

Can the agreements be reviewed or renegotiated?

It is not too late to right the wrongs of the deals that some countries have initialled. Legally, there are clear opportunities to renegotiate the deals and the ACP has already requested this, but we need political commitment from the European states to make this happen.

International campaigning has already helped to prevent some of the worst aspects of the EU's proposals being included in the deals for now. In addition, the massive interest generated in the media, parliaments and among the public has shone a much needed spotlight on the process, preventing these deals being ushered through quickly and quietly.

Since the 36 EPAs were initialled at the end of 2007, many countries have voiced serious concerns and have called for the deals to be reviewed. The ACP Ministers issued a statement in December 2007 that deplored the enormous pressure that has been brought to bear on the ACP states by the European Commission. ^[1] Several governments, such as Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal^[2] and South Africa^[3] went on record to say that they oppo

^[1] ACP ministerial declaration, Brussels, 13 December 2007.

^[2] Guardian, 10 December 07

^[3] <http://africa.com/stories/200712210324.html> [25/1/08]

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