

DECISION No 3/2019 OF THE ACP-EU COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS**of 17 December 2019****to adopt transitional measures pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement [2020/2]**

THE ACP-EU COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS,

Having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 15(4) and Article 16(2) in conjunction with Article 95(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States ('ACP') of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (the 'ACP-EU Partnership Agreement') entered into force on 1 April 2003 and is to be applied until 29 February 2020.
- (2) In accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, negotiations towards a new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (the 'new Agreement') were launched in September 2018. As the new Agreement will not be ready to be applied by the expiry date of the current legal framework, it is necessary to adopt transitional measures to extend the application of the provisions of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.
- (3) The second subparagraph of Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement provides for the ACP-EU Council of Ministers to adopt any transitional measures that may be required until the new Agreement comes into force.
- (4) Pursuant to Article 15(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, on 23 May 2019 the ACP-EU Council of Ministers delegated the powers to adopt the transitional measures to the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors ⁽²⁾.
- (5) It is therefore appropriate that the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors adopt a decision, pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, to extend the application of the provisions of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement until 31 December 2020, or until the entry into force of the new Agreement or the provisional application between the Union and the ACP States of the new Agreement, whichever comes first.
- (6) The provisions of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement will be applied with the aim of maintaining continuity in relations between the Union and its Member States, on the one hand, and the ACP States, on the other. Accordingly, the transitional measures are not intended for amendments to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement as provided for in Article 95(3) thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The application of the provisions of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement shall be extended until 31 December 2020, or until the entry into force of the new Agreement or until the provisional application between the Union and the ACP States of the new Agreement, whichever comes first.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3. The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement was amended by the Agreement signed in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 27) and by the Agreement signed in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010 (OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3).

⁽²⁾ Decision No 1/2019 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 23 May 2019 on the delegation of powers to the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on the decision to adopt transitional measures pursuant to Article 95(4) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement [2019/920] (OJ L 146, 5.6.2019, p. 114).

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on 1 March 2020.

Done at Brussels, 17 December 2019.

For the ACP-EU Council of Ministers
By the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors
The President
Marja RISLAKKI
