

TITLE XIII

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRADE-CAPACITY BUILDING

ARTICLE 324

Objectives

1. The Parties agree to strengthen cooperation that contributes to the implementation of this Agreement and to make the most of it with the aim of optimising its results, expanding opportunities and obtaining the greatest benefits for the Parties. This cooperation shall be developed within the legal and institutional framework governing cooperation relations between the Parties, one of the main objectives of which is to boost sustainable economic development that enables to achieve greater levels of social cohesion and, in particular, to reduce poverty.
2. To achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, the Parties agree to attach particular importance to cooperation initiatives aimed at:
 - (a) improving and creating new trade and investment opportunities, fostering competitiveness and innovation, as well as the modernisation of production, trade facilitation and the transfer of technology;

- (b) promoting the development of Micro and SMEs, using trade as a tool for reducing poverty;
- (c) promoting fair and equitable trade, facilitating access to the benefits of this Agreement for all production sectors, the weakest in particular;
- (d) strengthening commercial and institutional capacities in this field, for the implementation of this Agreement and making the most of it; and
- (e) addressing the needs of cooperation identified in other parts of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 325

Scope and Means

1. Cooperation shall be carried out by means of instruments, resources and mechanisms available to the Parties to that end, according to the rules and procedures in force, and through the bodies of each Party competent to execute cooperation relations, including those regarding trade-related cooperation.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 1, the Parties may use instruments such as exchanging information, experience and best practices, technical and financial assistance, and the joint identification, development and implementation of projects, among others.

ARTICLE 326

Trade Committee Functions Regarding Cooperation Under this Title

1. The Parties shall attach particular importance to following up on the cooperation measures put in place to contribute to the optimal execution and making the most of the benefits of this Agreement.
2. The Trade Committee shall follow up and, where appropriate, provide stimulus and guidance in relation to the main aspects of cooperation within the framework of the objectives referred to in Article 324 paragraphs 1 and 2.
3. The Trade Committee may make recommendations to the competent bodies of each Party responsible for the programming and execution of cooperation.