

Statistics in focus

EXTERNAL TRADE

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EU trade with ACP countries

Tim Allen

ACP countries' share of the EU market declined from around 7% in 1976 to 4% in 2000, while about 70% of their exports to the EU were concentrated in only 10 products. Between 1988 and 2000, the EU recorded a slight trade deficit vis-à-vis the ACP countries. Over the period, remarkably little fluctuation and hardly any growth was present in total values traded between the two sets of countries. However, trade figures soared in 2000 and 2001. The EU imported from all ACP states put together about as much as it did from Norway or Russia in 2000. That year, South Africa accounted for a third of total commerce in question, while three quarters of ACP imports into the EU originated from only ten countries. UK was the biggest importer of ACP goods and France was by far the biggest exporter. 45% of imports were in oil, diamonds and gold while coffee and tea lost market shares. On the other hand, close to half of EU exports were in machinery, ships and vehicles.

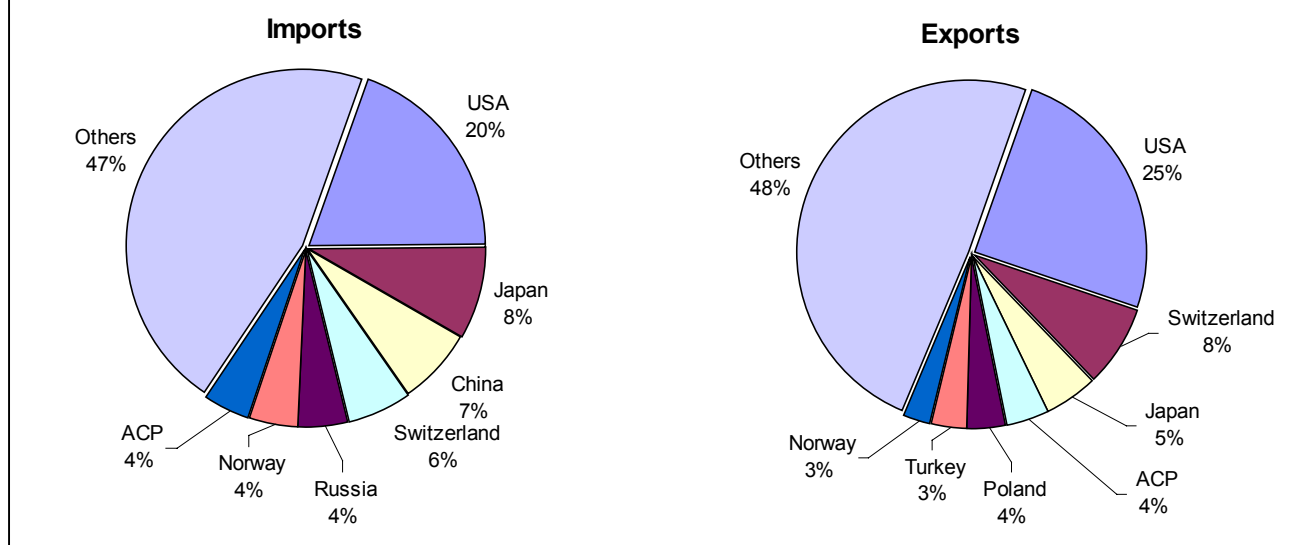


Least developed ACP countries – an overview

From Lomé to Cotonou

The following pages aim to describe developments in EU-ACP trade. Generally speaking, the “ACP states” are a group of former colonies eligible for preferential treatment under various EC arrangements,— “ACP” being an abbreviation for “Africa, Caribbean and Pacific”. The currently 77 ACP countries represent a total of more than 500 million people. Of the global volume of official international development aid received by developing countries, more than half is provided by EU citizens, of which 15% is administered by the European Commission. Much of this has been governed through the so-called Lomé Convention, an agreement signed between the EC and the ACP States in Togo in 1975.

Figure 1 - Share of ACP countries in EU trade in 2000



However, the results of more than 25 years of the Lomé Convention have been mixed.

The idea of non-reciprocal trade preferences was to grant customs exemptions - or at least reductions - to developing countries on manufactured or semi-manufactured goods, processed agricultural products and textiles. The principle of commercial cooperation permits the entry of manufactured goods and agricultural products into the Union without the payment of duties or limitation as to quantity, provided these are not in direct competition with products coming under the Common Agricultural Policy. There is no reciprocity obligation for the developing countries, which are bound only to apply the most-favoured nation clause and not to discriminate between Community countries. The objective is threefold: to increase developing countries' export income, promote the industrialisation of these countries and accelerate their economic growth. The system has been progressively developed to include the possibility of applying incentives based on environmental or social goals, tariff modulation to reflect the

"sensitivity" of the products concerned and a graduation mechanism to encourage the least developed countries. Moreover, greater selectivity has been applied, in particular with countries that were more industrialised or oil-producing and thus no longer needed the mechanism.

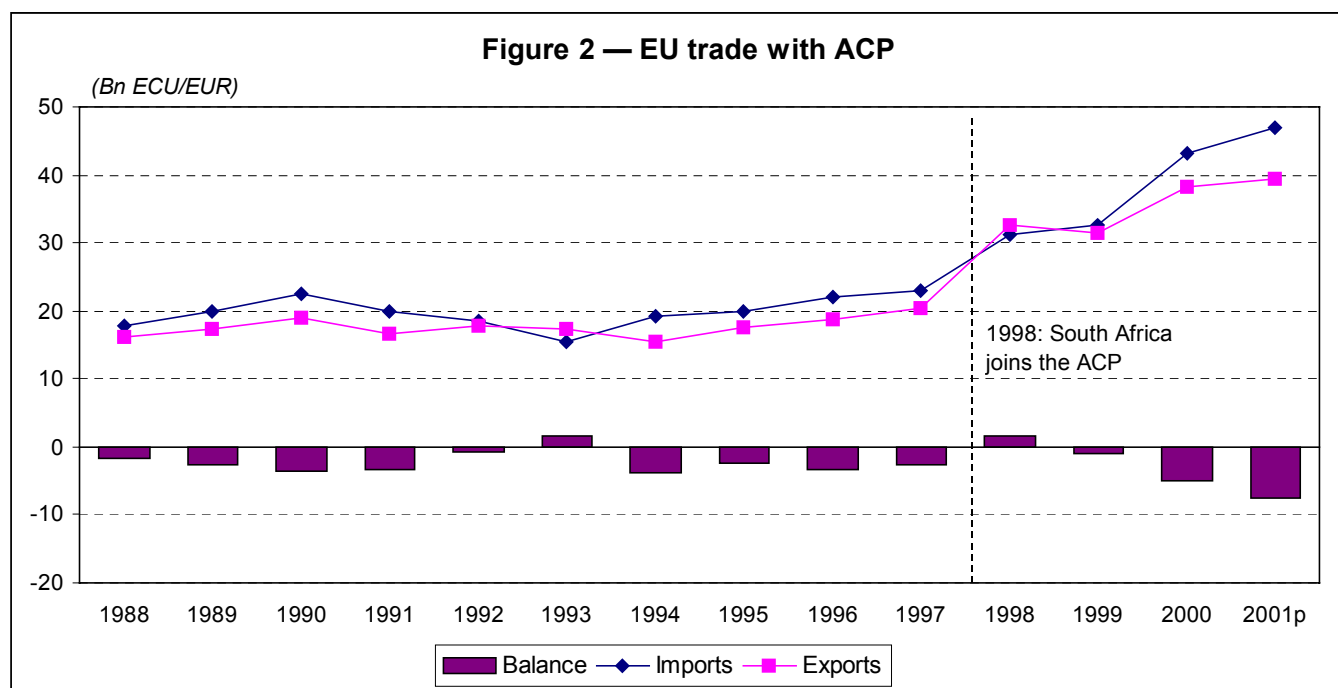
Although they contributed to the commercial success of some countries, the global results have been mixed: ACP countries' share of the EU market declined from around 7% in 1976 to 4% in 2000, and still about 70% of total exports are concentrated in only 10 products.

The so-called Cotonou Agreement (signed 23rd of June 2000) provides a new framework for supporting the mutually reinforcing effects of trade co-operation and development aid. The EC and the ACP States have agreed on a process to establish new trading arrangements that will pursue trade liberalisation between the parties and formulate provisions in trade-related matters.

The objectives of economic and trade co-operation are to promote smooth and gradual integration of

ACP economies into the world economy, to enhance production, supply and trading capacities, to create new trade dynamics, foster investment and to ensure full conformity with World Trade Organisation provisions. Another important aspect is the improvement of the EC's trade regime for all Least Developed Countries (39 of them being in the ACP group). This process will take place over the next years, so that by 2005 Least Developed Countries' exporters will have free access for essentially all their products on the EU market.

Figure 2 — EU trade with ACP



Slight EU trade deficit and little growth

Between 1988 and 2000, the EU recorded a slight trade deficit vis-à-vis the ACP countries – the only exceptions being in 1993 and 1998 (see graph 2). The EU's overall external trade figures show that a deficit prevailed for the EU's trade balance with the rest of the world between 1988-1992 (as with EU-ACP trade), but a surplus between 1993-98 (unlike EU-ACP trade) and again between 1999-2000. These movements of the EU trade balance reflect a period of declining real GDP growth in the EU at the beginning of the 90s together with an actual contraction of real GDP in 1993, which was followed by an expansion during the second half of the decade.

Nevertheless, this expansion did not have any effect on the EU-ACP trade balance for the years 1994-1997 – while the EU saw a surplus in its commerce with the rest of the world, a deficit prevailed with ACP countries. Furthermore, remarkably little fluctuation and hardly any growth was present in total values

traded between the two sets of countries from 1988 to 2000 - in particular when excluding South African data.

Import values similar to EU imports from Russia

The EU imported from the ACP states put together about as much as it did from Norway or Russia in 2000 (slightly more than 40 bn euro). EU exports to the ACP countries totalled slightly less than 40 bn euro, which was a bit more than the EU had exported to Poland that year. For both imports and exports, this represented around 4% of total extra-EU trade in 2000. The inclusion of South African¹ data from 1998 onwards increased this figure by more than one percentage point on average.

¹ South Africa's qualified membership of the Lomé Convention was approved on 24 April 1997. It came into effect on June 1, 1998. While not eligible for non-reciprocal trade preferences and access to funding from the European Development Fund (EDF), South Africa participates fully in the Lomé/Cotonou Institutions and its firms have access to tenders and contracts for EDF projects in all ACP countries.

South Africa accounts for a third of total trade...

South Africa was by the far the most important ACP trading partner of the EU. Total South African trade flows (imports and exports) stemming from or destined for the European Union accounted for around a third of total EU-ACP trade in 2000. Furthermore, there was a substantial increase in EU-South African trade flows between 1999-2000, which was in particular due to an increase in imports into the EU (see table 1). The bulk of these imports were in precious stones and mineral fuels, while EU exports to South Africa consisted mostly of machinery and vehicles. South Africa's market share in 2000 was more than twice that of the next ACP country in line, namely Nigeria. The EU's exports to Nigeria increased steadily between 1995 to 2000 whereas imports from Nigeria into the EU fluctuated widely. These imports were almost exclusively mineral fuels explaining the wide fluctuations in value terms as oil prices varied considerably over the past years.

... while three quarters of imports originated from only ten countries

On the import side, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Angola were important ACP suppliers to the EU. Roughly two thirds of ACP imports into the EU originated from only seven countries, namely Mauritius and Ghana, in addition to the five above mentioned, while three quarters of imports originated from only ten countries. Besides Nigeria, Angola also experienced some wider fluctuations in values exported to the EU with values doubling between 1999 and 2000.

On the export side, important destinations for EU goods were - besides South Africa and Nigeria - the Ivory Coast and Ghana. Also, EU exports to Liberia almost tripled in 2000 while the Dominican Republic also saw some noteworthy increases that year. Around two thirds of total EU exports were targeted at only ten countries.

Figures soar in 2000 and 2001

As mentioned above, the EU's import and export growth rates for the countries in question remained very subdued between 1988 and 1997 (trade figures remaining around 20 bn euro), while they increased considerably in 1998 and in 2000 (almost doubling in comparison to the years before). The increase in 1998 was mostly due to the inclusion of South African data into the ACP aggregate (pushing up both import and export figures), while the steep rise in 2000 in oil prices pushed up mainly import figures - bearing in mind that amongst other ACP states, Nigeria, Angola and Cameroon are oil exporting nations. First figures for 2001 seem to confirm this trend - despite slowing trade from the last quarter of 2000 onwards, both import and export figures nevertheless surpassed the benchmark quarterly data of 2000 in the first two quarters of 2001 (table 2 - data for Q4 2001 were not yet

Table 1: Trade of European Union with ACP's

Imports					
Partners	1995	1999	2000	Share in extra EU-15 imports	
	(Mio ECU/EUR)			(%)	
Total	19 893	32 566	43 277	4.2	
<i>of which</i>				Share in total EU-ACP	Cumul of shares
South Africa	-	10 700	14 446	33.4	33.4
Nigeria	3 443	2 795	6 411	14.8	48.2
Ivory Coast	2 068	2 080	1 960	4.5	52.7
Cameroon	1 175	1 320	1 711	4.0	56.7
Angola	561	769	1 530	3.5	60.2
Mauritius	1 020	1 157	1 204	2.8	63.0
Ghana	839	1 186	1 159	2.7	65.7
Gabon	799	1 023	1 034	2.4	68.1
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	842	876	1 026	2.4	70.4
Kenya	647	840	822	1.9	72.3
Exports					
Partners	1995	1999	2000	Share in extra EU-15 exports	
	(Mio ECU/EUR)			(%)	
Total	17 573	31 514	38 238	4.1	
<i>of which</i>				Share in total EU-ACP	Cumul of shares
South Africa	-	9 731	11 687	30.6	30.6
Nigeria	2 054	3 004	3 853	10.1	40.6
Liberia	1 240	734	2 076	5.4	46.1
Ivory Coast	1 187	1 400	1 423	3.7	49.8
Ghana	744	1 110	1 252	3.3	53.1
Dominican R.	341	672	1 163	3.0	56.1
Gabon	719	1 127	1 111	2.9	59.0
Senegal	715	999	1 025	2.7	61.7
Angola	800	841	1 012	2.6	64.3
Bahamas	523	878	985	2.6	66.9

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

Table 2 - EU-15 trade with ACP's: quarterly data

	Year 2000			Year 2001		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
	(Mio ECU/EUR)			(Mio ECU/EUR)		
Q1	9 676	8 196	-1 480	12 197	9 519	-2 678
Q2	9 652	9 816	164	12 002	9 862	-2 141
Q3	10 943	9 956	-987	11 791	9 747	-2 044
Q4	13 007	10 270	-2 737	11 013p	10 333p	-680p

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

available when writing this report). The EU's negative trade gap vis-à-vis the ACP countries was wider throughout the first three quarters of 2001 in comparison to the first quarters of 2000, but has narrowed with each quarter since Q4 of 2000.

UK biggest importer of ACP goods...

As mentioned above, high up on the EU's list of important ACP trading partners were Nigeria, but also the Ivory Coast and Cameroon. Adding up imports and exports, Nigeria accounted for roughly 13% of the commerce in question, while the Ivory Coast was behind some five percent followed by Cameroon with roughly four percent in 2000. Angola, Mauritius, Ghana, Gabon, Congo and Kenya also had some more noteworthy shares in total EU-ACP trade. On the other hand, in the EU it was the United Kingdom which imported the largest share in merchandise originating from ACP countries and destined for the EU market. Roughly one fifth of all ACP imports in 2000 were destined for the United Kingdom (see table 3). France hosted the second largest share with around 16% in 2000 followed by Spain (14%), Germany (13%) and Italy (11%).

...while France was by far the biggest exporter.

The picture was slightly different on the export side. Here, France was behind around a quarter of all EU exports heading for ACP countries in 2000. Germany (16%), the United Kingdom (14%) and Italy (9%) followed in some distance. Interestingly, it was only France and Germany of the larger trading nations in the EU that recorded a trade surplus with the countries in question. In particular Spain saw a large deficit, which almost equalled the trade deficit of the whole EU vis-à-vis the ACP countries in 2000.

45% of imports are in oil, diamonds and gold ...

Roughly half of all EU imports in value terms from ACP countries were in just four products, namely in oil (more precisely in mineral fuels or chapter 27 of the Harmonised System – see table 4), diamonds & gold, (precious stones and metals or chapter 71 of the HS), wood

(chapter 44) and ore (ores, slag, ashes – chapter 26). In particular oil imports accounted for slightly less than a fourth of total imports followed by precious stones, which made up around a fifth of total imports stemming from ACP countries into the EU. These two commodity categories where by far the most significant in terms of values traded – between the two of them, they stood for 45% of imports in 2000.

Also, close to 70% of these imports were concentrated in only 10 products (see table 4), including fruit, cocoa, seafood, coffee and tea. This hints to the fact that export industries of the countries in question are still not very well diversified (with the exception of South Africa).

Furthermore, since goods exported were basic commodities, little value was likely to be added by the respective exporting economies in question.

Table 3 - EU trade with ACP's by Member States

	Imports				Exports				Balance		
	1998	1999	2000	Share in total 2000	1998	1999	2000	Share in total 2000	1998	1999	2000
	(Mio EUR)			(%)	(Mio EUR)			(%)	(Mio EUR)		
EU-15	31 153	32 566	43 307	100.0	32 681	31 514	38 312	100.0	1 528	-1 052	-4 995
UEBL	3 448	-	-	-	2 005	-	-	-	-1 443	-	-
B	-	3 647	4 387	10.1	-	1 913	2 423	5.6	-	-1 733	-1 964
DK	232	152	185	0.4	427	387	481	1.1	195	235	296
D	4 190	4 353	5 623	13.0	5 583	6 411	6 839	15.8	1 393	2 058	1 216
EL	227	262	347	0.8	160	167	238	0.5	-67	-95	-109
E	3 118	3 282	5 973	13.8	1 583	1 637	1 855	4.3	-1 535	-1 644	-4 118
F	5 571	5 552	7 052	16.3	8 226	7 935	10 508	24.3	2 655	2 384	3 456
IRL	246	229	290	0.7	573	634	689	1.6	328	405	400
I	4 415	4 225	5 041	11.6	3 963	2 838	3 992	9.2	-452	-1 387	-1 049
L	-	21	14	0.0	-	64	53	0.1	-	43	39
NL	2 526	2 807	3 126	7.2	2 399	2 178	2 671	6.2	-127	-629	-455
P	981	957	1 626	3.8	738	648	838	1.9	-243	-309	-788
A	299	280	477	1.1	320	341	537	1.2	21	60	60
FIN	175	182	197	0.5	441	460	579	1.3	266	277	383
S	213	148	211	0.5	730	581	746	1.7	517	432	535
UK	5 513	6 469	8 759	20.2	5 533	5 321	5 862	13.5	20	-1 148	-2 897

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

Table 4 - Main EU's imports from ACP's by products

HS chapter	1995	1999	2000	Share in total extra-EU trade of this chapter			Share in total imports from ACP's	Cumul of shares
				1995	1999	2000	2000	
	(Mio ECU/EUR)			(%)			(%)	
27 Mineral fuels	4 088	4 651	10 198	6.3	5.9	6.9	23.6	23.6
71 Precious stones and metals	2 520	6 121	8 646	12.1	23.1	24.2	20.0	43.5
44 Wood, articles of wood	1 277	1 372	1 584	13.3	11.4	11.2	3.7	47.2
26 Ores, slag, ashes	634	1 243	1 524	9.7	17.8	17.2	3.5	50.7
08 Edible fruits and nuts	616	1 381	1 495	9.0	17.6	18.5	3.5	54.2
18 Cocoa, cocoa preparations	1 276	1 791	1 400	73.2	80.5	74.1	3.2	57.4
03 Fish, crustaceans	630	1 138	1 369	10.4	13.7	14.4	3.2	60.6
09 Coffee, tea, mate, spices	1 888	1 287	1 236	31.3	23.7	23.2	2.9	63.4
72 Iron, steel	181	741	1 134	1.9	7.9	8.1	2.6	66.1
89 Ships, boats, floating structures	201	353	1 104	9.9	7.7	17.1	2.6	68.6

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

In addition, most of these products underlie strong fluctuations in world market prices meaning that export earnings are not a very regular or earnings are not a reliable source of income. It is for this reason that the Cotonou Agreement (Article 68) specifies that the signing parties recognise that instability of export

earnings, particularly in the agricultural and mining sectors, may adversely affect the development of the ACP States and jeopardise the attainment of their development requirements. A system of additional support in order to mitigate the adverse effects of any instability in export earnings, including in the

agricultural and mining sectors, is therefore set up within its financial envelope. In fact, such an EU funding mechanism has existed under the Lomé Convention, as well (the so-called STABEX funds)

Table 5 - Top three products for top four exporting ACP countries

Partner country / HS chapter	1995	1999	2000	2000		Variation 00/99
				Share in total	Cumul	
	(Mio ECU/EUR)			(%)		(%)
South Africa						
Total	7 752	10 700	14 446	100.0		35.0
71 Precious stones and metals	2 610	3 136	5 297	36.7	36.7	68.9
27 Mineral fuels	1 049	1 047	1 435	9.9	46.6	37.0
84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	200	623	953	6.6	53.2	53.0
Nigeria						
Total	3 443	2 795	6 411	100.0		129.4
27 Mineral fuels	2 885	2 258	5 902	92.1	92.1	161.4
18 Cocoa, cocoa preparations	128	194	122	1.9	94.0	-37.2
41 Hides, skin, leather	94	82	88	1.4	95.3	7.9
Ivory Coast						
Total	2 068	2 080	1 960	100.0		-5.8
18 Cocoa, cocoa preparations	732	1 057	860	43.9	43.9	-18.7
44 Wood, articles of wood	333	276	277	14.1	58.0	0.3
08 Edible fruits and nuts	174	213	233	11.9	69.9	9.3
Cameroon						
Total	1 175	1 320	1 711	100.0		-5.8
27 Mineral fuels	272	403	648	37.9	37.9	-18.7
44 Wood, articles of wood	355	402	481	28.1	66.0	0.3
08 Edible fruits and nuts	92	101	150	8.7	74.7	9.3

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

Table 6 - Main EU's exports to ACP's by products

HS chapter	Value			Share in total extra-EU trade of this chapter			Share in total EU's exports to ACP's	Cumul of shares
	1995	1999	2000	1995	1999	2000	2000	
	(Mio ECU/EUR)			(%)			(%)	
84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	2 623	5 658	6 320	2.3	3.9	3.6	16.5	16.5
85 Electrical machinery, equipments	1 165	3 474	4 097	2.0	3.7	3.3	10.7	27.2
89 Ships, boats, floating structure	1 886	1 948	3 866	29.6	23.4	37.7	10.1	37.4
87 Road vehicles	1 442	2 834	3 653	2.7	4.0	4.1	9.6	46.9
88 Aircraft, parts	1 138	1 843	2 014	5.4	5.9	6.4	5.3	52.2
30 Pharmaceutical products	570	1 202	1 418	4.0	4.5	4.4	3.7	55.9
27 Mineral fuels	513	664	1 305	3.8	3.9	4.3	3.4	59.3
90 Optical, photographic instruments.	371	849	1 016	1.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	62.0
39 Plastics, plastics products	473	873	1 012	2.7	3.8	3.6	2.6	64.6
73 Articles of iron or steel	608	700	766	5.1	5.1	4.9	2.0	66.6

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

Coffee and tea loose market shares...

Some interesting points worth mentioning in the EU's ACP import data are that firstly imports of mineral fuels have strongly risen (as mentioned several times above), but secondly that the share of ACP mineral fuels in total EU imports of mineral fuels has remained more or less steady at 6-7% between 1995 and 2000, i.e. no additional market shares were gained. The same holds true for wood (market share at around 11-13%) and cocoa

(somewhat fluctuating between 70-80%). Coffee and tea (chapter 09 of the HS) on the other hand seem to have lost some market share (down from 31% in 1995 to 23% in 2000), while edible fruits and nuts (chapter 08 of the HS) and seafood (chapter 03 of the HS) gained market shares.

...while close to half of exports are in machinery, ships and vehicles

As for EU exports to ACP countries, the EU exported mostly machinery (that is, machinery, including electrical, or chapters 84 and 85 of

the Harmonised System taken together), ships (HS chapter 89) and vehicles (HS chapter 86) to the ACP countries (see table 6). These commodity categories accounted for slightly less than half of total EU exports.

Aircraft and parts, pharmaceutical products and mineral fuels also made up some larger share of exports to ACP countries in 2000. Most commodities traded were marginal in terms of their share in overall EU exports to the rest of the world.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The country aggregates:

EU: EU-15.

ACP: Countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific – Lomé Convention= Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas (The), Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Cook Islands, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius,

Micronesia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Data sources: Customs sources. Eurostat Comext database, EEC special trade domain for bilateral trade between the EU and ACP.

System: Special trade.

Statistical values: EU: CIF values for imports and FOB values for exports.

Classification: Chapters of the Harmonised System.

2001 data are provisional

In this report, 1Bn = 1000 Mio.

For further information, please consult <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/cooperation/>

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title External and intra-EU trade - monthly statistics
 Catalogue No KS-AR-02-002-EN-C Price EUR 20

➤ Databases

Comext, domain EC special trade, Comtrade

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