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des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
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2ND MEETING AT ACP AND EU CHIEF NEGOTIATORS - CONCLUSIONS

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER 2018

ACP HOUSE, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

2nd Meeting at ACP and EU Chief Negotiators, held on 14 December 2018 – Conclusions

1. On December 14th, Chief Negotiators, Commissioner Mimica, and Minister Dussey and the ACP Ministerial Central Negotiation Group met to officially close Round 1.
 2. The Parties took stock of the progress made by the technical teams since the Parties last met in New York in September. They both noted that there had been broad convergence between the Parties on aligning the strategic priorities for the Foundation of the Partnership.
 3. The Parties endorsed the negotiated structure of the future agreement (in annex). It was also noted that despite broad convergence, some work remains to be done particularly in terms of aligning Title 3 on *Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Development*, as well as on Title 5 on *Migration and Mobility*.
 4. The Parties discussed the launch of Round 2, which will consist in the drafting of the strategic priorities of the main agreement. The Parties agreed that technical talks would resume in January 2019.
 5. Both Parties also acknowledged the need to speed up negotiations in order to ensure concluding the bulk of the negotiations by Summer 2019.
 6. The EU took note of the ACP Council of Ministers decision to allow for negotiations to address regional specificities and their outcome would be annexed as protocols to the main agreement.
 7. The Parties agreed that Round 3, notably the negotiation of the regional pillars, will tentatively start at the end of February. Exploratory talks in view of preparing Round 3 will start in January 2019.
 8. It was agreed that a third political meeting would take place in March 2019, in order to take stock of the progress achieved on drafting the text and to close Round 2, and to provide further instructions to the technical teams.
 9. It was noted that Round 4 of the negotiation should commence by May or June. This Round would take-up all outstanding issues, including parts on general provisions, institutional set-up, means of cooperation (including financing) and final provisions.
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