

TITLE VII

INSTITUTIONAL, GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 71

Continuation of negotiations and implementation of this Agreement

1. The Parties shall continue negotiations in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. When negotiations are complete, the resulting draft amendments shall be submitted for approval to the relevant internal authorities.

ARTICLE 72

Definition of the Parties and fulfilment of obligations

1. The Contracting Parties of this Agreement shall be the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, hereinafter the "Ivorian Party" or "Côte d'Ivoire", of the one part, and the European Community or its Member States, within their respective areas of competence as derived from the Treaty establishing the European Community, hereinafter the "EC Party", of the other part.
2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "Party" shall refer to Côte d'Ivoire or the EC Party, as appropriate. The term "Parties" shall refer to Côte d'Ivoire and the EC Party.

3. The Parties shall adopt any general or specific measures required for them to fulfil their obligations under this Agreement and shall ensure that they comply with the objectives laid down in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 73

EPA Committee

1. For the purposes of implementing this Agreement, an EPA Committee shall be established within three months from the date of signature of this Agreement.

2. The Parties agree that the composition, organisation and operation of this EPA Committee will respect the principle of equality. The Committee shall determine the rules governing its organisation and operation.

3. The EPA Committee shall be responsible for the administration of all the fields covered by this Agreement and for the achievement of all the tasks mentioned in this Agreement.

4. In order to facilitate communication and ensure the effective implementation of this Agreement, each Party shall designate a correspondent within the EPA Committee.

5. The EPA Committee meetings may be open to third parties. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and ECOWAS Commissions may be invited to the EPA Committee meetings, in accordance with their internal procedures.

ARTICLE 74

Outermost regions of the European Community

1. Taking account of the geographical proximity of the outermost regions of the European Community and Côte d'Ivoire, and in order to strengthen economic and social links between these regions and Côte d'Ivoire, the Parties shall endeavour to facilitate cooperation in all the areas covered by this Agreement and facilitate trade in goods and services, promote investments and encourage transport and communication links between the outermost regions and Côte d'Ivoire.
2. The objectives set out in paragraph 1 shall be pursued as far as possible by fostering the joint participation of Côte d'Ivoire and the outermost regions in framework and specific programmes of the European Community in the areas covered by this Agreement.
3. The EC Party shall endeavour to ensure coordination between the different financial instruments of the European Community's cohesion and development policies in order to foster cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and the outermost regions of the European Community in the areas covered by this Agreement.
4. This Agreement shall not prevent the EC Party from applying existing measures aimed at addressing the structural, social and economic situation of the outermost regions in accordance with Article 299(2) of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

ARTICLE 75

Entry into force and denunciation

1. This Agreement shall be signed, ratified or approved in accordance with the constitutional rules specific to each Party or, as far as the EC Party is concerned, according to its internal rules and procedures.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the month following that in which the Ivorian Party and the EC Party have notified each other of the completion of the procedures thus required.
3. Notification shall be sent to the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, who shall be the depositary for this Agreement.
4. Pending entry into force of the Agreement, the Parties shall agree to apply it provisionally, in accordance with their respective laws or by ratification of the Agreement.
5. Provisional application shall be notified to the depositary. The Agreement shall be applied provisionally ten days after receipt of such notification of provisional application by the European Community or Côte d'Ivoire.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, the EC Party and Côte d'Ivoire may apply the agreement, in whole or in part, before its provisional application, to the extent that this is possible under their national legislation.

7. Either Party may give written notice to the other of its intention to denounce this Agreement. Denunciation shall take effect six months after notification to the other Party.

8. This Agreement shall be superseded by a global EPA concluded at regional level with the EC Party on the date of its entry into force. In this case, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure that the global EPA at regional level preserves most of the benefits obtained by Côte d'Ivoire under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 76

Territorial application

This Agreement shall apply to the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Community is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty, on the one hand, and, to Côte d'Ivoire, on the other hand.

ARTICLE 77

Accession of new Member States to the European Union

1. The EPA Committee shall be advised of any request by a third State to become a member of the European Union. During the negotiations between the European Union and the applicant State, the EC Party shall provide Côte d'Ivoire with any relevant information and Côte d'Ivoire shall in turn convey its concerns to the EC Party so that it can take them fully into account. Côte d'Ivoire shall be notified of any accession to the European Union.

2. Any new Member State of the European Union shall accede to this Agreement from the date of its accession to the European Union by means of a clause to that effect in the act of accession. If the act of accession to the European Union does not provide for such automatic accession of the new Member State of the European Union to this Agreement, the Member State concerned shall accede by depositing an act of accession with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, which shall send certified copies to the Ivorian Party.

3. The Parties shall review the effects of the accession of new Member States of the European Union on this Agreement. The EPA Committee may decide on any transitional measures or amendments which may be necessary.

ARTICLE 78

Dialogue on financial issues

The Parties agree to foster dialogue and transparency and to share best practices in the area of fiscal policy and administration.

ARTICLE 79

Cooperation in the fight against illegal financial activities

The EC Party and Côte d'Ivoire shall be committed to preventing and combating illegal, fraudulent and corrupt activities, money laundering and terrorist financing. To this end, the Parties shall take the necessary legislative and administrative measures to comply with international standards, including those laid down in the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols, the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing and the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. The EC Party and Côte d'Ivoire agree to exchange information and cooperate in these areas.

ARTICLE 80

Relationships with other agreements

1. With the exception of the articles concerning development cooperation in Title II of Part III of the Cotonou Agreement, in the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of this Agreement and the provisions of Title II of Part III of the Cotonou Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
2. This Agreement shall not be construed as preventing the adoption by the European Community or by Côte d'Ivoire of measures, including trade measures, deemed appropriate and provided for in Articles 11b, 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement.

3. The Parties agree that this Agreement does not require them to act in a manner inconsistent with their WTO obligations.

ARTICLE 81

Authentic languages

This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish languages, each of these texts being equally authentic.

In the event of contradiction, reference shall be made to the language in which this Agreement has been negotiated, namely French.

ARTICLE 82

Annexes

The Appendices, the Annexes and the Protocol to this Agreement shall form an integral part thereof.

In witness whereof, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have affixed their signatures below this Agreement.

Done at,