



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**25th Session of the ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
17 -19 June 2013, Brussels (Belgium)**

WORKSHOP

Improving the investment climate in developing countries: What role for Parliamentarians?

Location: Château du Lac, Genval
Sunday 16 June 2013 - 9:00 - 12.30

DRAFT AGENDA

08.45 - 09.15	Transport to Château du Lac, Genval
09.30 - 09.40	Welcome by the Chair
09.40 - 10.30	Session 1: Irish Presidency - Promoting an enabling environment for jobs and growth followed by Questions and Answers
10.30 - 10.50	Tea/Coffee break
10.50 - 11.30	Session 2: EIB - Access to finance in the agriculture sector followed by Questions and Answers
11.30 - 12.10	Session 3: FIAS - Improving the investment climate in developing countries followed by Questions and Answers
12.10 - 12.25	Closing remarks
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	Transport from Château du Lac, Genval

Summary: The private sector provides nine out of ten jobs in developing countries. An increasingly important focus of dialogue on global development is developing an understanding of and addressing the constraints that impact on the ability of the private sector to drive the economic growth needed to create jobs and lift people out of extreme poverty in developing countries.

The workshop will seek to engage Members of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in discussions around the role of parliamentarians in promoting private sector development with a focus on the themes of *Improving the Investment Climate and Access to Finance*.

It is envisaged that the workshop will provide a platform for good political dialogue among the participants on these important issues.

The workshop will consist of three linked sessions with presentations by the Irish Presidency, the European Investment Bank and the Investment Climate Facility of the World Bank, followed by exchanges of views.

Session 1: Promoting an enabling environment for jobs and growth.

The first session will feature a presentation by Mr Kevin Moore, Irish Aid Private Sector Consultant. Mr Moore will draw from his extensive international and Irish experience of working on private sector development programmes. Mr Moore has worked on long term programmes with a range of international agencies and Governments, mainly in Africa coupled with short term experience in the Caribbean, South East Asia and Eastern Europe. He will also present an outline of the experience of Ireland as a country which has moved over the past 50 years from a dependence on subsistence farming and primary food production to becoming one of the most globalised and open economies in the world.

In this context, Mr Moore will outline the role of the Irish legislators in setting the policy framework to facilitate the private sector to flourish and the activities of Government Agencies to maximise the contribution from this private sector investment to address job creation and domestic growth. He also will discuss challenges and opportunities facing Parliamentarians in developing countries to promote an enabling environment for economic growth.

Session 2: Access to finance in the agriculture sector

Mr Patrick Walsh, Director of the ACP Department of the European Investment Bank, will make a short introduction to the Bank and EIB's financing of the private sector through the ACP Investment Facility.

Mr Alex Tack, Credit Manager at Alterfin and Belgium, and Mr Edvardas Bumsteinas, Head of Microfinance at the European Investment Bank will discuss opportunities presented by microfinance institutions and agricultural cooperatives in financing small-holder farmers in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

Other topics, such as value-chain financing and fair trade, will be addressed. Recent innovative financing mechanisms, such as FEFISOL (Fonds Européen de Financement Solidaire pour l'Afrique), will be analysed in order to identify scope for replication and scale. The Fund aims at providing medium to long term finance to less developed but financially viable Microfinance Institutions ("MFIs") mainly active in rural areas, producer businesses and Small and Medium Enterprises ("SMEs") operating throughout the agricultural value chain. The Fund uses debt, equity and guarantee instruments, whenever possible making loans in local currency.

Session 3: FIAS - Improving the investment climate in developing countries

In the third session of the workshop, Ms Christine Qiang, Manager of the Trade and Investment Unit in the World Bank Group's Investment Climate Facility (FIAS) will make a presentation.

Ireland's support for investment climate reform in developing countries is directed primarily, but not exclusively, through the collaboration of the Irish Government with FIAS. The recently released Jobs Study by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank (the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries) reaffirms the importance of a well-functioning and business conducive investment climate in generating and maintaining jobs. One of the study's key findings identifies cumbersome and costly regulations as a major obstacle for companies endeavouring to operate and grow in the formal sector.

Ms Qiang will outline how certain Governments in developing countries are implementing significant reform programmes with support from the World Bank Group, referencing, in particular, a number of relevant case studies in ACP countries.

Irish Aid

Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's programme for overseas development. The programme is managed by the Development Co-operation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The work done in fighting global poverty and hunger is integral to Ireland's foreign policy and is guided by the recently published Policy for International Development "One World One Future".

The Investment Climate facility of the World Bank (FIAS)

Through the FIAS program, the World Bank Group and donor partners facilitate investment climate reforms in developing countries to foster open, productive, and competitive markets and to unlock sustainable private investments in sectors that contribute to growth and poverty reduction. The FIAS program is managed by the Investment Climate Department under the joint oversight of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the World Bank (IBRD).

The European Investment Bank

The European Investment Bank is the European Union's bank, owned by and representing the interests of the European Union Member States. While more than 90% of the EIB's activity is focused on Europe the bank also implements the financial aspects of the EU's external and development policies. The EIB has been an active development partner of the ACP countries and OCTs since 1963 and 1968 respectively.

Since 2003, the EIB operates in these regions under the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and the Overseas Association Decision. Financing under these frameworks is provided from EU Member States' budgets - the European Development Fund, alongside EIB own resources, which the Bank manages on a broadly self-financing basis by borrowing on the capital markets.