



ACP

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

Brexit & EPAs – A Youth Perspective

Ramphal Institute Roundtable, 15 July 2016

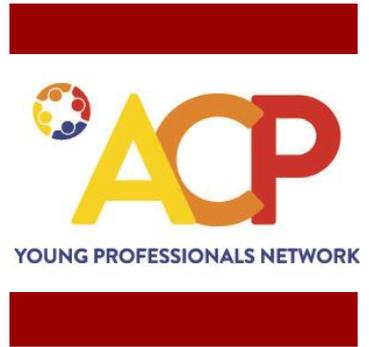
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ACP YPN on Brexit & EPAs



1. Where are the Youth?

- Youth in UK referendum on 'Brexit'
- Youth in EU-ACP partnership (Cotonou)
- Youth in EU-ACP EPAs

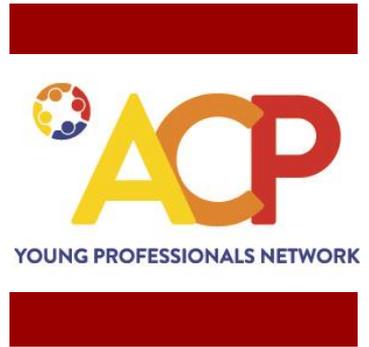
2. Brexit & EPAs – A youth Perspective

- Brexit & EPAs = Brexit & TTIP
- Brexit & EPAs: Structural challenges?
- Recalling Sir Shridath Ramphal & dependency

3. Recommendations

+ *Find out more about ACP YPN mission, goals & advocacy*

1.1 Youth in Brexit



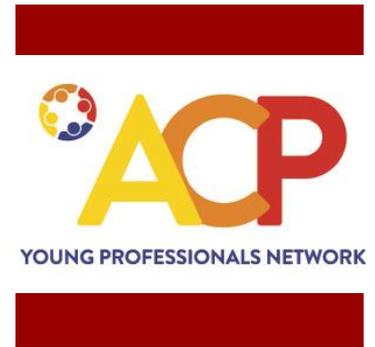
In the **UK referendum**, 51.9% of the 72% of voters voted for the UK to leave the EU, while 48.1% voted for the UK to remain.

The **youth voice** has been obscured in this debate, alongside general remain voices insofar as it continues to be reported that 'the British people' have voted to leave the EU.

- The **YouGov poll** predicts that **75% of 18-24 year olds wanted to remain**. Therefore youth population overwhelmingly wanted to remain.



1.2 'Youth' in EU-ACP partnership: Art. 26 CPA



Cooperation shall also support the establishment of a coherent and comprehensive policy for realising the potential of youth so that they are better integrated into society to achieve their full potential. In this context, cooperation shall support policies, measures and operations aimed at:

- a) protecting the rights of children and youth, especially those of girl children;
- b) promoting the skills, energy, innovation and potential of youth in order to enhance their economic, social and cultural opportunities and enlarge their employment opportunities in the productive sector;
- c) helping community-based institutions to give children the opportunity to develop their physical, psychological, social and economic potential; and
- d) reintegrating into society children in post-conflict situations through rehabilitation programmes.

1.3 Youth in the EPAs?



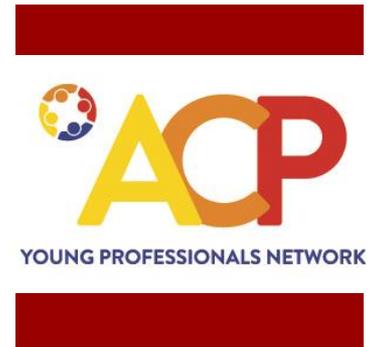
The **Cariforum-EU EPA** is the only EPA to-date that refer to young people in two cases: (i) **Art. 191** one in reference to 2006 ECOSOC declaration on full employment and decent work; (ii) **Art. 5** on monitoring of the agreement.

- No specific losses for youth IN the EPA texts: (i) at the UN level this declaration still stands; (ii) ‘youth issues’ in the spirit of Art.26 CPA have so far been under-utilised.

BUT it is nevertheless **urgent to improve youth inclusion in policy-making processes** so that we can **co-create the future** that these **agreements promise us.**



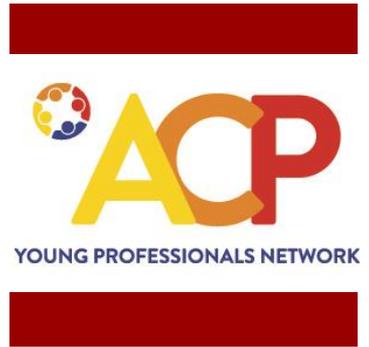
2.1 Brexit & EPAs = Brexit & TTIP



- On the **EPAs** and a possible Brexit, **the structural challenges are the same as those discussed on TTIP***.
- In the **TTIP** scenario, the **EU**, in its Trade and Investment Strategy **‘Trade for All’** has already said *“FTAs can serve as a laboratory for global trade liberalisation. (...) This could be explored, starting with countries that have close relationships with the EU or the US and are ready to meet the high level of ambition.”*
- In this case, the UK can still be part of a TTIP and by extension with the EPAs, the UK may still be able to join.
- OR, in the case that the UK goes it alone, this could induce the EU to join a future UK agreements or opt for a third way.

**see Ramphal Institute Roundtable on TTIP & its implications for ACP & Commonwealth developing countries*

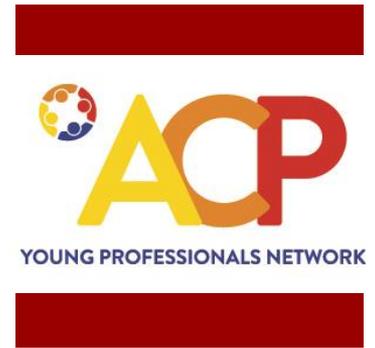
2.1 Brexit & EPAs = Structural challenges?



- Potential three-fold implications:
 - i. preference erosion and trade diversion
 - ii. rules and standards-taking
 - iii. geopolitical marginalisation.

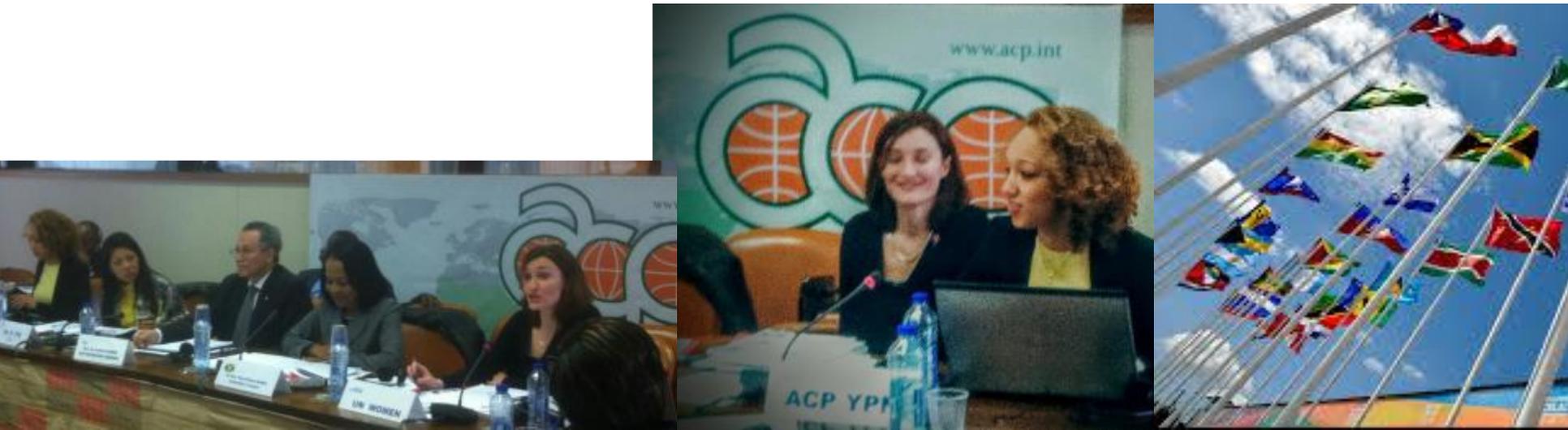


2.2 Recalling Sir Shridath Ramphal



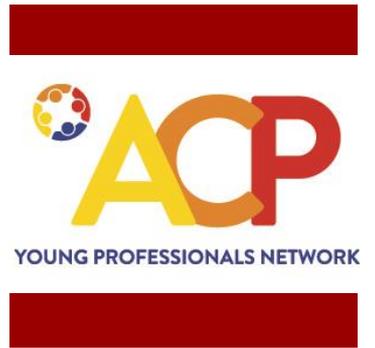
- *“The challenge that faces developing countries is not merely the challenge of economic development, but the fact that in failure lies the danger of returning to a new dependency - a new kind of colonialism - deriving from economic weakness.”*

Sir Shridath Ramphal, *Glimpses of a Global Life*, 2014



3. Recommendations

1. ACP countries must get their houses in order and focus on economic transformation, especially in run up to Post-Cotonou
2. ACP countries must continue to engage on key trade issues, especially with EU27 market penetration (not just access)
3. ACP must foster youth mainstreaming*, creating an enabling environment for youth and youth organisations





ACP

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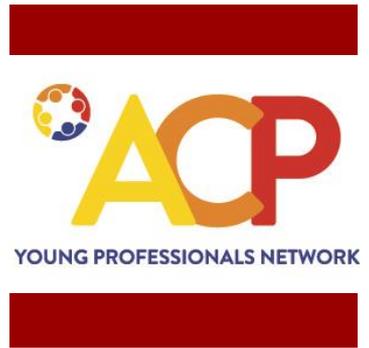
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Response to EU consultation [here](#).

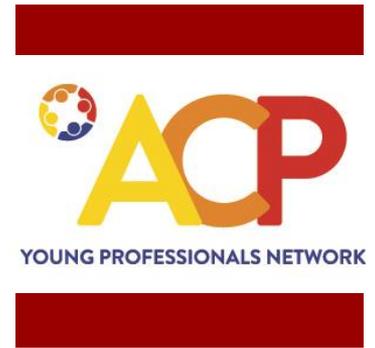
Find out more: ACP YPN Mission



The “ACP YPN” mission is to play an active role in policy-making processes, which have direct or indirect implications for young professionals, regardless of their nationality, colour, ethnicity, religion, ability or disability, in order to assure that all young professionals can be equal citizens , active and capable of positively influencing a world that embraces them and incorporates them from the local to international level.

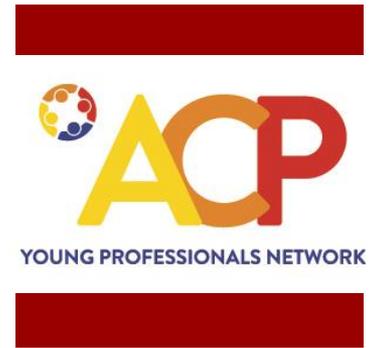


Find out more: ACP YPN Goals (I)



- i. Improve the quality of the integration of diverse youth perspectives through identifying the opinions of young professionals of ACP origin, in order for them to benefit from professional development opportunities and integration in society;
- ii. Stimulate interaction and exchange between young people of ACP origin in an environment, which encourages them to express their skills and capabilities, in order to catalyse their potential to contribute to policy-making and policy implementation processes in society from the local to international level;

Find out more: ACP YPN Goals (II)



- iii. Facilitate the communication of ACP youth perspectives in dialogues with other youth organisations, EU and ACP institutions and international organisations as well as academic institutions;
- iv. Promote the power of inclusion of youth perspectives to contribute to positive international relations through intra- and inter-generational, and intra- and inter-continental exchanges, between professionals of ACP origin, the international community in Europe and beyond;
- v. Advocate in the favour of exchanging perspectives and the importance of North-South, South-South and triangular dialogue to attain a better understanding of the value of exchange, dialogue and to contribute to policy-making processes, which will benefit a world in harmony with nature and the ecosystem.

Find out more: ACP YPN activities



EU

- Fortnightly socials in Brussels (ongoing)
- Ambassador series (ongoing)
- EU Consultation on EU-ACP relations, December 2015
- European Youth Event, Strasbourg, 20-21 May 2016
- European Development Days, Brussels, 15-16 June 2016

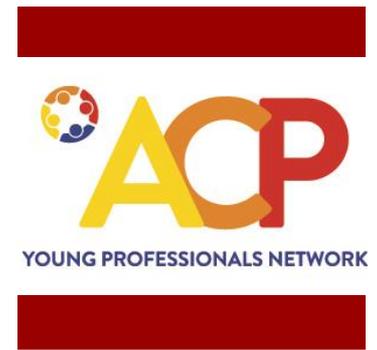


International

- Inter-Generational Dialogue within the framework of the 26th African Union Heads of State Summit., Addis Ababa, 27-31 January 2016
- Commonwealth Youth Leadership Training, London, 16-18 March 2016
- SALISES Caribbean Youth Conference, Barbados, 30 March – 1st April 2016



Find out more: ACP YPN advocacy on pioneering youth-mainstreaming*



“Mainstreaming a **youth** perspective is the process of assessing the implications for **youth**, **young** women and **young** men, of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making **young** women's as well as **young** men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that **young** women and **young** men benefit equally and **age discrimination** is not perpetuated.”

UN Economic and Social Council on 'gender-mainstreaming'

**Using the UN ECOSOC gender mainstreaming text as a model to pioneer youth mainstreaming*