

Commission approves € 800 million aid package for 2009 Intra-ACP cooperation

Today, the European Commission formally approved the Annual Action Programme 2009 for Intra-ACP cooperation for more than € 800 million. The Intra-ACP programme is embedded in the regional cooperation and integration framework with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and is covering all development cooperation activities that benefit many or all ACP states in line with their objectives and priorities.

The Annual Action Programme 2009 is part of a cooperation agreement between the European Commission and the ACP Group of States signed for a total of € 2.7 billion in March 2009. This agreement identifies three clusters of action for Intra-ACP cooperation for the period 2008-2013, namely measures helping ACP states to protect themselves against international threats by participating in "global initiatives" in the area of health; "all-ACP initiatives", assisting ACP states to defend themselves against exogenous shocks in the area of climate change and supporting their integration into the world economy as well as at regional level; and "pan-African initiatives" supporting peace-building activities, institutional capacity-building for the African Union and strategy development to address specific common challenges.

In addition, Intra-ACP cooperation foresees institutional and support expenditure to cover the funding of joint institutions (Centre for the Development of Enterprises, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU and Joint Parliamentary Assembly), a Technical Cooperation Facility and partial funding of the ACP Secretariat.

The Annual Action Programme 2009 covers fourteen actions for a total of € 800.82 million in the fields of climate change, infrastructure and networks, science and research, education and culture, trade and private sector development. Most notably, a contribution to the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust (€ 200 million) to support economic development, regional integration and poverty reduction through the financing of regional interconnectivity infrastructure projects. It also contributes to the achievement of the MDGs by supporting the ACP-EU Energy Facility (€ 200 million) to increase access to modern, affordable and sustainable energy services for the rural poor as well as the ACP-EU Water Facility (€ 200 million) to improve water governance and water resource management as well as the development and maintenance of water infrastructure. The Annual Action Programme also foresees a contribution of € 40 million to the Global Climate Change Alliance to contribute to adequate adaptation and mitigation strategies for poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The entire financial envelope will include contributions worth 800.82 million to the following projects:

- Support to the Global Climate Change Alliance (€ 40 million)
- EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (€ 200 million)
- ACP Connect for Research and Education Networks (€ 13 million)
- ACP Research for Sustainable Development Programme (€ 20 million)
- Erasmus Mundus ACP Window, Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (€ 18 million)
- EU-ACP Microfinance Programme II (€ 15 million)
- Private Sector Enabling Environment Facility (€ 10 million)
- Capacity Building in Support of Land Policy Development and Implementation in Africa (€ 9 million)
- Support to the Centre for the Development of Enterprises (€ 18 million)
- Work Programme 2010 for the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (€ 16 million)
- Technical Cooperation Facility (€ 6 million)
- African Economic Outlook V (€ 820,000)
- ACP-EU Energy Facility II (€ 200 million)
- ACP-EU Water Facility (€ 200 million)

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