

**Report of the Follow-up Committee (FC)
Gerona Meeting, Spain, 4 – 5 May 2010**

1. The Brussels Declaration Follow up Committee (FC) held its first meeting in Gerona on May 4th and 5th 2010 during the international “Culture and Development” seminar (chaired by Jean-Claude Boidin, European Commission).
2. The FC looked over the status report including the main activities undertaken in the field of ACP / EU cultural cooperation since the Brussels Colloquium in April 2009.

The [activity report](#) particularly envisages:

- The efforts undertaken to include a cultural cooperation section in the National and Regional Indicative Programmes (NIP/RIP) ;
 - The negotiation of cultural protocols in the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA);
 - The funding of support actions for culture through the ‘Investing in People’ thematic programme (IiP) and the intra ACP programmes;
 - The cultural aspects of the EU/Africa partnership;
 - As well as awareness raising and communication actions that have been led for a year to promote the link between culture and development.
3. The FC paid particular attention to the opinion of the culture professionals present in the Committee and who are the initiators of the Brussels Declaration and invited the professionals to frankly express themselves on the follow-up of the Brussels Declaration as well as on their own role in the implementation support.

Following their works, the culture professionals, members of the FC adopted [Recommendations](#).

4. The FC raised concerns about the small number of ACP countries that, during the 10th EDF mid-term review, asked to integrate a cooperation section in their cooperation NIP with the EU. The MC witnesses a worrying discrepancy between the ambitions expressed in Brussels by the Ministers and culture professionals and their translations in the cooperation strategies developed between the national authorising officers (NAO) and the delegation heads.

5. As to the Regional Indicative Programmes (RIP), the mid-term review being postponed to the 2nd semester 2010, the FC consequently wished that, for this occasion, culture might become a visible element of the regional strategies.
6. The FC stresses the importance of the protocol on cultural exchanges included in the EPA with Cariforum and wishes that similar protocols be included in the EPAs being currently negotiated with other ACP regions, particularly West Africa.
7. The FC observes the high expectations surrounding the future intra ACP programme of the 10th EDF, in the making between the Commission services and the ACP secretariat. The FC wishes that culture professionals be informed and consulted on the conception of this new programme before it is presented to the decision-making bodies and closely associated to its launching to make its potential known.
8. The FC appreciates the increasing coordination efforts by EU member states and their cultural cooperation institutions and particularly their combined implication in the cultural industry mappings in ACP countries. It wishes the results of these surveys to be widely disseminated through the member state and EU delegation cultural cooperation networks and that they feed the ACP Observatory to allow for a better measurement of culture economic weight and potential per country and region.
9. The FC wishes that its first meeting report and culture professional recommendations be quickly known to UE and ACP states decision-makers, and particularly the Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs and Secretary General of ACP countries, Mohamed Ibn Chambas whose support is indispensable to maintain the impetus provided in Brussels in April 2009 and to ensure a good implementation of the Brussels Declaration. Through them, it wishes this report to be brought to the attention of the joint ACP-EU institutions, Council of Ministers as well as Parliamentary and joint Assemblies.
