

Promoting international solidarity and peace

The GUE/NGL opposes militarisation, the deployment of EU intervention forces and any other action that creates conflict and tensions in international relations. International and political solutions are the best existing ways for ending and preventing conflicts peacefully.

The GUE/NGL group upholds international solidarity, peace, democratic values, and the sovereignty and liberty of peoples.

Addressing the impact of climate change

Climate change, loss in biodiversity and pollution all have profound impacts on agriculture, farmers, indigenous people's lives, lands and oceans throughout the world. These are set to deteriorate in future, and will considerably increase poverty and inequalities. The solution will not come from market mechanisms, but from ambitious international legally binding agreements.

The GUE/NGL's vision of climate change is based on the principle of historical common but differentiated responsibilities.

We believe it is necessary to establish an Adaptation Fund exclusively to address climate change as part of a financial mechanism that should be managed in a sovereign, transparent and equitable manner for all states. This Fund should assess the impacts and costs of climate change, loss in biodiversity and pollution in developing countries. It should also include a mechanism for compensation for current and future damage and the loss of opportunities due to extreme and gradual climatic events. Compensation must be direct and additional to the funding as promised by developed countries.



GUE/NGL members of the European Parliament's Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly



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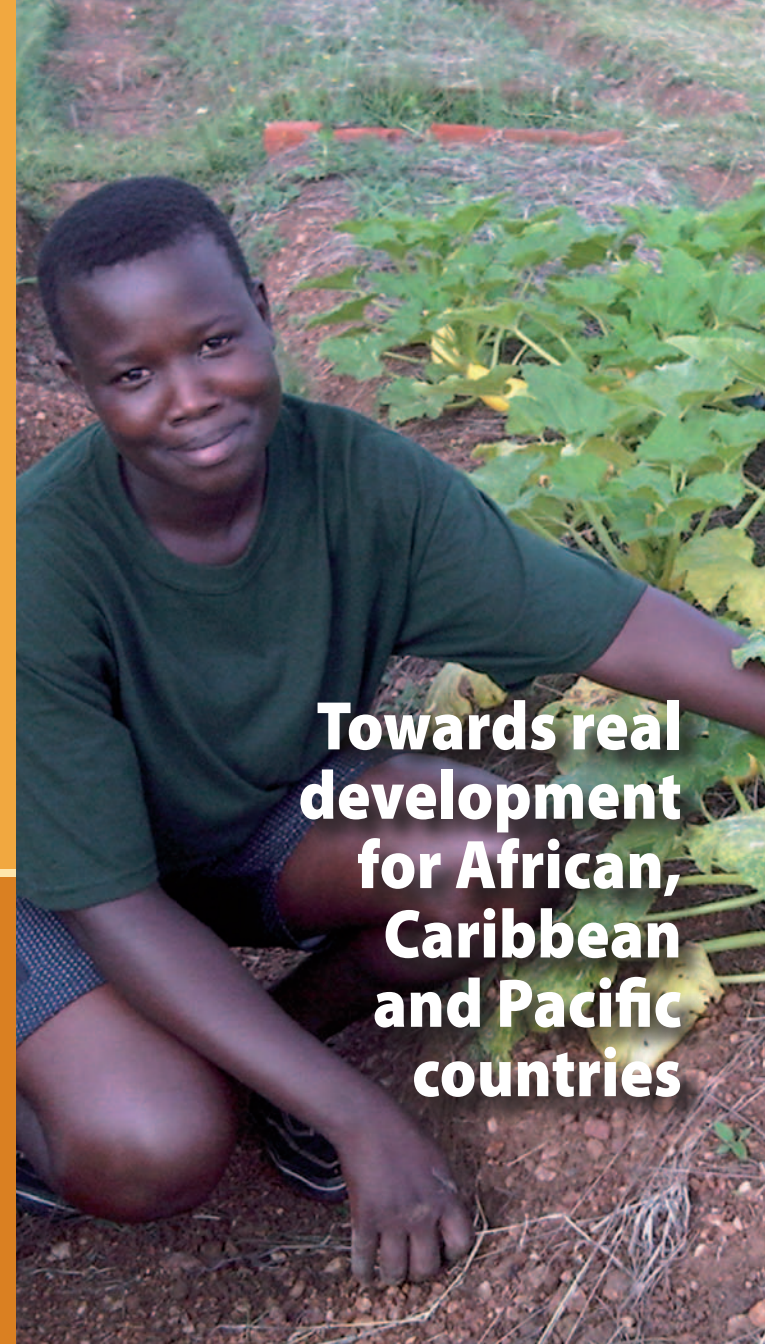


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Towards real development for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

New relations based on genuine cooperation and solidarity

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was created to bring together elected representatives of the European Union – Members of the European Parliament – and elected representatives of the 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (“ACP countries”), signatories of the Cotonou Agreement in 2000.

Representatives of the 78 ACP states, who must be Members of Parliament, meet their 78 European Parliament counterparts in plenary session for one week twice a year, alternately in an ACP and an EU country.

The GUE/NGL believes that new relations should be developed with ACP countries, based on genuine cooperation, solidarity and mutual interest. Existing relations between the EU and the ACP countries need to be re-balanced. There should be a clean break with relations of subjugation and dependency.

The GUE/NGL believes that meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 are an absolute necessity. These objectives represent the basic minimum of human development, which is lacking in the most deprived parts of the world, particularly in ACP countries.

GUE/NGL delegation at the EU-ACP Assembly in Tenerife (April 2010)



A real development policy for ACP-EU relations

The current crisis demands a real policy for promoting development. This is why the GUE/NGL insists on effective solutions:

- **Revising the Cotonou Agreement** should not lead to the imposition of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and the liberalisation of services, investment, competition and procurement but should bring an end to the pillaging of ACP countries' natural resources, while upholding their sovereignty so that they can control investment and stimulate regional cooperation;
- **Recognising essential human rights** such as access to water, land, energy, health and education. These rights cannot depend on market rules;
- **Recognising the right to food and food sovereignty** with the right for countries to protect themselves from imports, to support their local or subsistent production and trade, and to reject technological packages like agrochemicals, GMOs and biofuels;
- **Defending and promoting labour law**, safety at work and equality between women and men;
- **Cancelling developing countries' foreign debt**;
- **Recognising the right to produce or import medicines** without paying commissions to pharmaceutical companies;
- **Increasing development aid** substantially to ensure effective development policies, devoting the greater part of this aid to health and education;
- **Safeguarding and strengthening public services** as indispensable elements to resolve problems such as healthcare and poverty;

→ **Rejecting structural adjustment policies**, reductions in social spending (health, education), dismantling public services and the reduction of medium and small farmers' subsidies;

→ **Rejecting the repressive nature of EU immigration policies.** The EU must assume its responsibility for the situation created in countries of origin, namely ACP countries, and draw up a real cooperation policy with them.



GUE/NGL MEP Elie Hoarau visiting a banana factory in Tenerife (April 2010)