in the development process, during which the range of problems faced by women in the developing countries was set out. The general rapporteur was concerned with strengthening the role and status of women and emphasized that positive changes could only be introduced in health care, nutrition, agriculture and family planning, if women were included as an independent target group in the planning and implementation of projects and were promoted at all levels in their various roles in the economy and society.

The resolution adopted in Luxembourg in the strengthening policy on women's affairs within the framework of Lomé IV calls for urgent measure to promote women and to involve them in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects. It is very illuminating that a further resolution on the role of women in connection with the application of Lomé IV failed to achieve the necessary majority in the Assembly owing to the negative attitude of most of the ACP representatives. This motion included the demand that those responsible in the ACP States should set up the legal requirements to enable women to purchase land and have full rights of disposal over it. This example illustrates very clearly that many prejudices still need to be broken down in the ACP States in order to achieve equality between women and men in society, as well as in the development process. The Commission should, therefore, make sure that women's projects, or at least development projects involving women, are carried out when it is drawing up and discussing preparations for projects with the ACP governments.

8. Work of the ad-hoc working groups

In Port Moresby the Joint Assembly decided to set up a new working group on the conditions and effects of the structural adjustment policy under Lomé IV. This is an important topic, which is very significant in the context of social and economic development in many ACP countries. The general rapporteur has also examined this question in detail and the resolution adopted in Luxembourg contains essential aspects of the problem.

The other two working groups, which started work some time ago, are concerned with transport and intra-ACP trade. Initial discussions were held on these topics in Port Moresby and Luxembourg, during which the rapporteurs gave detailed reports on the progress of work so far.

It should be emphasized at this point that the working groups are important preparatory bodies of the Assembly. Just as the Joint Committee used to prepare essential topics for the Consultative Assembly, the Joint Assembly would be unable to fulfil its duties without the activities of its working groups. For this reason it is unacceptable that the attendance of European Members at meetings held in Brussels is extremely poor. It is completely incomprehensible that some European representatives have not attended a single meeting of a working group, from its constituent meeting to the adoption of the relevant report. Changes to the rules of procedure therefore need to be considered, to allow Members who have failed to attend several meetings of working groups to be replaced by other representatives of the European Parliament. This matter should definitely be considered in the Napoletano report.

9. Some further resolutions on important topics, adopted by the Joint Assembly

Leaving aside the resolutions on the effects of the Single Market on the ACP States and on priorities to be observed in applying Lomé IV to improve the economic and social situation in the ACP States (general report) a total of 53 resolutions were adopted, all of which are listed in the resolution contained in the report. A few are mentioned below:

As in the past, the Assembly looked in detail at the question of protection of the tropical rainforests and environmental conservation. It proposed an increase in and regular review of funding allocated to the protection of natural resources and the environment and especially to the implementation and support of programmes for the replanting and conservation of tropical forests. Further resolutions were concerned with the effects of destruction of chemical weapons in the Pacific on the environment. A further resolution was concerned with the increasing spread of AIDS in Africa and called for the appropriate support measures. A resolution adopted in Luxembourg was concerned with the effects of the Gulf Crisis on the ACP States. Some participants were critical of its content because it dealt only with the economic aspect, excluding most of the political aspects. The resolution not only called for the cancellation of the ACP States' debts to the Community, but also of all debts of the ACP countries, without regard to the economic position of individual ACP States, to the Member States. A further resolution on debt, which is based on the resolution adopted in Arusha (1987) is also in favour of the cancellation of ACP debts.

