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FOURTH LOME CONVENTION
PACIFIC ACP STATES - EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

February, 1992

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PACIFIC ACP STATES/EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

Chapter 1

1. In order to determine the general framework for regional cooperation between the eight Pacific ACP states¹ (hereinafter referred to as the Pacific ACP states) and the European Community, (hereinafter referred to as the "Community") and in particular to draw up the Regional Indicative Programme of Community Aid, the Pacific ACP states, represented by the undersigned Ministers, held discussions in Suva, Fiji on 28th February 1992 with the Community represented by Mr. Frans Klinkenbergh, Director, Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean, Commission of the European Community on the occasion of the 4th Pacific ACP/EC Joint Ministerial Meeting.
2. The aim of these discussions was to draw up the Regional Indicative Programme for the Pacific ACP states in accordance with the provisions of Article 160 of the Fourth Lome Convention between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community (hereinafter referred to as the "Fourth Lome Convention"), based on regional cooperation resources for the Pacific ACP states relating to the execution of the Financial Protocol for the five year period commencing in March, 1990.
3. The parties conducted a broad overview covering the different aspects of co-operation, particularly those connected with the implementation of the Fourth Lome Convention. In order to ensure that optimum use is made of the instruments and means provided under the Fourth Lome Convention, the parties, on the basis of the preparatory work carried out by their representatives, held a comprehensive exchange of views on the regional development priorities and objectives of the Pacific ACP states.

¹ Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa

4. For the attainment of these objectives the Community will make available to the Pacific ACP states, as its programmable financial package for regional cooperation, the sum of ECU 35 million in the form of grants managed by the Commission.
5. Additional resources may be allocated to the Pacific ACP states under the Financial Protocol covering the first five years of the Convention by way of non-programmable resources managed by the Commission, or any other contribution designed to attain, in the most appropriate fashion, the priority development objectives receiving Community support. In particular, regional operations in the field of development of trade and services may also benefit from resources under article 138 of the Fourth Lome Convention. Furthermore, the European Investment Bank could contribute from the resources, which it manages, to the financing of productive investment projects in compliance with the criteria and statutes of the Bank and the provisions of Articles 233 and 236 of the Fourth Lome Convention.
6. Following the exchange of views between the Pacific ACP states and the Community, the parties agreed that in the context of Article 5 of the Fourth Lome Convention, co-operation will be directed towards development centered on man, the main protagonist and beneficiary of development, which thus entails respect for and promotion of all human rights. The parties confirmed in addition the particular importance they place on the participation of the people in the process of development which carries the implication that the development initiatives of individuals and groups should be encouraged.

Chapter II

Within the above general framework, the parties reached agreement on the focal sectors of their co-operation, and on the specific areas on which Community aid will be focussed. They identified the reciprocal commitments to be entered into by the Pacific ACP states and the Community, to attain their objectives under the following agreed conditions :

1. Focal Sectors for Co-operation

1.1 Definition and Framework

The parties recognize the special emphasis given by the Fourth Lome Convention to promotion and support for regional economic integration based upon the liberalization of intra-regional exchanges, reinforcement of the coherence and policies of trade and investment and coordination of sectoral policies at a regional level.

For the 1990's, the Pacific ACP states' paramount economic goal is to overcome the economic stagnation of the 1980's. It is recognized that efforts in this regard will be hampered by the inescapable realities facing the region : small and fragmented domestic markets, limited natural resources, high transportation costs and inadequate infrastructure. Furthermore price prospects for the region's traditional commodity products do not appear very promising.

In view of the Pacific ACP states' resource constraints, it will be necessary to establish a growth oriented development strategy geared to those few areas where the Region possesses a clear comparative advantage. The role of the Pacific ACP governments within this strategy will be to (i) provide a policy environment conducive to expansion of private sector activity (ii) establish the necessary infrastructural and institutional support and (iii) promote regional cooperation and integration.

Of particular importance for this strategy will be the need to increase the quality and quantity of the manpower available in the region to sustain development activities. The parties agree that human resource development should receive considerable attention.

Based upon this approach, the two parties have agreed to concentrate on three focal sectors for the Lome IV Pacific Regional Indicative Programme, together with the following indicative allocation of programmable resources:

- Natural Resources and Environment ± 45%
- Transport and Services ± 35%
- Human Resource Development ± 10%

In addition, ±10% of programmable resources will be reserved for actions outside these focal sectors.

This choice of focal sectors reflects the key elements required at a regional level to support the national growth oriented development strategies which will be necessary if the Pacific ACP states are to achieve higher levels of economic growth during the 1990s.

1.2 Objectives

Under the national growth strategies it will be important that the countries of the region exploit to the full in a sustainable manner their, albeit limited, natural resources. Thus Natural Resources and Environment has been identified as the first focal sector. In particular, the region must draw maximum advantage from its marine resources, both living and non-living. For fisheries, the objective of regional actions will be to assist the region to manage and exploit their resources. At the same time, the economic and social importance of agriculture for both food security and commodity exports, renders it essential that actions are taken at the regional level to support national actions, in particular to find common solutions to common problems. The forestry sector is important in several Pacific ACP states and it is important that steps are taken to reduce the uncontrolled loss of forests through the development of sustainable management systems. In general, the natural environment of the Pacific ACP states is extremely vulnerable. A major effort will be required to establish the policy and institutional steps needed to avoid environmental degradation.

Key determinants of the region's future growth will be the performance of tourism and trade, which will themselves be critically dependent on improved transport links. This is the rationale for the choice of Transport and Services as the second focal sector.

The region's isolation and dispersal over a vast ocean area and the relatively under developed state of its infrastructure mean that transport links must be improved throughout the region. Priority will be given to air and maritime transport.

There is no doubt that the Pacific ACP states possess certain natural advantages for tourism. The potential of tourism as a source of economic growth is now widely recognized, but the Pacific ACP states have yet to exploit their tourism potential to the full. Actions at the regional level will complement national tourism promotion efforts and vice-versa. This more outward orientation of the region towards tourism is matched by a recognition that trade development needs to be given higher priority. This is particularly so given the relatively liberal market access regimes available to the Pacific ACP states. In order to take full advantage of these concessions the region needs to address such issues as investment and export incentives, product design and quality, trade information and marketing, several of which could form the

basis of activities at the regional level to establish the common policy and institutional steps to be taken.

Despite generally high rates of literacy, the acute shortage of qualified and experienced personnel represents a fundamental constraint to the development of the Pacific ACP states. In view of this, Human Resource Development has been identified as a third focal sector.

In addition, it is agreed that all actions within the other two focal sectors will pay particular attention to the development of human resources.

1.3 Actions and Measures by the Pacific ACP states

The specific policy agenda to support the above strategy will vary from country to country, but certain key elements stand out, namely;

- i) the need to pursue macroeconomic policies that will provide economic and financial stability
- ii) the need to encourage the private sector through appropriate incentive schemes, the necessary infrastructure and the human resources needed to promote international competitiveness
- iii) the need to concentrate on potential growth areas where the region has a comparative advantage. Tourism and fisheries are two such areas
- iv) the need to involve local communities in the development process, with particular attention paid to the role of women
- v) the need to give greater attention to environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- vi) the need to formulate regional strategies especially in the areas of air transport and trade development.
- vii) the need to promote trade through negotiations on tariff and non-tariff measures, progressive simplification of administrative and customs procedures, and progressive harmonization of trade and phytosanitary regulations

1.4 Community Support

With due regard for the requirements of the Fourth Lome Convention in relation to the preparation and approval of programmes and projects, and in agreement with the objectives chosen and the measures to be undertaken by the Pacific ACP states, Community aid could be provided within the following focal sector.

1.4.1 Natural Resources and Environment

The programmes within the natural resources and environment sector that are of particular importance in the context of the regional cooperation programme are : marine resources, agriculture and forestry, and environment.

Marine Resources

All Pacific ACP states have declared 200 mile EEZ's which has had a far reaching effect, particularly on fishing for migratory species, such as tuna. The objective of regional actions in this area could include resource assessment, support for monitoring and exploitation of both living and non-living marine resources.

Agriculture and Forestry

Actions undertaken at the regional level could include research, training, pest and disease control, variety improvements, forestry management and conservation of forestry ecosystems and specialist advisory services.

Environment

Several Pacific ACP states are now preparing National Environmental Strategies, which should be complemented by actions at a regional level on environmental issues of common interest e.g. natural resource management, environmental impact assessment, biodiversity, coastal resource management, land and water pollution prevention and environmental education and information systems.

1.4.2 Transport and Services

The region's geography means that transport has a fundamental influence on two key activities: tourism and trade. The relatively underdeveloped state of the region's transport infrastructure means that links must be improved to facilitate the flows of commodities, goods, people and services.

Within this focal sector, priority could be assigned to air and maritime transport, tourism and trade development. Air and maritime transport programmes could also be supported the European Investment Bank.

Air Transport

Limited passenger air transport services in the region is one constraint on the growth of tourism, whilst the absence of spare air freight capacity hampers the development of high value perishable exports. Given the above considerations, air transport will remain a priority for Lome IV. Within the framework of a long term strategic plan for air transport

development, support could be given to airport infrastructure, aircraft maintenance, airport equipment maintenance, airline operations, training, marketing and sales.

Maritime Transport

Continued cooperation at regional level in the area of maritime transport could be of significant benefit to all the Pacific ACP countries. Support could be given to this and other related areas, e.g. port infrastructure and equipment.

Tourism

The potential of tourism as a source of economic growth is widely recognized by the Pacific ACP states.

Further actions at the regional level will complement national tourism promotion efforts through, for example, the promotion of the region as a destination, institution building, training, improved data bases, tourism policy formulation and sector planning. At the same time, both the Pacific ACP states and the Community remain conscious of the need to guard against possible negative effects of tourism development on the region's social and cultural heritage and environment.

Trade

At the regional level, trade development programmes could concentrate upon improving regional trade data bases and information services and training/institutional strengthening of export promotion agencies, for e.g. handicrafts. Consideration could also be given to actions to facilitate extra regional and intra-regional trade, including trade with the OCT's.

1.4.3 Human Resource Development

Actions within this sector will aim at enhancing the value of human resources in the context of integrated and coordinated regional programmes through operations covering education and training, research, science and technology, the role of women and population and demography. Such actions shall take account of the region's institutional situation and social and cultural values and shall be undertaken, as a matter of priority, within the region.

Attention will also be given to the possibilities to encourage associations, twinning, exchanges and transfers of information and technology between universities and institutions of higher education in the region and in the Community.

1.4.4 Actions Outside the Focal Sectors

In order to allow the most flexible approach for future Community support, the parties agreed to allocate ±10% of programmable resources for activities which do not necessarily fall within the focal sectors. Within this framework, the available resources could be allocated inter-alia to :

- technical co-operation outside the sectors of concentration;
- cultural cooperation;

Chapter III

1. Regionality Criteria

The parties agreed that the projects and programmes to be financed under the Lome IV Regional Indicative Programme must be consistent with each other, be integrated into the overall development strategy at regional level and support the Pacific ACP states' activities at national level. They must also have an appropriate regional character, in accordance with Articles 162 and 163 of the Fourth Lome Convention. It is recognized in this regard that the Pacific ACP states are, for the most part, small islands, and that this is a factor to be considered in the determination of the regional character of projects and programmes. Operations which have a significant national component and could be undertaken partly at national level shall be jointly financed from Regional and National Indicative Programmes or other financial resources, in accordance with Article 163 of the Fourth Lome Convention. The Community and the Pacific ACP states shall consult with each other regarding the extent of the regional component of any such operation.

2. Coordination and Implementation

Under the Lome IV Regional Indicative Programme, as with previous Conventions, the Pacific Region's consultation process and consensus approach will be respected. Within this framework it is hoped that the annual meetings of the Pacific ACP Council and the Pacific ACP/EC Joint Ministerial Meetings as well as a reinforcement and restructuring of the Pacific ACP/EC Unit to enable it to operate as a catalyst in the consultation process, will lead to improved coordination and implementation of present and future regional programmes.

The Pacific ACP states have also agreed to mandate the Forum Secretariat as RAO for the overall programming and identification phases of the Lome IV Pacific regional programme.

It is further agreed that the responsibility for preparation and appraisal (in accordance with the provisions of Article 287 of the Fourth Lome Convention) of individual projects/programmes under the Regional Indicative Programme, the submission of requests for financing, and the subsequent implementation of programmes will be mandated by the Pacific ACP states to the entity, be it a regional organization, or a national government that is most closely involved in the technical implementation of the programme concerned.

The parties have agreed that technical assistance be provided to the Forum Secretariat to assist it in carrying out its mandate as the RAO for the overall programming and identification phases of the Lomé IV Regional Programme and in support of its continuing role in the implementation of programmes under Lomé II and III.

The parties have also agreed that the terms of reference and staff resources of the Pacific ACP/EC Unit will be reviewed with the aim of increasing its efficiency and effectiveness in assisting the Pacific ACP states and regional organisations in the preparation, appraisal and execution of Lomé IV regional programmes. It is agreed that the Pacific ACP/EC Unit will be organisationally separated from the Forum Secretariat and be administratively directly responsible to the Forum Secretary General as RAO responsible for the programming and identification phase of the Lomé IV regional programme. The Pacific ACP/EC Unit will report to the Chairman of the Pacific ACP Ministerial Council through the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat. The Unit will cooperate on a functional basis with each of the different national governments and/or implementing regional organisations within the framework of an approved annual work programme. Such a work programme and budget will be approved by the Chairman of the Pacific ACP Ministerial Council and endorsed by the Commission Delegate for the Pacific. It is expected that the functions of the Unit will progressively decrease over time as the national governments and implementing regional organisations develop their own expertise.

It is also agreed that, parallel with the Pacific ACP/EC Unit, the present trend of providing technical assistance on a programme/project basis to regional organizations responsible for implementation will be continued under Lomé IV.

In order to plan the implementation of the Regional Indicative Programme, the parties have agreed upon an indicative timetable given in Annex 1, which sets out the measures and development operations to be undertaken during the first phase of the Indicative Programme, and establishing the main priorities of later operations which will be refined progressively.

The parties have also agreed that these measures and development actions will, as much as possible, be carried out within the operational framework of coordination organized between the Pacific Region and its main development partners.

3. Linkage between National and Regional Indicative Programmes

The parties agreed on the importance of building up linkages between National and Regional Indicative Programmes. This is also reflected in the Lomé IV National Indicative Programmes signed with the 8 Pacific ACP states.

4. Regional Cooperation with OCT's

In accordance with Annex XXXII of the Lome IV Convention, the parties agreed to take steps to encourage greater regional cooperation between the Pacific ACP states and the Pacific Overseas Countries and Territories (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn).

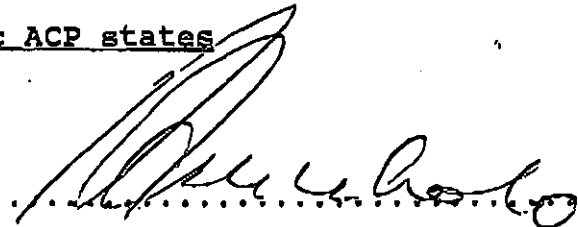
5. Final Remarks

The Regional Indicative Programme is deemed to be approved unless either party advises the other to the contrary within six weeks of the date of signature of the Regional Indicative Programme.

Done at Suva this 28th day of February 1992

Signed on behalf of the Pacific ACP states

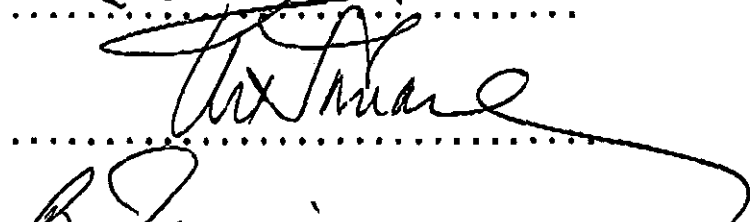
for the Republic of Fiji



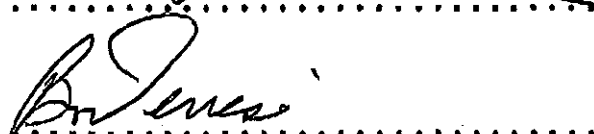
for the Republic of Kiribati



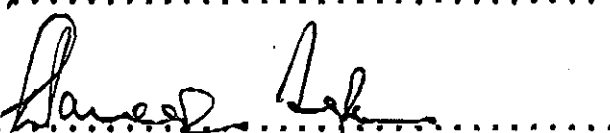
for Papua New Guinea



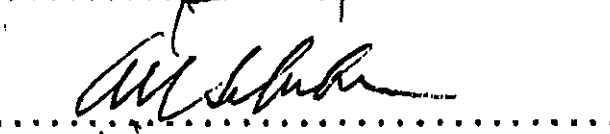
for the Solomon Islands



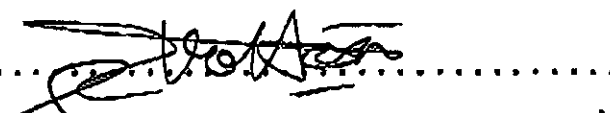
for the Kingdom of Tonga



for Tuvalu




for the Republic of Vanuatu



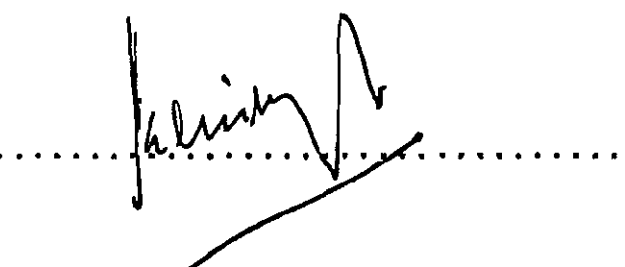
for Western Samoa



Signed on behalf of the
Forum Secretariat



Signed on behalf of the
Commission of the European
Community



INDICATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DIFFERENT ACTIONS IN THE REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

1/92 : first half 1992
2/92 : second half 1992
1/93 : first half 1993

OBJECTIVES TO BE PURSUED	POLICIES AND MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN			
	UNDER PACIFIC ACP'S AUTHORITY	DATE	COMMISSION SUPPORT	DATE
<p>For each sector the Pacific ACP states and the Commission will prepare a sectoral policy framework paper which will define in more detail the overall sectoral objectives to be pursued through regional cooperation, the policies and measures to be undertaken by the Pacific ACP states and their regional organizations and the priorities areas for Community support. This will include specific projects and programmes, including preparatory studies thereto, insofar as they have been clearly identified. The table hereunder sets out the measures and development actions to be undertaken during the first phase of the regional Indicative Programme, insofar as they can already be identified.</p>				
<p>1. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT Sectoral Objective : to assist the Pacific ACP states to exploit their natural resources to the full on a sustainable basis, particularly where they possess a comparative advantage.</p> <p>Areas 1.1 Agriculture and Forestry The economic and social importance of the agricultural and forestry sector for both food security and commodity exports renders it essential that actions are taken at the regional level to support national actions, in particular, to find solutions to common problems e.g. plant disease control, introduction of improved varieties, forestry management etc.</p>	<p>Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme The RAB of the PRAP to finalize an interim follow-up programme to the PRAP to cover recently identified areas where PRAP activities need to be extended e.g. coconut development, infrastructure support, Rose Beetle Biocontrol. In parallel with the above, the RAB to consider and approve terms of reference for a mid-term review of the PRAP in order to evaluate its impact to date, and if justified, recommend a PRAP phase 2 under Lome IV.</p> <p>Plant Protection Service SPC to confirm the slimming down of PPS and the acceptance of a gradual adoption of responsibility for the PPS core budget and secure financing of benefitting non-ACP/OCT states in PPS.</p>	<p>1/92</p> <p>2/92</p> <p>2/92</p>	<p>The Commission to examine the project dossier on receipt.</p> <p>On receipt of request and agreed TOR's, the Commission to initiate necessary procedures for recruitment of Consultants.</p> <p>Commission to examine possibility of bridging finance for PPS.</p>	<p>2/92</p> <p>1/93</p> <p>1/92</p>

RAB: Regional Advisory Board
 SPC: South Pacific Commission
 PPS: Plant Protection Service

<p><u>1.2 Marine Resources Fisheries</u> ----- All Pacific ACP states have declared 200 mile EEZ's which has had a far reaching effect, particularly on fishing for migratory species such as tuna. A great deal of work has been undertaken on fisheries management policy and information by FFA, and on fisheries research by SPC. The objective of regional actions in this area will be to further increase the Pacific ACP states' knowledge of fisheries resources in their EEZ's, and their capacity to manage the resources.</p> <p><u>Ocean Bed Resources</u> ----- The ocean bed resources of the Pacific ACP states - ranging from hydrocarbons to manganese, cobalt crust and nearshore building materials - are substantial and largely untapped. The objective of regional actions is to assist Pacific ACP states in assessing and managing their seabed resources.</p>	<p><u>FFA</u> : A mid-term review to be undertaken of activities financed under the Lome III regional programme. This review should also examine new initiatives for consideration under Lome IV.</p> <p><u>SPC</u> : a mid-term review to be undertaken of activities financed under the Lome III regional programme. This review should also examine new initiatives for consideration under Lome IV.</p> <p><u>SOPAC</u> : a mid-term review to be undertaken of activities financed under the Lome III regional programme. This review should also examine new initiatives for consideration under Lome IV.</p>	<p>2/92</p> <p>2/92</p> <p>2/92</p>	<p>On receipt agreed TOR's, the Commission to initiate necessary procedures for recruitment of Consultants. Both FFA and SPC components to be covered by the same consultancy team.</p> <p>The Commission to examine project dossiers prepared by FFA and SPC in the light of mid-term review.</p> <p>On receipt agreed TOR's, the Commission to initiate necessary procedures for recruitment of Consultants.</p>	<p>2/92</p> <p>1/93</p> <p>2/92</p>
<p><u>1.3 ENVIRONMENT</u> The natural environment of the Pacific ACP states is extremely vulnerable. A major effort will be required to establish the policy and institutional structure to avoid environmental degradation.</p>	<p>SPREP to examine the recommendations of the EDF financed pre-feasibility study for a South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, in the light of present needs, and to liaise with the Commission regarding the preparation of a programme for assistance under Lome IV.</p>	<p>1/92</p>	<p>Commission to liaise with SPREP, with a view to preparing a regional environmental programme for presentation during 1993.</p>	<p>2/92</p>
<p><u>2. TRANSPORT AND SERVICES</u> <u>Sectoral Objectives</u> The regions's geography means that transport and services have a fundamental influence on two key activities: trade and tourism. The relatively underdeveloped state of the region's transport and communications infrastructure means that links must be improved in order to facilitate the flows of commodities, goods, people and services within the sector. Priority will be given to air and maritime transport, tourism and trade.</p>				

FFA: Forum Fisheries Agency

SOPAC: South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission

<p>2.1 Air Transport Limited passenger air transport services in the region is one constraint on the growth of tourism, whilst the absence of spare air freight capacity hampers the development of high value perishable exports.</p>	<p>The Forum Secretariat will examine the findings of the Regional Air Transport Study. The initial step will be to finalize a regional airport investment programme covering Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Tonga, to be partially funded under Lome III, based upon the recommendations of Part B of the study. Consideration will also be given to part A of the study which examines the longer term needs of regional air transport development in the areas of infrastructure, aircraft, aircraft maintenance, personnel, training and marketing and sales and which recommends the preparation of a clearly defined strategic plan for the future development of air transport in the region.</p>	<p>1/92 2/92</p>	<p>On receipt of a request from the Forum Secretariat, the Commission will examine a possible Lome III airport upgrading programme.</p> <p>The Commission will examine with the Forum Secretariat the findings of Part A of the study regarding the longer term needs of regional air transport development with a view to preparing a regional programme of assistance under Lome IV within the framework of a strategic plan.</p>	<p>2/92 1/93</p>
<p>2.2 Maritime Transport In most Pacific ACP states the volume of merchandise imports greatly exceed exports. Furthermore, imports mainly come from Australia, New Zealand and Japan, whilst a high proportion of exports are destined for Europe. International shipping services are thus subject to directional and composition imbalances.</p>	<p>The study of the PFL feeder service will be examined by the Regional Shipping Council in 1992. Based upon the results of the Council Meeting, the Forum Secretariat will take appropriate action.</p>	<p>2/92</p>		
<p>2.3 Tourism Actions at the regional level will complement national tourism promotion efforts through, for example, the promotion of the region as a destination, institution building, training, improved data bases policy formulation and planning.</p>	<p>TCSP have arranged a review of the Pacific Regional Tourism Development Programme Phase II to be undertaken during February-June 1992 by an independent consultant. Based upon the recommendations of the review, TCSP will prepare a project dossier for Lome IV financing. In the meantime, TCSP have requested that the PRIDP Phase II be rolled over till end 1992.</p>	<p>1/92 1/92</p>	<p>The Commission will examine the project dossier and the recommendations of the study when received. The Commission has agreed to the prolongation of the PRIDP Phase II till end 1992.</p>	<p>2/92</p>
<p>2.4 Trade Development At the regional level, trade development activities will concentrate upon advising Pacific ACP states on improved regulatory incentive and administrative system to improve the environment for exporters; examining the scope for greater intra-regional trade between the Pacific ACP states and with the OCT's; improving regional trade data bases and information services; and training/institutional strengthening of export promotion agencies.</p>	<p>As a preliminary step the Forum Secretariat has proposed that Lome III PIACC project balances be utilized to undertake a study of the needs of national chambers of commerce and other private sector organizations in the Pacific ACP states. On the basis of the study, a regional programme of assistance could be considered, initially using PIACC project balances. This study will also examine the establishment of a trade information service at the Forum Secretariat.</p>	<p>2/92</p>	<p>The Commission will examine the recommendations of the study when received.</p>	<p>1/93</p>

PFL: Pacific Forum Line

PIACC: Pacific Islands Association of Chambers of Commerce (now defunct)

<p>3. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT Objective To enhance the value of human resources in the context of integrated and coordinated regional programmes through operations covering education and training, research, science and technology, the role of women, and population and demography.</p>				
<p>4. ACTIONS OUTSIDE THE FOCAL SECTORS Objective To assist the region with priority regional actions of a limited size which do not necessarily fall within the focal sectors e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - technical cooperation outside the focal sectors - cultural cooperation 				

Note

1/92 : first half 1992
 2/92 : second half 1992
 1/93 : first half 1993



EUROPEAN UNION
 DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE PACIFIC
 Head of Delegation

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FORUM SECRETARIAT	
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 Maybe TID
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TRANSMISSION BY FAX

Circular Note to all Pacific (Lome IV ACP Countries) NAOs
 and Pacific RAO

Subject: Approval by the 365th meeting of the EDF Committee of the all the ACP and OCT programme on "Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions" (8th EDF)

60 ACP countries and 8 OCT of The Netherlands and United Kingdom will benefit from a 44.860.000 Euro "Fish Sanitary control programme" (abbreviated title), which was unanimously approved by the EDF Committee in December 2001 under the 8th EDF. The Financing Agreement is expected to be signed by the Commission and the ACP Secretary General (in his role of the RAO of this programme) any time now.

We would like to inform you about the possibilities opened by the programme in financing certain activities, such as:

- Institutional strengthening of the Competent Authority;
- Training and technical advice to the industry and public sector;
- Improved infrastructure of some landing places;
- Support to testing laboratories and training institutes;
- Advice on export policy issues, etc.

We would appreciate if you could copy this information, at your earliest convenience, to the departments in your administration responsible for Fish Sanitary Control and Fisheries.

The priority of the Commission on the first semester of 2002 (mandated by the RAO for this purpose under Art. 302) will be to establish the Coordination Unit at the CDE (Centre Development des Enterprises) in Brussels (two experts and assistant). The relevant tender for the Coordination Unit will be launched as soon as possible and an effort will be made, at the same time, to prepare