

Dear [REDACTED]

You may be interested in seeing a letter dated 19th June from Ambassador Gomes to Minister Coveney . It refers to a meeting in Dublin by a small Mission led by Minister Faugoo of Mauritius and mandated by an ACP Ministerial meeting in the first week of June. The letter does not attempt to repeat the ACP/LDC position on Reform but focusses on challenging some erroneous statements made at the meeting.

We are very concerned at attempts to divert our request for policy coherence to a narrow discussion on compensatory development aid. We have for a long time and consistently embraced the policy of "Trade is better than Aid" . The damage caused to our trade with the EU as confirmed by the EC's own recent report is both very large and inevitable. It cannot be offset by aid programmes

You will also note that the letter repeats the ACP opposition to HMG's most recent request for a guaranteed import of 3.5m tonnes of raw sugar on a duty free basis .

Kind Regards

Barry