

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate General Development and Relation with **African, Caribbean and Pacific States**

ACP II - West und Central Africa, Caribbean and OCT's

Relations with the countries and the region of Central Africa and the Great Lakes

Brussels, 24 Mai 2007

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C.O.D.E

S/c Mr Essoh

Rue Van Artevelde 43/2

Dcar Mr Sop, Drs Essoh and Ndjoumi,

At the request of Mr Barroso, the President of the European Commission, I am replying to your letter of the 27 April which you addressed to him raising concerns regarding the human rights, corruption and pre-electoral situation in Cameroon.

At your meeting with Ms O'Brien on the 27th april, where you presented your petition orally, she explained to you the current situation regarding relations between the EU and Cameroon.

Regarding the preparations for the parliamentary election to be held in July 2007, the Commission Delegation in Yaoundé is monitoring the Situation closely with the EU Member States and encouraging the government of Cameroon to implement the recommendations of the Commonwealth Observer mission following the 2004 Presidential election.

Regarding Corruption in Cameroon, the Commission has made the improvement of public finance management in Cameroon one of its key areas of support. In recent years, the government of Cameroon has taken certain steps to combat corruption such as putting into place an anti-corruption commission, signature of the UN anti-corruption Convention and reform of public finance management. Criminal investigations are also under way. However, the Commission believes that these commitments still need to be followed up with more vigorous action and results and continues to dialogue with the government of Cameroon on these issues in the framework of its political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. Civil society in Cameroon also have a key role to play in combating corruption and the Commission has just put into place a large-scale capacity building Programme to strengthen this sector.

The Commission does not consider the Situation in Cameroon warrants the application of an Article 8 as suggested by you in your letter.

Dialogue between the government of Cameroon and the international and donor community has become in recent years more constructive and substantive than in the past. Cameroon indeed faces serious problems regarding corruption, the rule of law and the providing a more positive future for the youth of the country. Donors are ready to continue working constructively with government in addressing such problems.

E. TISON

Head of Unit