

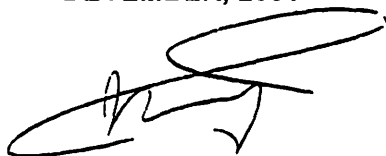
facilities to all coastal shipping lines

- ii) They shall also allow the use, by the coastal shipping lines, of the transit terminals and other facilities at the port.

Article 4

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority. It shall also be published by each Members State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT DAKAR, THIS 21ST DAY OF
DECEMBER, 2001**



**H. E. ALPHA OUMAR KONARE
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY**

**TWENTY FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT
DAKAR, 20 - 21 DECEMBER 2001**

**DECISION A/DEC.11/12/01 RELATING TO THE NE-
GOTIATION OF A REGIONAL ECONOMIC PART-
NERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST AFRI-
CAN ACP STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
(EU)**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Treaty estab-
lishing the Authority of Heads of State and Govern-
ment and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of decision A/DEC.8/12/99 dated 10 De-
cember 1999 concerning the strengthening of the

partnership between West Africa and the European Union and designating ECOWAS as the regional framework for the coordination of the relationship between West African States and the European Union;

RECALLING the Cotonou Agreement signed on 27 June 2000, relating to cooperation arrangements between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States;

CONVINCED that the conclusion of a regional economic partnership agreement as envisaged under the said ACP/EU Cotonou Agreement can serve as a mechanism for enhancing the development and integration of the West African economies;

RE-AFFIRMING its commitment to the acceleration of the regional integration process through the early establishment of a customs union and the creation of a single regional convertible currency;

CONVINCED that the degree of regional integration already achieved in West Africa through ECOWAS and UEMOA, and the measures envisaged for the achievement of market integration will enable the region to satisfy the conditions for concluding a regional partnership agreement with the European Union;

NOTING the commitment of the ECOWAS Execu-
tive Secretariat and the UEMOA Commission to the harmonisation of their market and monetary integra-
tion programmes, and the positive results achieved through their regular consultative meetings.

DECIDES

Article 1

West African countries shall negotiate, as a group, a regional economic partnership agreement with the European Union with a view to facilitating the development and integration of the economies in the region.

Article 2

1. The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat shall, in collaboration with the UEMOA Commission and appropriate authorities in each Member State, take all necessary measures to ensure the successful conclusion of the said regional economic partnership agreement.
2. For the purpose of the paragraph above, a regional negotiation coordinating committee and such other technical arrangements shall be established to enable West Africa achieve the negotiating capacity required for the conclusion of a partnership agreement with the European Union.

Article 3

Each Member State shall establish the necessary national institutional arrangement to ensure its maximum contribution to the negotiation of the regional economic partnership agreement.

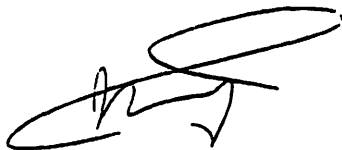
Article 4

The ACP Secretariat and European Commission are invited to provide all necessary technical and Financial assistance to the West African countries and regional organisations for the conclusion of the proposed partnership agreement between the European Union and the ACP states in the West African region.

Article 5

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT DAKAR, THIS 21ST DAY OF
DECEMBER, 2001**



**H. E. ALPHA OUMAR KONARE
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY**

**TWENTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU-
THORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT
DAKAR, 20 - 21 DECEMBER 2001**

**DECISION A/DEC.12/12/01 RELATING TO THE RE-
NEWAL OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF COOPERS,
LYBRAND & DIEYE AS EXTERNAL AUDITORS TO**

THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 & 9 of the Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of an External Auditor to the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 relating to the appointment of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/AHSG/DEC.1/2/2000 dated 26th February 2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the contract between ECOWAS and Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye, dated 26 February 2000 relating to the conditions of service of the External Auditors to the Community Institutions;

CONSIDERING that under the provisions of Article 75 of the revised Treaty, the appointment of the External Auditors is for a two-year period renewable twice only for a two-year period each time;

CONSIDERING that the initial two-year of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions expires on 25 February 2002;

CONSIDERING that during its term of office Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye discharged its duties with competence and efficiency;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the forty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers held in Dakar from 15 to 17 December 2001;

DECIDES**Article 1**

The term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions is hereby renewed for a period of two years, beginning from 26 February 2002

Article 2

This Decision shall be published by the executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government. It shall also be published in the Official Gazette of each Member State within the same time frame.