

**First Open Day of the**  
Department of Sustainable Economic Development  
and Trade  
ACP House, Brussels  
Monday, 11 October 2010

**Opening Talking Points**

- **Excellency Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors,**
- **Mr Gary Quince, AIDCO Director of the European Commission,**
- **Excellencies ACP Ambassadors,**
- **Directors of PMU and Facilities,**
- **Representatives of ACP Regional organizations,**
- **Representatives of ACP cooperating partners,**
- **Colleagues,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to welcome you to the ACP House on the occasion of the First Open Day of the SEDT Department. As you are all aware, the main objectives of the ACP Group as stipulated in Article 2 of the Georgetown Agreement are the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and the smooth of gradual integration of ACP States into the World economy.

To achieve this was established within the ACP Secretariat a Department in charge of Sustainable Economic Development and Trade which's mandate is to stimulate and support efforts aimed at achieving the smooth and harmonious integration of

ACP States and regions into global trade, to enable them to derive maximum benefit from the globalisation process, in a context of sustainable development.

Over time, with the financial support of the European institutions, programmes and projects have been developed and implemented, to help accomplish this mission, particularly by building the domestic capacities of the ACP countries and regional organizations.

How effective are these programmes in supporting ACP member states and regions in achieving this paramount objective of efficient formulation and successful implementation of policies aimed at facilitating poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development?

Are these programmes operating in a coherent and results-oriented manner and how can ACP Missions and regional organizations better access their resources?

These are among others, questions that today's event will attempt to respond in providing a Forum intended to facilitate, in a more efficient and coherent manner, the flow of information pertaining to these programmes lodged in the Sustainable Economic Development and Trade Department.

I am glad that almost all the managers of these various programmes, some of them operating outside Europe, reserved this day to come to interact with us and enlighten participants on the objectives, resources and procedures to access their programmes and Facilities.

ACP members' states, Regional ACP organizations, official and non Official actors have sometimes complained on the cumbersome procedures to access resources earmarked for:

- building their capacity to cope or comply with international regulations and standards governing international trade;
- addressing their supply-side constraints with a view to take advantage of existing market access opportunities ;
- accelerating their economic regional integration processes and developing infrastructures;
- creating a enabling environment intended to boost their business sector and generate more employment and income;
- providing accrued access to water and energy;
- Dealing with environmental challenges including climate changes concerns.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today's event is an attempt to reflect from another on the sustainable economic and trade challenges confronting ACP member states and regions and existing modalities agreed together with the Commission to address them.

The activities carried out by the Department in this framework go from the identification of new issues (how these provide opportunities or are threats to our development prospects),

policies proposals to address them and finally effective implementation of specific activities.

Our resources in the Secretariat to respond to these challenges are limited. We therefore need sometimes, when appropriate, to delegate the implementation of specific actions to the European side, or recruit external expertise.

Let me seize this opportunity to thank the European Commission here represented by AIDCO Director Mr Gary Quince for this fruitful collaboration and reiterate my personal commitment to boost these synergies.

I would like to conclude my statement by paying tribute to my colleagues from the Sustainable Economic and Trade Department for having taken this initiative and for the smooth preparation of this event.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful Open Day.