

New ACP-EU partnership: EU discusses future EU-Caribbean relations

Today's discussions form part of broader regional consultations and are focused on the Caribbean's specific needs and priorities for the coming years. The outcome will guide the negotiators' work in creating a tailor-made EU-Caribbean partnership within the future ACP-EU agreement.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica**, who is the EU's chief negotiator said: *"Today's discussions confirmed a shared vision for the future and a good understanding of the pressing challenges we need to tackle together. In this spirit, the EU's relationship with the Caribbean will deepen under our future ACP-EU agreement and open up fresh opportunities"*.

Professor Robert **Dussey**, the ACP's chief negotiator, Chair of the Ministerial Central Negotiating Group, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Africa integration of Togo, said: *"These regional consultations proved to bring valuable perspectives on this region's priorities to our talks. Productive exchanges between the two parties will contribute enormously to the current negotiations for the new post-Cotonou Agreement, and especially to those which will begin on the Caribbean Regional Protocol. Today's meeting follows the consultation held in Samoa with our ACP Pacific partners in February. The Africa consultation is due to take place soon in Eswatini."*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Kamina **Johnson-Smith**, added: *"Within the framework of the ongoing ACP-EU post-Cotonou negotiations, the Government of Jamaica is pleased to host the regional consultations for the Caribbean and to have the opportunity to jointly explore with our EU partners some of the urgent issues related to our developmental aspirations."*

Background

The Cotonou Agreement currently governing ACP-EU relations is due to expire in 2020. Negotiations on a new ACP-EU partnership were launched in New York on 28 September 2018 in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

The two first series of talks mainly focused on the common foundation at ACP-EU level. This contains the values and principles that bring the EU and ACP countries together. It also indicates the strategic priority areas that the two sides intend to prospectively work on together. In the future agreement, on top of the foundation there will be three action-oriented regional pillars to focus on each region's specific needs. Through the future partnership, EU and ACP countries will seek closer political cooperation on the world stage. Together, they represent more than half of all UN member countries and unite over 1.5 billion people.

For more information

[Q&A on the future EU-ACP partnership](#)

[Press release – New ACP-EU Partnership: EU and Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Leaders intensify the regional talks in Samoa](#)

[EU Negotiation directives](#)

[ACP Negotiation directives](#)