



Brussels, 9.10.2015  
COM(2015) 500 final

ANNEX 1

**ANNEX**

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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL  
on the opening of consultations with Burundi under Article 96 of the Cotonou  
Partnership Agreement**

Brussels,  
His Excellency Mr Pierre Nkurunziza  
President of Burundi

Excellency,

In a statement issued on 23 July 2015 by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, the European Union presented its assessment that the decisions taken by the African Union and the East African Community which would have opened the way to credible and inclusive elections in Burundi had not been implemented.

The European Union also conveyed its view that, as Burundi had failed to respect essential elements of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, namely human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, it considered it appropriate to launch the procedure leading to the opening of consultations as foreseen by Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

In accordance with those provisions, we have the honour, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, to invite your country for consultations in order, as provided for in the Agreement, to study the situation in depth and, where necessary, take steps to remedy it. The European Union will undertake these consultations in a spirit of dialogue, with a view to seeking a mutually agreeable solution.

The consultations will provide an opportunity for Burundi to present the Government's programme, particularly in the areas of democratic principles, human rights and governance.

We propose that these consultations be initiated, at a date to be agreed jointly, in Brussels.

We have the honour to be, Sir, Yours faithfully,

For the Council

For the European Commission

Copies:

The Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors

The Secretary-General of the ACP Group