

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-UE/101.526/13/fin.

RESOLUTION¹

on the social and environmental impact of pastoralism in ACP countries

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 25 to 27 November 2013,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the African Union 'Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa: Securing, Protecting and Improving the Lives, Livelihoods and Rights of Pastoralist Communities' adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture in October 2010, and approved by the Executive Council 18th ordinary session, Addis Ababa, January 2011 (Doc. EX.CL/631 XVIII),
- having regard to the N'Djamena Declaration of 29 May 2013 on the contribution of pastoral livestock to security and development,
- having regard to the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa endorsed by the African Union Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock in 2009,
- having regard to the ECOWAS Heads of State Decision A/DEC.5/10/98 regulating transhumance between ECOWAS states,
- having regard to the agricultural policy of the ECOWAS states adopted on 19 January 2005 in Abuja,
- having regard to the WAEMU agricultural policy adopted on 10 December 2001 by Additional Act No 03/2001,
- having regard to the COMESA draft Policy Framework for Food Security in Pastoralist Areas of December 2009,
- having regard to the IGAD Regional Policy Framework for Animal Health and Trade, approved in December 2009,
- having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Agreement') and in particular Article 32(1) on environment and natural resources, Article 32A on climate change, Article 31 on gender issues and Article 23 on economic sector development, covering rural strategies and agricultural production,

¹ Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 27 November 2013 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of March 2013 entitled ‘Enhancing Maternal and Child Nutrition in External Assistance: an EU Policy Framework’ (COM(2013)0141),
 - having regard to the Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'The EU approach to resilience: learning from food security crises' (COM(2012)0586),
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges (COM (2010)0127),
 - having regard to the EU-led AGIR and SHARE initiatives to address food and nutrition crises,
 - having regard to the report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) entitled ‘World Livestock 2011. Livestock in food security’ (Rome, 2012),
 - having regard to the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 (A/RES/66/142),
 - having regard to the European Council Conclusions of 18 November 2002 on Indigenous Peoples (13466/02),
 - having regard to the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2000,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (AP101.526/13/fin),
- A. whereas around 268 million pastoralists live across Africa, and whereas in some regions pastoralism constitutes the main livelihood; whereas pastoral areas cover almost 40% of the African continent, and whereas pastoralism constitutes the main activity in certain regions, Niger for example having an estimated FCFA 2 000 billion in livestock capital, with revenue from the sector contributing 21% of the country’s export resources;
- B. whereas pastoralists have well-established indigenous knowledge and use both social networks and new information and communication technologies (NICTs) to seek out the most nutritious grazing land in arid and semi-arid areas and strategically move their livestock there, thereby making good use of uncultivated land ill-suited to other purposes;
- C. whereas statistics on the contribution of pastoralism to national economies are little known, despite its importance to the supply of livestock and the creation of a network of associated services;
- D. whereas in arid and semi-arid areas pastoralism is more productive than sedentary livestock farming in terms of production of meat per hectare and calories per hectare, and whereas it therefore helps to feed communities and enhance food and nutrition security and resilience;
- E. whereas mobile grazing in arid and semi-arid areas, together with the carbon sequestration potential of pastoral grasslands, could have a positive impact on the environment; whereas,

on the other hand, grazing with flocks that are not moved around leads to overgrazing and loss of biodiversity, since plants are unable to recover sufficiently;

- F. whereas climate change increases the vulnerability of pastoralists to food insecurity and poverty, notwithstanding the fact that pastoralists' mobility means they can adapt more easily to climate change than sedentary livestock rearers;
 - G. whereas population growth is increasing the need for agricultural land and urbanisation in Africa, factors liable to restrict animal mobility, and whereas careful management and the creation of land-use codes and plans are therefore particularly important in order to preserve animal mobility;
 - H. whereas addressing the management of cross-border mobility at regional level may provide solutions to inter-communal conflicts linked to access to water and land;
 - I. whereas pastoralists, moving through remote areas, can play a positive security role;
 - J. whereas by diversifying their activities some pastoralists can increase their income;
 - K. whereas pastoralists can have difficulties accessing appropriate, good-quality healthcare, education, water and veterinary care for their animals, and whereas the difficulties in including them in census data can lead to their political marginalisation;
 - L. whereas the AU Policy Framework for Pastoralism seeks to protect the livelihood of pastoralists, help them address the challenges they face, safeguard their rights and reinforce their contribution to the economy;
1. Urges ACP states and local authorities to align their national, local and regional policies with the AU Framework, and to involve pastoralists in defining the strategies to be used;
 2. Calls on the EU to recognise pastoralism as a valuable production system, and to support ACP states in implementing the Framework;
 3. Points out the necessity of appropriate animal health and hygiene measures in order to avoid the spread of animal diseases, to preserve pastoralism and to protect public health; notes the importance of pastoralists having knowledge about the prevention and treatment of animal diseases;
 4. Calls on ACP states to create and implement local, national, bilateral and regional initiatives, laws and codes for pastoralism, transhumance and land use; calls on the ACP States also to develop innovative supply concepts in fields such as education and public health to enable mobile population groups to be better provided for;
 5. Urges public and private actors to ensure that borders and boundaries do not negatively affect pastoralists' safe mobility and resource access and that pastoralists can still graze their herds where land is privatised;
 6. Recommends that ACP states support and advise pastoralist women in relation to their economic empowerment;

7. Calls on ACP states to strengthen their governance structures so as to ensure better representation of pastoralists, including by empowering traditional institutions and civil society organisations, in order to ensure that appropriate means are used to achieve the following objectives:
 - (a) safe access to rangelands and dry-season buffer zones;
 - (b) preservation of traditional knowledge and genetic resources while acquiring new knowledge relating to animal health, the environment and the securing of resources;
 - (c) access to appropriate, good-quality education, healthcare, veterinary care and water in a way that is adapted to pastoralism;
 - (d) provision and use of technologies, hygiene services, drought management systems, market information and financial services;
 - (e) expansion and improvement of processing and market preparation infrastructure and marketing routes;
8. Calls on ACP states to give special attention to the education of girls in pastoral communities and to create facilities for their access to education;
9. Calls on ACP states and the EU to involve pastoralists in decision-making and to provide support to pastoralists in conflict resolution, using customary means wherever appropriate and possible, and to improve access to legal services;
10. Calls on ACP states to support and advise pastoralists who opt out;
11. Recommends that ACP states collect further data on pastoralists in order to make a better assessment of their contribution to the economy, and carry out socioeconomic studies to better categorise the vulnerability of pastoralists to, for example, climate change, conflict, changing land use or food insecurity;
12. Calls on the EU and ACP states to do all they can to combat climate change, given its damaging impact on pastoral populations; stresses, in this connection, the importance not only of supporting climate change adaptation and improving resilience among pastoralists in ACP states, but also of pushing for an ambitious agenda in tackling greenhouse gas emissions in both EU and ACP states;
13. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, regional and national parliaments and the ACP regional organisations.