

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

on the needs and interests of the Caribbean States

(adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee on 24 February 1983)

The Joint Committee meeting in Kingston (Jamaica) from 21 to 24 February 1983,

- A. MINDFUL of the long historical ties existing between the Caribbean and Europe and of the resultant structures imposed on the Caribbean economies as well as on the pattern of Caribbean/European relations,
 - B. CONSCIOUS of the need to transform this structure and pattern towards the greater unity and self-reliance of the entire Caribbean region,
 - C. RECOGNISING the significant role the Lomé Convention is designed to play in this process to the mutual advantage of its contracting parties,
 - D. AWARE of the importance of the organic relationship forged between the Caribbean and the African and Pacific States,
 - E. DETERMINED that the relationship with the European Economic Community should foster this cooperation between the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific without impairing the special character of the respective Caribbean States and the region as a whole,
1. CALLS on the signatories to the Convention to implement in all earnestness the provisions of the Second Lomé Convention in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the agreement;

URGES the European Community to :

- recognise that growing unemployment and a serious lack of foreign exchange earnings represent two of the gravest possible threats to economic development and social stability in the Caribbean region and to acknowledge the crucial role played by the sugar industry and tourism in the region in this regard, that is, in maintaining employment and contributing to foreign exchange earnings;
- record that it is of the most vital importance to the region that all the resolutions on sugar adopted by the Consultative Assembly should be pursued and implemented as a matter of the greatest urgency;
- recognise the importance to the economies of the predominantly island developing States of the Caribbean of granting unrestricted access of non-traditional as well as traditional exports particularly bananas to the EEC markets; of reforming the rules of origin requirements in respect of fisheries;
- acknowledge the need to stabilise as far as possible the earnings deriving from the tourism sector, in the light of its crucial role in the Caribbean and other ACP economies;
- make Title III of the Lomé Convention responsive to the mining needs of the Caribbean economies,
- assist in the further expansion of both intra- and extra-Caribbean transport capability;
- pay particular regard to ensuring that students of the Caribbean like those of other ACP countries enjoy the most preferential treatment in EEC Member States in pursuing the acquisition of their knowledge and skills which are indispensable to the development of the Caribbean and other ACP States;

AFFIRMS the inadmissibility of the use of economic coercion to influence or subvert the process of economic development of the Caribbean States;

4. RECOGNISES the Caribbean region as a Zone of Peace.

