

**COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE, ECOWAS**

**SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL (ASP/10/105)**

**AMENDING THE  
PROTOCOL (A/P/17/91) RELATING TO THE  
COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE**

**19 JANUARY, 2005**

**Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

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COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE**

January 2005

Published by the  
Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS

Plot 1137  
Dar Es Salaam Crescent,  
Wuse 2,  
Abuja, NIGERIA

Websites : [www.ecowas.int](http://www.ecowas.int)

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**SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL A/SP.1/01/05 AMENDING THE PREAMBLE AND ARTICLES 1, 2, 9, 22 AND 30 OF PROTOCOL A/P.1/791 RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE AND ARTICLE 4 PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE SAID PROTOCOL**

**THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,**

**MINDFUL** of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

**MINDFUL** of Article 33 of Protocol A/P. 1/7/91 relating to amendment to the Protocol on the Community Court of Justice;

**MINDFUL** of the Rules of Procedure of the Community Court of Justice;

**MINDFUL** of Regulation C/REG. 15/01/03 dated 23rd January, 2003 as amended by Regulation C/REG.5/6/03 of 27th June, 2003 establishing an ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the harmonisation of Community legislative texts, particularly Article 2 thereof, which defines the terms of reference of the Committee;

**CONSIDERING** that the Articles of the Treaty referred to in the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice are Articles of the Treaty of 28th May, 1975 and that it is therefore necessary to harmonise such references with Articles of the revised Treaty adopted on 24th July, 1993;

**CONSIDERING** the need to align the English version of Article 4 paragraph 1 of the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice with the French version of the text so as to ensure consistency;

**CONSCIOUS** of the role the Court of Justice can play in eliminating obstacles to the realisation of Community objectives and accelerating the integration process;

**CONVINCED** of the need to empower the Community Court of Justice to play their part in effectively ensuring that Member States fulfil their obligations;

**DESIRING** to facilitate the task of the Court in this regard expanding its competence and powers;

**DESIRING ALSO** to take all necessary measures to ensure smooth operations of the Court and guarantee effective implementation of its decisions;

**CONSIDERING** the report of the fifty-second Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja on 16th and 17th July 2004, on the draft Protocol amending the Preamble and Articles 1, 2, 9, 22 and 30 of Protocol A/P. 1/7/91 relating to the Community Court of Justice and Article 4 paragraph 1 of the English version of the Protocol;

**HEREBY AGREES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Article 1:**

**References in the Protocol to the Treaty of 28th May 1975 reconciled with references in the Revised Treaty of 1993.**

All references to the Articles of the Treaty of 28 May 1975 in the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice are hereby deleted and replaced by references to the revised ECOWAS Treaty adopted on 24th July 1993 as follows:

a) in the Preamble, references to Articles 4(1), 5, 11 and 56

of the Treaty are replaced by Articles 6, 7, 15, and 76(2) of the revised Treaty respectively;

b) in Article 1, references to Articles 1, 5, 6, 8(1), 8(2), and 11 of the Treaty are replaced by Articles 2, 7, 10, 17(1), 17(2), and 15 of the revised Treaty respectively;

c) in Article 2, the reference to Article 11 of the Treaty is replaced by Article 15 of the revised Treaty; and

d) in Article 9, the reference to Article 56 of the Treaty is replaced by Article 76(2) of the revised Treaty.

**Article 2:**

**Amendment of Article 4 (1) of English version of the Protocol of the Court reconciled with the French version.**

Article 4 paragraph 1 of the English version of the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice is amended as follows:

**“Article 4: Terms of office of Members of the Court.**

Members of the Court shall be appointed for a period of five (5) years. Their term of office may be renewed for another term of five (5) years only, except that for members of the Court appointed for the first time, the terms of office of three (3) members shall expire at the end of three (3) years and the term of the other four (4) members shall expire at the end of five (5) years”.

**Article 3:**

**Article 9 of Protocol on Community Court of Justice substituted.**

Article 9 of the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice is hereby deleted and substituted by the following new provisions:

**“Article 9: Jurisdiction of the Court.**

1. The Court has competence to adjudicate on any dispute relating to the following:
  - a) the interpretation and application of the Treaty, Conventions and Protocols of the Community;
  - b) the interpretation and application of the regulations, directives, decisions and other subsidiary legal instruments adopted by ECOWAS;
  - c) the legality of regulations, directives, decisions and other subsidiary legal instruments adopted by ECOWAS;
  - d) the failure by Member States to honour their obligations under the Treaty, Conventions and Protocols, regulations, directives, or decisions of ECOWAS;
  - e) the provisions of the Treaty, Conventions and Protocols, regulations, directives or decisions of ECOWAS Member States;
  - f) the Community and its officials; and
  - g) the action for damages against a Community institution or an official of the Community for any action or omission in the exercise of official functions.

2. The Court shall have the power to determine any non-contractual liability of the Community and may order the Community to pay damages or make reparation for official acts or omissions of any Community institution or Community officials in the performance of official duties or functions.

3. Any action by or against a Community Institution or any Member of the Community shall be statute barred after three (3) years from the date when the right of action arose.

4. The Court has jurisdiction to determine cases of violation of human rights that occur in any Member State.

5. Pending the establishment of the Arbitration Tribunal provided for under Article 16 of the Treaty, the Court shall have power to act as arbitrator for the purpose of Article 16 of the Treaty.

6. The Court shall have jurisdiction over any matter provided for in an agreement where the parties provide that the Court shall settle disputes arising from the agreement.

7. The Court shall have all the powers conferred upon it by the provisions of this Protocol as well as any other powers that may be conferred by subsequent Protocols and Decisions of the Community.

8. The Authority of Heads of State and Government shall have the power to grant the Court the power to adjudicate on any specific dispute that it may refer to the Court other than those specified in this Article.

**Article 4:**

**Insertion of a new Article 10 in the Protocol of the Community Court of Justice.**

The Protocol on the Community Court of Justice is amended by the insertion of the following new Article as follows:

**“Article 10: Access to the Court.**

Access to the Court is open to the following:

- a) Member States, and unless otherwise provided in a Protocol, the Executive Secretary, where action is brought for failure by a Member State to fulfil an obligation;
- b) Member States, the Council of Ministers and the Executive Secretary in proceeding for the determination of the legality of an action in relation to any Community text;
- c) individuals and corporate bodies in proceedings for the determination of an act or inaction of a Community official which violates the rights of the individuals or corporate bodies;
- d) individuals on application for relief for violation of their human rights; the submission of application for which shall:
  - i) not be anonymous; nor
  - ii) be made whilst the same matter has been instituted before another International Court for adjudication;

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- e) Staff of any Community institution, after the Staff Member has exhausted all appeal processes available to the officer under the ECOWAS Staff Rules and Regulations;

- f) Where in any action before a court of a Member State, an issue arises as to the interpretation of a provision of the Treaty, or the other Protocols or Regulations, the national court may on its own or at the request of any of the parties to the action refer the issue to the Court for interpretation.”

**Article 5:**

**Renumbering of the former Articles 10 to 22.**

The former articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are hereby renumbered to read 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 respectively.

**Articles 6:**

**Insertion of a new provision which becomes Article 24 of the Protocol of the Court of Justice.**

The Protocol of the Community Court of Justice is amended by the insertion of a new provision, which becomes the new Article 24 and reads as follows:

**“Article 24: Method of implementation of Judgement of the Court:**

1. Judgements of the Court that have financial implications for nationals of Member States or Member States are binding.

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2. Execution of any decision of the Court shall be in the form of a writ of execution, which shall be submitted by the Registrar of the Court to the relevant Member State for execution according to the rules of civil procedure of that Member State.
3. Upon the verification by the appointed authority of the recipient Member State that the writ is from the Court, the writ shall be enforced.
4. All Member States shall determine the competent national authority for the purpose of receipt and processing of execution and notify the Court accordingly.
5. The writ of execution issued by the Community Court may be suspended only by a decision of the Community Court of Justice."

**Article 7:**

**Renumbering former articles 23 to 33.**

The former articles 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 are hereby renumbered to read 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 respectively.

**Article 8:**

**Substitution of Article 30 of the Protocol of the Community Court of Justice.**

The Protocol of the Community Court of Justice is amended by the substitution of Article 30 by the following:

**"Article 30: Budget of the Court**

The budget of the Community Court of Justice shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Revised Treaty".

**Article 9:**

**Substitution of Article 31 of the Protocol of the Court.**

The Protocol of the Community Court of Justice is amended by the substitution of Article 31 by following:

**"Article 31: Official languages**

The Official languages of the Court shall be English, French and Portuguese".

**Article 10:**

The provisions of any other prior Protocol that is inconsistent with the provisions of this Protocol shall to the extent of the inconsistency be null and void.

**Article 11:**

**Entry into Force**

1. This Supplementary Protocol shall enter into force provisionally upon signature by Heads of State and Government. Accordingly, signatory Member States and ECOWAS hereby undertake to start implementing all provisions of this Supplementary Protocol.

2. This Supplementary Protocol shall definitively enter into force upon ratification by at least nine (9) signatory States, in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Member State.

Article 12:


Depository Authority

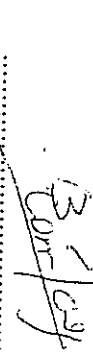
This Supplementary Protocol and all instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat which shall transmit certified true copies to all Member States and notify them of the dates of deposit of the instruments of ratification and shall register this Protocol with the African Union, the United Nations Organisation and such other organisations as the Council may determine.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS), HAVE SIGNED THIS SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL

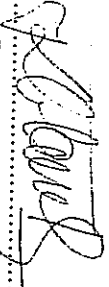
DONE AT ACCRA,  
THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005.


IN A SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES, ALL TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

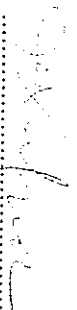
  
.....  
**H. E. Mathieu KEREKOU**  
President of the Republic of BENIN


  
.....  
**H. E. Blaise COMPAORE**  
President of FASO  
Chairman of the Ministers of BURKINA FASO


.....  
**H. E. Jose Maria Pereira NEVES**  
Prime Minister and Head of Government  
of the Republic of CAPE VERDE.


  
.....  
**H. E. Laurent GRAGBO**  
President of the Republic of CÔTE D'IVOIRE

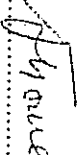
  
.....  
**H. E. Yahya A. J. JAMMEH**  
President of the Republic of THE GAMBIA


  
.....  
**H. E. John Agyekum KUFUOR**  
President of the Republic of GHANA


  
.....  
**H. E. Collon DALEIN DIALLO**  
Prime Minister, representative of the  
President of the Republic of GUINEA


  
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**H. E. Henrique Pereira ROSA**  
President of the Republic of GUINEA-BISSAU

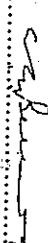
  
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**H. E. Gyude BRYDANT**  
Chairman of the National Transitional Government of  
LIBERIA


  
.....  
**H. E. Amadou Toumani TOURE**  
President of the Republic of MALI

  
.....  
**H. E. Mamadou TANDJA**  
President of the Republic of NIGER

  
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**H. E. Olusegun OBASANJO**  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA

  
.....  
**H. E. Abdoulaye WADE**  
President of the Republic of SENEGAL

  
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**H. E. Solomon E. BEREWA**  
Vice President of the Republic of SIERRA LEONE,  
representing the President of the  
Republic of SIERRA LEONE

  
.....  
**H. E. KOFI SAMA**  
Prime Minister of TOGO,  
representing the President of the TOGOLÉSE Republic