In 2013, the European Investment Bank celebrates 50 years of supporting development and economic growth in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. Since signing its first loan of ECU 1m in 1965 for a banana export operation in Côte d’Ivoire, the EIB has adjusted its lending in the regions to the evolving trends of EU development policies through the decades, as defined in successive ACP-EC partnership agreements. Continually broadening its geographical reach from the 18 African and Malagasy states signatory to the first agreement signed in Yaoundé in 1963, the Bank has now supported over 1,300 projects in 92 countries or regional groupings, with total lending of more than EUR 16bn1.

1 ACP, OCT regions, and the Republic of South Africa
Under the Yaoundé Conventions (1964-1975), the EIB’s lending helped develop and modernise local industry and manufacturing, as well as transport infrastructure, supporting the preferential trade agreements in place for agricultural and mineral exports to the EC. The Lomé Conventions (1975-2000) constituted the widest cooperation agreements in the history of North-South relations, and in addition to consolidating trade links between ACP regions and the EC, expanded financial assistance to encompass projects improving living conditions and economic and social development in ACP states. These included large-scale infrastructure (especially to expand and improve access to sustainable water and energy supplies) and financial sector development.

Under the Cotonou Agreement (2000-2020), the EIB’s lending activities in the ACPs are characterised by an increasingly targeted approach to help reduce poverty and stimulate sustainable growth, in particular through the development of the private sector, in line with the European Commission’s ‘Agenda for Change and the Millennium Development Goals. The creation of the ACP Investment Facility as a risk-bearing revolving fund in particular reinforces the EIB’s support for local enterprises and foreign direct investment. The EIB’s 50 years of experience, its proven expertise and its innovative financing capacity continue to show it to be a pivotal partner in the EU's contribution to sustainable development in the ACP countries.
Under the Yaoundé Conventions (1964-1975), the EIB’s lending helped develop and modernise local industry and manufacturing, as well as transport infrastructure, supporting the preferential trade agreements in place for agricultural and mineral exports to the EC. The Lomé Conventions (1975-2000) constituted the widest cooperation agreements in the history of North-South relations, and in addition to consolidating trade links between ACP regions and the EC, expanded financial assistance to encompass projects improving living conditions and economic and social development in ACP states. These included large-scale infrastructure (especially to expand and improve access to sustainable water and energy supplies) and financial sector development.

Under the Cotonou Agreement (2000-2020), the EIB’s lending activities in the ACPs are characterised by an increasingly targeted approach to help reduce poverty and stimulate sustainable growth, in particular through the development of the private sector, in line with the European Commission’s ‘Agenda for Change and the Millennium Development Goals. The creation of the ACP Investment Facility as a risk-bearing revolving fund in particular reinforces the EIB’s support for local enterprises and foreign direct investment. The EIB’s 50 years of experience, its proven expertise and its innovative financing capacity continue to show it to be a pivotal partner in the EU’s contribution to sustainable development in the ACP countries.

**EUR 16.3bn in total lending**

**EUR 1.5bn in total lending for drinking water/sanitation projects**

**Nearly EUR 53m for 71 technical assistance projects**
In 2013, the European Investment Bank celebrates 50 years of supporting development and economic growth in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. Since signing its first loan of ECU 1m in 1965 for a banana export operation in Côte d’Ivoire, the EIB has adjusted its lending in the regions to the evolving trends of EU development policies through the decades, as defined in successive ACP-EC partnership agreements. Continually broadening its geographical reach from the 18 African and Malagasy states signatory to the first agreement signed in Yaoundé in 1963, the Bank has now supported over 1 300 projects in 92 countries or regional groupings, with total lending of more than EUR 16bn1.

1 ACP and OCT regions, and the Republic of South Africa