



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

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by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2008

In 2008, a new crucial phase of EPA negotiations is beginning. ECDPM will continue providing the latest information on the state of play in each ACP region negotiating with the EU at dedicated webpages accessible via www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa and www.ecdpm.org/epa.

Updates will no longer be weekly as in the final months of 2007, but we will still aim at making news available “as-it-happens”, drawing from various reliable sources of information.

These spaces remain open for contribution and we invite all stakeholders and interested parties on ACP-EU trade relations to actively contribute, share or suggest any relevant piece of information on the on-going negotiations.



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Non-partisan sourcing and knowledge sharing on ACP-EU trade



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EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

1 . All ACP level

Latest updates

Available at

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/AllACP.php (EN)

And

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/tous-ACP.php (FR)

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2007

1.1 Current state of EPA negotiations as of 1 January 2008

The Caribbean is the only region that initialled a full EPA with the EU by 31 December 2007, the date of expiry of the waiver covering the Cotonou trade preferences. In order to establish a new WTO compatible trade regime from 1 January 2008 , most African non-LDCs (except for Nigeria , Republic of the Congo , Gabon and South Africa) and two Pacific non-LDCs have concluded interim agreements with the EU. In total, 35 ACP countries initialled either a full or an interim agreement by the end of 2007.

Countries that have neither initialled an agreement nor have access to the EBA regime are expected to export to the EU under the GSP regime. As of 20 December 2007, these are Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Gabon, as well as the Pacific countries Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands and Tonga. However, the EC may have to face political pressure if it applies the GSP regime to non-LDCs from 1 January 2008, which will imply raising tariffs.

South Africa will export under the TDCA.

The remaining ACP countries have either initialled an interim agreement or will export to the EU under the EBA regime available to LDCs.

[For an overview, see [ACP Market Access outlook 1 January 2008](#), European Commission, 20 December 2007.]

A brief look at each of the six negotiation regions gives a more detailed picture of the current state of play - see also our regional web pages:

- In the [Pacific](#), **Papua New Guinea** and **Fiji** have concluded interim agreements on 29 November 2007. Although other PACP countries' exports to the EU are very low in absolute value, this can be significant



relative to their overall country exports and thus they may face serious disruption of trade.

- In [East and Southern Africa](#) (ESA), the **East African Community** (EAC) members (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) have decided in November 2007 to form a separate EPA region and initialled an interim agreement on 27 November 2007. The remaining ESA countries have opted for a framework agreement with a common text but separate market access schedules. The ESA-EC interim agreement has so far been initialled by the **Seychelles** and **Zimbabwe**, on 28 November, **Mauritius** on 4 December, **Comoros** and **Madagascar** on 11 December 2007. **Zambia** initialled the agreement but has not submitted a market access schedule; hence it will export to the EU under EBA from 1 January 2008.
- In the [SADC](#) EPA region, an interim agreement has been initialled by **Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland** and **Mozambique** on 23 November 2007. **Namibia** initialled on 11 December 2007. **South Africa**, despite forming the customs union SACU with Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland, is not taking part in the interim agreement so far. Without joining the agreement, South Africa exports to the EU under its TDCA agreement with the EU.
- In [Central Africa](#), no regional interim agreement exists. The non-LDC **Cameroon** initialled an interim agreement with the EC on 17 December 2007. The other non-LDCs in the region, **Gabon** and the **Republic of the Congo**, have not concluded an interim agreement so far, but might do so in 2008.
- Similarly the [West African](#) region has indicated that it is not interested in concluding an interim agreement but estimates that another 12 -18 months of negotiation time are needed to reach a full EPA. **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Ghana** initialled interim agreements with the EC on 7 December and 13 December 2007 respectively. **Nigeria**, being the third non-LDC in the region, is unlikely to conclude such an agreement and has asked to be included in the GSP+ scheme instead. **Cape Verde**, which graduated from LDC status on 1 January 2008, will be able to export under the EBA regime for a transitional period of three years.
- In the [Caribbean](#), a full regional EPA was initialled on 16 December 2007.

[For an overview by the European Commission, see [Update: Interim Economic Partnership Agreements](#), EC, 19 December 2007]

Table 1 gives an impression of the liberalisation commitment contained in initialled agreements and table 2 provides an overview of sensitive products excluded from liberalisation.

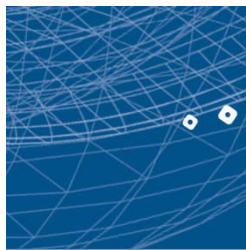


Table 1a: Liberalisation schedules agreed in initialled interim agreements
(cumulative value of imports from the EU, to be liberalised by the specified year)

	2008	2010	2012	2013	2017	2018	2022	2023	2033	total
Fiji	24%			37%		78%		81.5%		81.5%
Papua New Guinea	88.1%									88.1%
EAC		64%						80%	82%	82%
Comoros				21.5%			80.6%			80.6%
Madagascar				37%			80.7%			80.7%
Mauritius	24.5 %				53.6%		95.6%			95.6%
Seychelles				62%	77%		97.5%			97.5%
Zimbabwe			45%				80%			80%
Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland		86%								86% + 47 tariff lines
Mozambique	78.5%									80.5%
Cameroon						50%		80%		80%
Cote d'Ivoire						69.8%		80.8%		80.8%
Ghana						62.24%		80.48%		80.48%
Caribbean	52.8%			56%		61.1%		82.7%	86.9%	86.9%

Table 1b: Liberalisation schedules agreed in initialled interim agreements
(cumulative percentage of tariff lines, to be liberalised by the specified year)

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2017	2018	2022	2023	2033	total
Fiji	9% ^a		22% ^a			62% ^a		80% ^a		80%^a
Papua New Guinea	82.1% ^a									82.1%^a
EAC										74%^a
Mauritius	26% ^a				73% ^a		96.6% ^a			96.6%^a
Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland		86% ^a		44 ^b		3 ^b				86%^a + 47 tariff lines
Mozambique						100 ^b				
Cote d'Ivoire						83.9% ^a		88.7% ^a		88.7%^a
Ghana						72.81% ^a		80.01% ^a		80.01%^a
Caribbean								85.1% ^a	90.7% ^a	90.7%^a

^acumulative percentage of tariff lines

^badditional number of tariff lines to be liberalised by the specified year



Table 2: Goods excluded from liberalisation

Pacific	Certain agricultural and forestry products as well as non agricultural processed goods are excluded from liberalisation by both Papua New Guinea and Fiji. The main criterion of these exclusions is the desire to protect infant industry and maintain fiscal revenues.
EAC	Exclusions include: agricultural products, wines and spirits, chemicals, plastics, wood based paper, textiles and clothing, footwear, glassware. The main criterion of these exclusions is the desire to protect infant industry.
ESA	Several products from different sectors have been excluded from liberalisation, mainly due to the need to protect sensitive products or infant industries in the countries. In the case of Seychelles, these include meat, fisheries, beverages, tobacco, leather articles, glass and ceramics and vehicles. In the case of Zimbabwe, excluded products include products of animal origin, cereals, beverages paper, plastics and rubber, textiles and clothing, footwear, glass and ceramics, consumer electronics and vehicles. Mauritius excluded from liberalisation live animals and meat, edible products of animal origin, fats, edible preparations and beverages, chemicals, plastics and rubber articles of leather and fur skins, iron & steel and consumer electronic. In the case of Comoros, the excluded goods are mainly of animal origin, fish, beverages, chemicals and vehicles. For Madagascar, the excluded products comprise meat, fish, products of animal origin, vegetables, cereals, beverages, plastics and rubber, articles of leather and fur-skins, paper and metals among others.
SADC	Exclusions focus on agricultural goods and some processed agricultural goods and are based chiefly on the need to protect infant industries or sensitive products in these countries.
Central Africa	Certain agricultural as well as non agricultural processed goods are excluded from liberalisation by Cameroon. The main criterion of these exclusions is the desire to protect certain existing industries or infant industry and maintain fiscal revenues.
West Africa	Certain agricultural as well as non agricultural processed goods are excluded from liberalisation by Ivory Coast and Ghana. The main criterion of these exclusions is the desire to protect certain existing industries or infant industry and maintain fiscal revenues.
Caribbean	The main exclusions are agricultural and processed agricultural products; some chemicals, furniture and other industrial products.

(Table 2 quoted from: Update: Interim Economic Partnership Agreements, European Commission, 13 December 2007, http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2007/november/tradoc_136959.12.07.pdf and EPA Flash News, European Commission, 19 and 20 December 2007)

1.2 Next meetings at the all ACP-EC level

EPAs are on the [agenda of the African Union summit](#) on 25 January – 2 February 2008.

In their [declaration of 13 December 2007](#), ACP ministers welcomed “the assurances given by the President of the European Commission, Mr. Manuel Barroso at the EU-Africa Summit, held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 8 and 9 December 2007 that the discussions on the Economic Partnership Agreements would continue beyond the initialling of interim arrangements and that the contentious



clauses therein would be opened up for re-negotiation.” They further refer to an offer by President Barroso to visit the ACP regions. It however remains to be determined whether such a meeting will take place at the regional, all-Africa or ACP level. The West African region has already indicated that it is preparing for this meeting, which should take place in February 2008 (see [conclusions of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee](#), 17 December 2007). The date of February for “negotiations at the highest level” has also been mentioned in [press reports](#). However, during a press conference in January, the EC indicated its expectation to receive a request from the ACP side in order for a meeting to take place.

1.3 Recent events

Adoption of a regulation on market access by the Council of the European Union

20 December 2007

On 20 December 2007, the Council of the EU formally adopted a market access regulation to grant duty and quota free access to the EU market to ACP countries from 1 January 2008, with transition periods for sugar and rice. It applies to 35 ACP countries that have concluded negotiations on either a full EPA or an interim agreement, which are listed in Annex I of the regulation. The regulation provides for the possibility of amending the annex by countries concluding negotiations at a later point in time.

→ [Council Regulation applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Official Journal of the European Union, 31 December 2007

→ [Press release](#), Council of the European Union, 20 December 2007 (see page 29)

→ [Press release](#), European Commission, 20 December 2007

86th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers

10-13 December 2007

Ministers issued a declaration “expressing serious concern on the status of the Negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements”.

→ [Declaration](#), ACP Council of Ministers, 13 December 2007

EU-Africa Summit

7-9 December 2007

European and African Heads of Government approved the joint Africa-EU strategy. EPAs were addressed prominently in the discussions at the summit.

→ For a report on the summit including links to press articles, see [Summit ends with disputes on trade and human rights](#), europafrika.org, 10 December 2007

→ [Joint Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan](#), approved at the summit (in the strategy, see pp. 9-12 on trade; paragraphs 45, 46 and 99 on EPAs)



- Information by the [Portuguese Presidency of the EU](#) (documents on the summit, including participants' speeches)
- Information on europafrica.org
- see also *Additional Resources* (below) for more press articles

14th ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Kigali, 17 - 22 November 2007

Press release, 22 November 2007, published by DG Information, European Parliament:

"ACP countries need more time to negotiate a deal on the ACP-EU economic partnership agreements (for which a World Trade Organisation waiver expires at the end of 2007) says a "Kigali Declaration" adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, on 22 November. [...]"

- [Full press release](#)
- [Kigali Declaration](#), 22 November 2007
- Agenda [EN](#) [FR](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)

1.4 Background

1.4.1 Interim solutions in light of the expiry of the WTO waiver

While all parties remain committed to concluding comprehensive EPAs, as confirmed in the joint review endorsed in May 2007, progress in the negotiations has been slower than expected. By October 2007, it became apparent that EPAs would not be concluded by the target date of 31 December 2007, set by the expiry of the WTO waiver covering the current preferential trade regime of Cotonou.

In reaction to this, the European Commission issued a [communication](#) on 23 October 2007, which outlines a pragmatic approach to safeguard preferential market access for non-LDC countries from 1 January 2008¹. The communication aims at concluding WTO-compatible goods market access arrangements to be in order to extend the negotiation time towards complete EPAs while avoiding a disruption in trade. In line with this approach, a number of interim agreements have been concluded over the last weeks of 2007 between the EU and ACP regions, subregions and individual countries. Trade in goods is the only key area that needs to be covered by an agreement to comply with WTO rules. Other areas, on which agreement has been found, are included in most interim agreements. The interim agreements contain rendezvous clauses to continue negotiations in 2008 towards full EPAs.

This solution circumvents a loss of trade preferences while fully respecting the letter of WTO rules. However, concluding EPAs with sub-regions or individual

¹ After expiry of the WTO waiver covering the current preferential trade regime under the Cotonou Agreement, LDCs will have the possibility to export to the EC market duty and quota free under the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative. For non-LDCs, the Generalised System of Preferences will apply, which implies significantly higher tariffs on a number of products compared to the Cotonou regime.



countries is likely to have serious implications on regional integration dynamics in the ACP.

From 1 January 2008, those ACP countries that have neither concluded a full EPA nor an interim agreement export to the EU under the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative (which applies to LDCs) or under the standard Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) (which applies to non-LDCs).

[For details on the Generalised System of Preferences of the EU, comprising the general GSP, GSP+ and EBA, see http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/global/gsp/index_en.htm]

1.4.2 Development support for EPAs and Aid for Trade

As a consequence of EPAs, ACP countries are likely to face losses in public revenue through reduced tariff revenues. Further, while liberalising trade with the EC and regional partners, ACP countries will face adjustment costs due to restructuring of their economies and they will require support of their productive capacities in order to take full advantage of new export opportunities.

The EC will continue to provide development assistance under the European Development Fund (EDF) as well as under special assistance programs in the area of sensitive products such as bananas, sugar and rice funded from the EU budget. ACP countries stress the need to ensure additional funding for EPA support complementary to the EDF, in order to avoid diverting funds from other development areas to trade related projects.

On Trade Related Assistance (defined as support for trade policy and regulation and for trade development), the EU has made a firm commitment to increase its funding to €2 billion per year by 2010. Out of these, €1 billion is to be contributed by the EC and another €1 billion is to be delivered by EU member states. The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council ([GAERC meeting on 15-16 October 2007](#)) endorsed the [EU Strategy on Aid for Trade](#), which states that “in the range of 50% of the increase” in EU TRA will be available for ACP countries. This implied that about €300 to 400 million additional funds per year can be expected for Trade Related Assistance in ACP countries. Further, the EU will provide support in the framework of the wider Aid for Trade agenda, covering also building of productive capacities, trade-related infrastructure and trade-related adjustment. However, no precise quantitative commitments exist on this.



1.5 Additional resources

Recent press releases and articles:

[AU wants common African position on EU trade deals](#), Reuters, 8 January 2008

[L'Afrique dit « non »](#), Ignacio Ramonet, Le Monde Diplomatique, janvier 2008

[The sun sets on Cotonou](#), The Economist, 3 January 2008

[European Union cements market access for ACP countries; takes important step in EPA negotiations](#), European Commission, 20 December 2007

[EU market access to ACP countries: Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Council of the European Union, 20 December 2007 (see p. 29)

[Economic Partnership Agreements And Preferential Treatment](#), L'Express/AllAfrica.com, 18 December 2007

[How Europe's trade talks with poor former colonies became mired in mistrust](#), Alan Beattie and Andrew Bounds, Financial Times, 12 December 2007

[Poorer nations face import tariff rise as EU refuses to budge](#), Andrew Bounds, Financial Times, 11 December 2007

→ [Brussels cannot offer ACP unilateral trade access](#), Peter Mandelson, Financial Times, 12 December 2007

→ [Commission must be urged to heed ACP trade fears](#), Glenys Kinnock, 13 December 2007

[Africans reject EU trade pacts as deadline looms](#), Ian Traynor, The Guardian, 10 December 2007

→ [African nations are signing trade deals](#), Gareth Thomas, The Guardian, 12 December 2007

[Jeepers creepers, look at those EPAs](#), Financial Times, 11 December 2007

[EU's Mandelson hits back at African leaders on trade](#), William Schomberg, Reuters, 10 December 2007

[Summit ends with disputes on trade and human rights](#), europafrika.org, 10 December 2007

[Africa, EU battle over trade rules at landmark summit](#), AFP, 9 December 2007

[Sommet UE-Afrique: pluie de critiques sur les futurs accords commerciaux](#), AFP, 9 décembre 2007

[Q&A: EU-ACP trade deal](#), BBC, 7 December 2007

[Entretien avec Abdoulaye Wade, Président du Sénégal](#), par Ulysse Gosset, France 24, 6 décembre 2007

[EPAs: Distinguishing what we know from what we don't know](#), Chris Stevens, ODI, 30 November 2007



Recent documents:

[Council Regulation of 20 December 2007 applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Official Journal of the European Union, 31 December 2007

[Note on the state of play in the EPAs negotiations](#), European Commission, 20 December 2007
→ [ACP Market Access outlook 1 January 2008](#), European Commission, 20 December 2007

[Update: Interim Economic Partnership Agreements](#), European Commission, 19 December 2007

[Searching for an Alternative to Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Research Brief, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), December 2007

[European Parliament resolution on Economic Partnership Agreements](#), 12 December 2007

[ECIPE Senior Fellow Peter Draper on prospects for Economic Partnership Agreements after the EU-Africa Summit on December 8 & 9 2007](#), ECIPE, 11 December 2007

[Ten myths about Economic Partnership Agreements \(EPAs\)](#), DFID, 11 December 2007

[EPAs: Thinking Outside the European Box](#), Claire Delpuech and Georges Harb, December 2007

[EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements. Institutional and Substantive Issues](#), Amin Alavi, Peter Gibbon, Niels Jon Mortensen, DIIS - Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, November 2007
-> see also: [Overview of quantitative analyses of Economic Partnership Agreements: Market and Revenue effects of liberalisation of ACP barriers and enhanced EU market access](#), Ronald A. Babula, Kenneth Baltzer, Institute of Food and Resource Economics (FOI), Copenhagen 2007

[European Parliament debate on EPAs](#), 28 November 2007

[Kigali Declaration](#), ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, 22 November 2007

[ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Christopher Stevens, Mareike Meyn, ODI, Commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat, November 2007

[Council Conclusions on EPAs](#), Council of the European Union, 20 November 2007

[Position Paper on Sustainability Impact Assessment of EPAs](#), European Commission, 16 November 2007

[The EU's GSP+ arrangement as an alternative to the EPA process](#), Lorand Bartels, 12 November 2007

[Conclusions of the Meeting of ACP Ministers responsible for the EPA Negotiations and Trade](#), 9 November 2007



[Communiqué Issued by ACP Ministers of Trade on the WTO Doha Round of negotiations](#), 9 November 2007

[Legal issues relevant to the notification of EPAs under Article XXIV GATT](#), Lorand Bartels, 26 October 2007

[Coherence between Trade Liberalisation and Regional Integration Processes](#), Mareike Meyn, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), 2007

Key documents:

[Council Regulation of 20 December 2007 applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Official Journal of the European Union, 31 December 2007

[Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Economic Partnership Agreements](#), European Commission, 23 October 2007

[EU Strategy on Aid for Trade](#), adopted at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15 October 2007

[Overview of Article 37\(4\) Reviews of the EPA Negotiations](#), ECDPM Discussion Paper 81, October 2007

[From Legal Commitments to Practice: Monitoring Economic Partnership Agreements](#), Sanoussi Bilal, Franziska Jerosch, Niels Keijzer, Christiane Loquai, ECDPM Discussion Paper 79, October 2007

Monthly news:

- EPA Negotiations Update by Melissa Julian:
 - [Current issue](#)
 - [Previous issues](#)
- [Trade Negotiations Insights](#)

Background information:

- by ECDPM
 - [EPA Development Support InBrief series](#)
 - [InBrief series on trade](#)
- by the European Commission
 - [DG Trade webpage on EPA negotiations](#)
- by the ACP Secretariat
 - [Webpage on EPA negotiations](#)
- by CTA
 - [Executive brief on EPA negotiations](#)

Documents and press articles:

- [DG Trade i-centre](#) (EC press releases and other documents)
- [Bilaterals.org](#) (Critical press articles and draft documents)
- [News](#) on [acp-eu-trade.org](#) (a searchable archive of all ACP-EU trade news distributed via the [Weekly ACP-EU News](#))
- [Library](#) on [acp-eu-trade.org](#)



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

2. CARIFORUM-EU EPA

Latest updates

Available at

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/cariforum.php

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2007

2.1 Trade regime from 1 January 2008

The Caribbean is the only region to have initialled a full EPA with the EU so far.

2.2 Summary of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA

“On December 16 the European Commission initialled an Economic Partnership Agreement with Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Surinam, and Trinidad and Tobago (the CARIFORUM countries) covering all areas under negotiations.

2.2.1 Goods liberalization

The coverage of goods liberalised by CARIFORUM countries under this Agreement amounts to 61.1% of EC imports in value over 10 years, 82.7% over 15 years (85.1 % of tariff lines) and 86.9 % over 25 years (90.7 % of tariff lines). The main exclusions are agricultural and processed agricultural products; some chemicals, furniture and other industrial products. The Agreement covers all provisions necessary for a FTA agreement, such as provisions on import and export duties and charges, non-tariff measures, trade defence instruments (anti-dumping and countervailing measures, multilateral and bilateral safeguards), special provisions on administrative cooperation in custom matters, a protocol on rules of origin.

2.2.2 Services liberalization

The Agreement includes a Title on Services, Investment and E-commerce and the related schedules of commitments, which give rise to an agreement compatible with GATS article V. The sectoral coverage is significant with more than 80 percent for Dominican Republic, and between 50 to 62 percent of services sectors for all others except Haiti and Bahamas who will join the services and investment part of the agreement within 6 months. On the EC side,



there are important new commitments in the areas of movement of service providers (sellers of goods, investors, short term business visitors, graduate trainees), as well as for entertainers, artists, chefs de cuisine and fashion models. Beyond market access the Agreement contains significant regulatory principles in a number of sectors, in particular tourism at the request of Cariforum, to help them develop competitive services sectors and ensure benefits for the region and its citizens. In addition the EPA includes provisions to cooperate against corrupt practices of investors, as well as binding provisions on non-lowering of standards in the environmental and social fields and for cultural diversity laws and regulations. Finally the EPA also incorporates the first Protocol on culture implementing the UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity and providing Cariforum artists with easier movement of persons and co-production market access.

2.2.3 Other features

The Agreement contains provisions on Customs and Trade Facilitation, Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Agriculture and Fisheries, Current Payment and Capital Movements, Competition, Innovation and Intellectual Property, Public Procurement, Environment and Social Aspects. Part I of the Agreement contains Development Cooperation provisions setting out priority areas of action for the implementation of the Agreement. In turn each individual substantive chapters of the Agreement includes specific areas of cooperation. A Development cooperation declaration establishes the link with the Aid for Trade strategy and recalls the Commission and Member States' intention to contribute to the funding of a regional development fund. Finally, the agreement contains a detailed dispute settlement mechanism, as well as general, final and institutional provisions.”

(Summary provided by the European Commission, EPA Flash News, 20 December 2007)

For details on the negotiations preceding the agreement, see our [previous updates](#).



2.3 Additional resources

Recent press articles:

[Challenges expected for Carib countries adopting the EPA](#), David Jessop, Jamaica Gleaner, 6 January 2008

[Ambassador Richard Bernal: Caricom's deal broker](#), Jamaica Gleaner, 4 January 2008

[EU-Caribbean: New EPA sets timeline for trade liberalization](#), Bert Wilkinson, Terraviva Europe, 24 December 2007

[Update: Full Economic Partnership Agreement with the CARIFORUM countries](#), EPA Flash News, European Commission, 20 December 2007

[Milled rice export quota to EU up -duty free access to start in 2010](#), Starbroek News, 19 December 2007

[Rum industry welcomes EPA](#), CBC, 18 December 2007

[Cane farmers satisfied with sugar deals under EPA](#), Radio Jamaica, 18 December 2007

[Caribbean in historic deal with EU](#), Rickey Singh, Trinidad & Tobago Express, 17 December 2007

[European Commission and Caribbean countries decide on full Economic Partnership Agreement](#), European Commission, 16 December 2007

Recent documents:

[Message of Appreciation from the CARIFORUM Principal Negotiator to CARIFORUM Stakeholders](#), CRNM, December 2007

[Highlights Re Services and Investment in the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement \(EPA\)](#), CRNM, 18 December 2007

[Getting To Know The EPA](#), Special CRNM Update, 5 December 2007

[Letter from the Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs to Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago](#), 5 December 2007

[Letter on the state of play in CARIFORUM-EC EPA negotiations](#), Douglas Saunders, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, 14 November 2007

→ [Observations on the State of Play in the CARIFORUM / EC Economic Partnership Agreement \(EPA\) Negotiations](#), Havelock Brewster, Norman Girvan, 20 November 2007

→ [Comment by a CRNM associate](#)

[Statement issued at the conclusion of the 24th meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development \(COTED\) and the 4th meeting of the CARIFORUM Council of Ministers Meeting – External Negotiations](#), 15 November, Georgetown, Guyana



[Communiqué of the Special Meeting of CARIFORUM Head of Governments and EC Commissioners for Trade and for Development](#), Montego Bay, Jamaica, 4-5 October 2007

[Communiqué of the CARIFORUM ministerial meeting](#), 18-19 October 2007, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

News from the region:

[Website of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery \(RNM\)](#)

(includes press releases and a calendar of events)

Press articles and other news items:

[News](#) on acp-eu-trade.org (a searchable archive of all ACP-EU trade news distributed via the [Weekly ACP-EU News](#))

Monthly news:

EPA Negotiations Update by Melissa Julian:

→ [Current issue](#)

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Background information by ECDPM:

[InBrief 14C: Overview of the regional EPA negotiations: Caribbean-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)

[InBrief 15C: Update on regional EPA negotiations: Caribbean-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

3 . Central Africa-EU EPA

Latest updates

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and

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/Afrique-centrale.php (FR)

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2007

3.1 Trade regime from 1 January 2008

No regional agreement with the EC has been concluded by the end of 2007.

In order to safeguard market access for the non-LDC Cameroon after 31 December 2007, [Cameroon and the EC have initialled](#) an interim agreement on 17 December.

Negotiations with Gabon are going on, but no interim agreement has been initialled yet. Such an agreement may be concluded in 2008.

The third non-LDC in the region, Republic of the Congo, has [according to European Commissioner Mandelson](#) shown little interest in the negotiations.

The LDCs Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe export under the EBA initiative since 1 January 2008.

3.2 Summary of the Cameroon-EU interim agreement

3.2.1 Market Access Schedule

“The coverage of goods liberalised by Cameroon under this Agreement amounts to 80% of EC imports in value over 15 years; over 10 years it amounts to 50% of EC imports in value. All sectors are covered. The Agreement is available for signature by other members of the Central African negotiating configuration.

3.2.2 Agreement (goods)

The Agreement covers all major provisions of a trade in goods agreements such as provisions on custom duties, export taxes, a standstill clause, a non



discrimination clause, trade defence instruments (anti-dumping and countervailing measures, multilateral and bilateral safeguards), special provisions on administrative cooperation in custom matters, a chapter on custom and trade facilitation, a chapter on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as exception clauses.

The respective offers of the parties are set out in annexes attached to the agreement. The agreement also contains an annex on mutual administrative assistance in custom matters.

The Agreement provides that each party will apply its rules of origin in force on 01/01/08 and, in parallel, Chief Negotiators have written agreement to negotiate rules of origin to be annexed to the Agreement by 31/03/2008 at the latest.

3.2.3 Agreement (other components)

This Agreement focuses on safeguarding the market access of Cameroon to the EC on 01/01/2008 and avoids trade disruption which could have an important negative economic impact for this country. It hence focuses on trade in goods aspects.

The Agreement is accompanied by a chief negotiators' declaration and contains a preamble reaffirming the objective of concluding a global EPA with all Central African countries and regional organisations. Commitment to regional integration is also reasserted. Specific chapters in the Agreement identify the areas on which negotiations will continue in order to conclude a global EPA with the whole region (services, investment, competition, intellectual property, public procurement, sustainable development, protection of personal data).

The Agreement contains a Title on Development Cooperation covering priority areas of development cooperation for accompanying the implementation of this Agreement. The main areas identified are reinforcement and upgrading of productive sectors, cooperation in respect to fiscal adjustment, and the implementation of trade rules contained in the Agreement. The parties agree to cooperate in these areas notably in the context of the Cotonou Agreement.

Finally, the agreement contains a detailed dispute settlement mechanism, as well as general, final and institutional provisions."

(Summary provided by the European Commission)

3.3 Background

3.3.1 Outstanding issues at the regional level

Key outstanding issues towards a regional EPA relate to market access in goods and services and to accompanying measures to an EPA.

CEMAC still has to complete and harmonise its regional market access offer for trade in goods, which requires CEMAC countries to finalise their lists of sensitive products.

The development chapter is a key issue for Central Africa, which demands firm commitments on development support, additionality of funds available and delivery mechanisms.



3.3.2 Regional configuration

The Democratic Republic of Congo is currently negotiating under both the CEMAC and the ESA EPA configurations; it remains to be decided with which regional grouping the country will sign an EPA.

3.4 Next meetings

Negotiations towards a regional EPA are planned to be continued in 2008.

Furthermore, the interim agreement concluded with Cameroon is open for other countries in the region to join. Notably Gabon may be interested, as it has been holding negotiations on an interim agreement in the last weeks of 2007.



3.5 Additional resources

Recent press articles:

[European Commission and Cameroon agree interim EPA trade deal](#), European Commission, 17 December 2007

[Cameroon swells poor group striking EU trade deals](#), Tansa Musa, Reuters, 12 December 2007

[Ape : Paul Biya trahit la Cemac](#), Jean Baptiste Sipa, Le Messenger, 7 décembre 2007

[Commerce avec l'Union européenne : Des peaux de banane sur le chemin de l'APE](#), Cameroon-info.net, 5 décembre 2007

[Paul Biya pour la signature des Ape](#), Le Messenger, 3 décembre 2007

[Efficacité: Ce qu'il faut attendre de la réforme fiscale](#), Alexandre T. Djimeli, Cameroon-info.net, 30 novembre 2007

[EU, CEMAC Disagree Over Trade Accord](#), Joe Dinga Pefok, The Post, 23 November 2007

[La Cemac et la Ceaac s'accordent sur un tarif extérieur commun](#), Biloa Aimée, Le Messenger, 20 novembre 2007

[Gabon: Commerce: Le ministre Paul Biyoghe Mba explique les enjeux des Accords de partenariat économique \(APE\)](#), Gabonews, 17 November 2007

[Négociations : Ape: l'Union européenne divise pour mieux contraindre](#), Alain B. Batongué et Brice R. Mbodiam, Quotidien Mutations, 16 Novembre 2007

[Jacob Kotcho : Les préférences non réciproques doivent demeurer](#), Quotidien Mutations, 16 Novembre 2007

[Commentaire : Politique contre développement?](#), Quotidien Mutations, 16 Novembre 2007

Recent documents:

[More details on the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement with Cameroon](#), EPA Flash News, European Commission, 19 December 2007

[European Commission and Cameroon agree interim EPA trade deal](#), European Commission, 17 December 2007

[Declaration on the evolution of EPA negotiations in Central Africa](#), PANEAC (Platform of Central African Non State Actors), 16 November 2007

[L'Appel Citoyen, édition sur les négociations APE- UE – Afrique Centrale](#), ACDIC, novembre 2007

[State of play of EPA negotiations in Central Africa: results from the EU-CEMAC Ministerial meeting](#), in: EU News, Aprobev, CIDSE, Caritas Europe, October 2007



[Mémorandum de la Commission européenne, Réunion Ministérielle Conjointe sur l'Accord de Partenariat Economique entre la région Afrique centrale et l'Union européenne](#), 29 octobre 2007

[Négociations Afrique centrale - UE, Méthode et programme de travail novembre 2007 en vue de la conclusion des travaux techniques](#),
note de la Commission européenne, 29 octobre 2007

[Rapport des travaux du groupe de travail conjoint sur l'accès aux marchés et les autres questions douanières \(GTAD\)](#), Bruxelles, 22-23 octobre 2007, bilaterals.org

[L'Afrique centrale face au défi de l'accès au marché. Liste d'exclusion, calendrier de démantèlement et coûts d'ajustement](#)

Jacques Gallezot and David Laborde, Rapport final, 26 June 2007, Unité de Gestion de Projets APE: Projet 167/CEMAC, ITAQA (International Trade and Quantitative Analysis)

[European Commission Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development and Regional Trade Agreements - Central African regional workshop on building sustainable development issues into Economic Partnership Agreements \(EPA\)](#), Libreville, Gabon, 6-7 June 2007

Press articles and other news items:

[News](#) on acp-eu-trade.org (a searchable archive of all ACP-EU trade news distributed via the [Weekly ACP-EU News](#))

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Background information by ECDPM:

[InBrief 14A Overview of the regional EPA negotiations: Central Africa-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)

[InBrief 15A: Update on regional EPA negotiations Central Africa - EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

4 . West Africa-EU EPA

Latest updates

Available at

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/West-Africa.php (EN)

and

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/Afrique-Ouest.php (FR)

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2007

4.1 Trade regime from 1 January 2008

West Africa did not complete a regional EPA by 1 January 2008, due to insufficient progress in major areas of the negotiations. According to ECOWAS, [18 months of additional negotiation time](#) are needed to conclude a full EPA.

In light of the above, interim agreements were concluded between the EC and [Cote d'Ivoire](#) and Ghana, two of the four non-LDCs in the region.

The remaining non-LDCs, Nigeria and Cape Verde, export respectively under the standard GSP and under the EBA initiative since 1 January 2008.

Instead of negotiating an interim agreement, Nigeria has applied for the GSP+ scheme. As no decision on this application has been made, it is currently exporting to the EU under the standard GSP regime.

Cape Verde is classified as a non-LDC from 1 January 2008, but it will [be able to export to the EU under the EBA regime](#) for a transition period of at least three years.

The LDCs Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo export under the EBA initiative since 1 January 2008.

4.2 Interim agreement with Cote d'Ivoire

4.2.1 Text of the agreement

→ [Cote d'Ivoire-EU interim agreement](#)



4.2.2 Summary of the agreement

“Market Access Schedule

The coverage of liberalisation of Ivory Coast offer is 80.8% of the EC imports in value and 88.7% in tariff lines over 15 years, and over 10 years is 69.8% of the EC imports in value and 83.9% in tariff lines. All sectors are covered.

Coverage

The Agreement covers all major provisions of a trade in goods agreements such as provisions on custom duties, export taxes, a standstill clause, a non discrimination clause, trade defence instruments (anti-dumping and countervailing measures, multilateral and bilateral safeguards), special provisions on administrative cooperation in custom matters, a chapter on custom and trade facilitation, a chapter on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as exception clauses.

The respective offers of the parties are set out in annexes attached to the agreement. The agreement also contains an annex on mutual administrative assistance in custom matters.

The Agreement provides that each party will apply its rules of origin in force on 01/01/08 and, in parallel, will negotiate rules of origin to be annexed to the Agreement by 01/07/2008 at the latest.

Other components

This Agreement focuses on safeguarding the market access of Ivory Coast to the EC on 01/01/2008 and avoids trade disruption which could have an important negative economic impact for this country. It hence focuses on trade in goods aspects.

The Agreement is accompanied by a political declaration and contains a preamble reaffirming the objective of concluding a global EPA with all West African countries and regional organisations. Commitment to regional integration is also reasserted. A specific Title in the Agreement identifies broad areas on which negotiations will continue in perspective of concluding a global EPA with the whole region (services, investment, competition, intellectual property, public procurement, sustainable development, protection of personal data).

The Agreement contains a Title on Development Cooperation covering priority areas of development cooperation for accompanying the implementation of this Agreement. The main areas identified are the reinforcement and upgrading of productive sectors, the cooperation in respect to fiscal adjustment, to foster the improvement of business climate, and the implementation of trade rules contained in the Agreement. The parties agree to cooperate in these areas notably in the context of the Cotonou Agreement.



Finally, the agreement contains a detailed dispute settlement mechanism, as well as general, final and institutional provisions.”

(Summary provided by the European Commission)

4.3 Interim agreement with Ghana

“Ivory Coast invited Ghana as an observer to its negotiations on the stepping stone EPA. Negotiations with Ghana have thus been conducted on the basis of the text and market access offer agreed with Ivory Coast. There are only few differences between the two texts of the Agreement. The market access offers of Ivory Coast and Ghana, however, contain some differences (e.g. cars liberalized by Ghana and not Ivory Coast; aluminium liberalized by Ivory Coast and not Ghana).

Market Access Schedule

The coverage of liberalisation of Ghana offer is 80.48% of the EC imports in value and 80.01% in tariff lines over 15 years, and over 10 years is 62.24% of the EC imports in value and 72.81 in tariff lines. All sectors are covered.

Agreement (goods)

The Agreement covers all major provisions of a trade in goods agreements such as provisions on custom duties, export taxes, a standstill clause, a non discrimination clause, trade defence instruments (anti-dumping and countervailing measures, multilateral and bilateral safeguards), special provisions on administrative cooperation in custom matters, a chapter on custom and trade facilitation, a chapter on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as exception clauses.

The respective offers of the parties are set out in annexes attached to the agreement. The agreement also contains an annex on mutual administrative assistance in custom matters.

The Agreement provides that each party will apply its rules of origin in force on 01/01/08 and, in parallel, will negotiate rules of origin to be annexed to the Agreement by 31/03/2008 at the latest.

Agreement (other components)

This Agreement focuses on safeguarding the market access of Ghana to the EC on 01/01/2008 and avoids trade disruption which could have an important negative economic impact for this country. It hence focuses on trade in goods aspects.

The Agreement is accompanied by a political declaration and contains a preamble reaffirming the objective of concluding a global EPA with all West African countries and regional organisations. Commitment to regional integration is also reasserted. A specific Title in the Agreement identifies broad areas on which negotiations will continue in perspective of concluding a global EPA with the whole region (services, investment, competition, intellectual property).

The Agreement contains a Title on Development Cooperation covering priority areas of development cooperation for accompanying the implementation of this Agreement. The main areas identified are the reinforcement and upgrading of



productive sectors, the cooperation in respect to fiscal adjustment, to foster the improvement of business climate, and the implementation of trade rules contained in the Agreement. The parties agree to cooperate in these areas notably in the context of the Cotonou Agreement.

Finally, the agreement contains a detailed dispute settlement mechanism, as well as general, final and institutional provisions.”

(Summary provided by the European Commission)

4.4 Negotiations at the regional level

4.4.1 Current state of play

ECOWAS ministers overseeing the EPA negotiations met on 17 December 2007 in Ouagadougou in an extraordinary session of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee. (See [declaration](#) and [summary of conclusions](#).) Ministers deplored the pressure being exerted by the European Commission especially on non-LDCs on the region and reaffirmed their commitment towards concluding a regional EPA. They urged Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana to ensure that the interim agreements concluded are consistent with their commitments under the regional integration process.

Ministers further called upon the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions and the member states to prepare the meeting of African Heads of State with EC President Barroso in February 2008 and asked the EC to abstain from exerting pressure on Nigeria in order to conclude an interim agreement before February.

[Outstanding issues](#) towards a comprehensive regional EPA include among others the ECOWAS market access offer in goods and services as well as accompanying measures and the financing of these. No joint draft text of an EPA exists yet; a proposal has been submitted by the EC and a reaction by ECOWAS is still expected.

An interim agreement at the regional level has been refused by ECOWAS, as market access in goods is one of the most controversial aspects of the negotiations and concluding such an interim EPA would presuppose agreement on rules of origin and sensitive products.

4.5 Next meetings

Negotiations towards a complete regional EPA will continue in 2008.

The West African region is preparing for a meeting of Heads of State with EC President Barroso, which should take place in February 2008 (see conclusions of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee, 17 December 2007). The date of February for “negotiations at the highest level” has also been mentioned in press reports. However, during a press conference in January, the EC indicated its expectation to receive a request from the ACP side in order for a meeting to take place.



4.6 Additional resources

Recent press articles :

[La société civile malienne dit "non aux APE!",](#) Abdoul Karim Koné, L'Indépendant, 9 janvier 2008

[Marche contre les Ape : Forte mobilisation des jeunes pour un partenariat gagnant-gagnant,](#) Babacar Dione, Le Soleil, 8 janvier 2008

[Senegalese protest against trade deals with Europe,](#) Diadie Ba, Reuters, 7 January 2008

[Jean Louis Corr  a : « Dakar se trompe d'adversaire en s'attaquant   l'Ue »,](#) Rudolph Karl, African Global News, 3 janvier 2008

[West Africa bloc aims for EU trade deal by June '09,](#) Mathieu Bonkougou, Reuters, 17 December 2007

[L'Afrique de l'Ouest divis  e sur les accords commerciaux avec l'Europe,](#) AFP/Romandie News, 17 d  cembre 2007

[Ghana Signs EPA-Light,](#) Modern Ghana, 13 December 2007

[Ghana joins rush to secure EU trade,](#) Kwasi Kpodo, Guardian/ Reuters, 13 December 2007

[Entretien avec Abdoulaye Wade, Pr  sident du S  n  gal,](#) par Ulysse Gosset, France 24, 6 d  cembre 2007

Recent documents:

[Declaration of the Extraordinary Meeting of West African Ministers, members of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee on the EPA Negotiations,](#) ECOWAS and UEMOA, 17 December 2007

[Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Extraordinary Meeting of West African Ministers,](#) members of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee on the EPA Negotiations

ECOWAS and UEMOA, 17 December 2007

[D  claration politique des n  gociateurs lors du paraphe de l'accord de partenariat  conomique entre la Communaut   Europ  enne et la C  te d'Ivoire,](#) 7 d  cembre 2007

[Commission statement on behalf of Commissioner Mandelson and Commissioner Michel,](#) European Commission, 7 December 2007

[EPA: Reasons Why Nigeria is a Sitting 'Elephant',](#) Ken Ukaoha, Leo Ugbajah, NANTS (National Association of Nigerian Traders), 19 November 2007 (abbreviated version published in [Leadership/allAfrica.com](#))

→ [In response to 'EPA: Reasons why Nigeria is a sitting Elephant',](#) Tom Millar, Delegation of the European Commission to Nigeria, 20 November 2007 (similar article published in [This Day/allAfrica.com](#))

→ see also [African "elephant" wants to block trade talks – EU,](#) Reuters, 6 November 2007



[EC letter to ECOWAS and UEMOA](#) concerning the demand to request an extension of the WTO waiver, 11 October 2007

[Le choix régional des produits sensibles à l'APE soumis au jugement majoritaire des pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest](#), Jacques Gallezot, Unité Mixte de Recherche en Economie Publique, INRA - AgroParisTech, octobre 2007

→ [Analyse du rapport de Jacques Gallezot sur "Le choix régional des produits sensibles à l'APE soumis au jugement majoritaire des pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest"](#), Jacques Berthelot, Solidarité, 5 décembre 2007

Initialed agreement:

[EU-Cote d'Ivoire interim agreement](#), initialled on 7 December 2007, [bilaterals.org](#)

Press articles and other news items:

[News](#) on [acp-eu-trade.org](#) (a searchable archive of all ACP-EU trade news distributed via the [Weekly ACP-EU News](#))

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[InBrief 15B: Update on regional EPA negotiations: West Africa - EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

5 . ESA-EU EPA

Latest updates

Available at

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/esa.php (EN)

and

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/AfOA.php (FR)

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2008

5.1 Trade regime from 1 January 2008

Two interim agreements have been initialled in the Eastern and Southern African region, an ESA-EU framework agreement and an EAC-EU framework agreement. These are expected to lead to two full EPAs by the end of 2008 and by July 2009 respectively.

Those countries in the region that have not initialled an interim agreement (or have done so without submitting a market access schedule, as in the case of Zambia) are exporting under the EBA initiative since 1 January 2008, for which they are eligible due to their LDC status. These are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Sudan and Zambia.

5.2 ESA-EU framework agreement

5.2.1 Text of the agreement

→ [ESA-EU framework agreement](#)

5.2.2 Summary of the agreement

“The European Commission initialled an interim trade agreement with the Seychelles and Zimbabwe of the ESA region in Brussels on 28 November 2007, with Mauritius on 4 December 2007 and with Comoros and Madagascar on 11 December 2007. The deal includes a WTO-compatible market access schedule, provisions on development cooperation, fisheries and other issues. Negotiators confirmed that the agreement is open to other parties in the region, who are expected to join in the near future. The agreement is a framework towards the completion of a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of December 2008.



Goods Covered

The agreement allows for 100% liberalisation by value by the EU as of 1 January 2008, with transition periods for rice and sugar. The Seychelles will liberalise 97,5% of its imports from the EU by 2022: 62% of their imports will be liberalised after five years, 77% by 2017 and the remaining 20,5% by 2022. Zimbabwe will liberalise 80% of their imports from the EU by 2022: 45% by 2012 with the remaining 35% of their imports being liberalised progressively until 2022.

Mauritius, on its part, will liberalise 95.6% of its imports from the EU: 24.5 % in 2008, 53.6% by 2017, and the remaining 42% will be liberalised in 2022. Coverage for Comoros and Madagascar is over 80% of their imports from the EU. In the case of Comoros, 21,5% of their imports will be liberalised after five years, and the remaining 59,1% will be progressively liberalised by 2022. In the case of Madagascar, 37% of their imports from the EU will be liberalised after five years, the remaining 43,7% will be progressively liberalised y 2022.

Goods Excluded

Several products from different sectors have been excluded from liberalisation, mainly due to the need to protect sensitive products or infant industries in the countries. In the case of Seychelles, these include meat, fisheries, beverages, tobacco, leather articles, glass and ceramics and vehicles. In the case of Zimbabwe, excluded products include products of animal origin, cereals, beverages paper, plastics and rubber, textiles and clothing, footwear, glass and ceramics, consumer electronics and vehicles. Mauritius excluded from liberalisation live animals and meat, edible products of animal origin, fats, edible preparations and beverages, chemicals, plastics and rubber articles of leather and fur skins, iron & steel and consumer electronic. In the case of Comoros, the excluded goods are mainly of animal origin, fish, beverages, chemicals and vehicles. For Madagascar, the excluded products comprise meat, fish, products of animal origin, vegetables, cereals, beverages, plastics and rubber, articles of leather and fur-skins, paper and metals among others.

Other features

The Parties will cooperate to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and support regional integration and development strategies. They agreed that cooperation will be based on the ESA Development Cooperation Strategy and a jointly agreed Development Matrix. They will cooperate to mobilise resources additional to the financial framework of the EU, from EU Member States and other donors, in particular expanding Aid for Trade commitments, relating specifically to EPA support requirements and adjustment costs.

The agreement contains an extensive fisheries chapter, mainly aiming at reinforcing cooperation on sustainable use of resources."

(Summary provided by the [European Commission, 19 December 2007](#))



5.3 EAC-EU framework agreement

5.3.1 Text of the agreement

→ [EAC-EU framework agreement](#)

5.3.2 Summary of the agreement

“On November 23 in Uganda the European Commission and the East African Community initialled an interim EPA agreement. This agreement will apply to the EU and to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Negotiators agreed that the first phase of negotiations for an EPA had been successfully completed and that they would continue negotiations towards a full EPA in 2008 and a rendezvous clause is included in the agreement to this effect.

Goods Covered

The agreement allows for 100% liberalisation by value by the EU as of 1 January 2008 (with transition periods for rice and sugar) and 82% liberalisation by value by the East African Community (64% in two years, 80% in 15 years, the remainder in 25 years). It covers 100% of EU tariff lines and 74% of EAC tariff lines.

Goods Excluded

Exclusions include: agricultural products, wines and spirits, chemicals, plastics, wood based paper, textiles and clothing, footwear, glassware. The main criterion of these exclusions is the desire to protect infant industry.

Other features

The agreement contains an extensive fisheries chapter, mainly aiming at reinforcing cooperation on sustainable use of resources.”

(Summary provided by the [European Commission, 19 December 2007](#))

5.4 Regional configuration

Progress in negotiations has been challenged by the heterogeneous composition of the region in terms of the level of development of the negotiating countries. Out of 15 countries in the ESA region, 11 are LDCs that retain duty and quota free access to the EU market even in absence of an EPA, based on the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative. Hence, for these countries the need to conclude an EPA is less urgent than for the four middle-income countries (Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe), which were facing the threat of a significant increase in tariffs on their exports to the EU.

The ESA countries have been negotiating together since 2004, however on 14 November 2007, the East African Community decided to conclude a separate EAC-EC agreement. The remaining ESA countries concluded a framework agreement with the EC that comprises separate national tariff offers and exclusion lists but a common text on other areas.



5.4.1 East African Community

Heads of state of the East African Community (EAC) [agreed on 20 August 2007](#) to move towards completing an EAC-EPA with the EU, independently from the other ESA members. So far, four of the five EAC member states, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda had been negotiating under the ESA-EPA configuration, whereas Tanzania had been negotiating with the SADC-EPA grouping.

The decision in favour of an EAC EPA reflects the fact that the EAC members already form a customs union. On 12 October 2007, the EAC members decided to [harmonise their negotiation positions and prepare an own regional market access offer](#) to be tabled in both ESA and SADC meetings. EAC ministers indicated that they plan to [retain the common taxation regime](#) of the region under an EPA. Following consultations held on 23-24 October 2007, the EAC and COMESA secretariats issued a [joint statement](#) declaring that both the EAC countries and the ESA countries excluding the EAC countries would submit separate market access offers to the EC.

On 14 November 2007, the first EAC-EC meeting on EPA negotiations took place, where ministers agreed to conclude an EAC-EC EPA text. As a stepping stone towards this EAC-EC EPA, ministers decided to work towards a framework agreement covering trade in goods, development cooperation and fisheries, to enter into force on 1 January 2008. Such a framework agreement has been initialled on 27 November 2007.

5.4.2 Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles (CMMS)

At an [extraordinary meeting of the Indian Ocean Commission Council](#) on 10 October 2007, ministers of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles (CMMS) decided to build a sub-group within the ESA configuration in order to accelerate the negotiation process and the conclusion of an EPA by the set deadline. They decided to adopt a common CMMS market access offer as well as a common position on development aspects of an EPA as a precautionary measure for the case that ESA negotiations may not be completed by 31 December 2007. In the following, the CMMS countries were expected to conclude the framework agreement outlined at the ESA-EC ministerial meeting on based on a collective market access offer.

Finally however, all CMMS countries have initialled the framework agreement with the EC, but each of them submitted a separate market access offer.

5.4.3 Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has initialled the ESA framework agreement based on a separate market access offer.

5.4.4 Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Sudan and Zambia

Being LDCs, these countries are able to export to the EC under the EBA initiative after expiry of the Cotonou preferences without signing the framework agreement.

Zambia has initialled the ESA-EC framework agreement without taking on obligations in the trade part in order to benefit from the development cooperation



part and the provisions on fisheries. Malawi is also expected join the agreement. However, as neither of them has submitted a market access offer, Zambia and Malawi export to the EU under the EBA regime from 1 January 2008.

5.4.5 Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is currently negotiating both the ESA and the CEMAC EPA configurations; it remains to be decided with which regional grouping the country will sign an EPA.

5.5 Next meetings

Negotiations for a full EPA are planned to be continued with a view to reaching a comprehensive EAC-EC agreement by July 2009 and a comprehensive ESA-EC agreement by the end of 2008.



5.6 Additional resources

Recent press articles:

[Entretien avec François de Grivel, président de la « Mauritius Export Association » \(MEXA\)](#), l'express dimanche, 6 janvier 2008

[Mieux comprendre les APE](#), Fabrice Acquilina, l'express dimanche, 6 janvier 2008

[East Africa: Comesa Censures EAC Over Trade Deal With EU](#), Business Daily / AllAfrica.com, 18 December 2007

[EAC under fire for signing trade pact with EU](#), Allan Odhiambo, Business Daily, 17 December 2007

[East Africa: Trade Ministry Defends New EU Deal](#), Peter Kauju, New Vision/ AllAfrica.com, 10 December 2007

[East Africa: EPAs are Not as Dirty as They Have Been Said to Be](#), John M. Ssempebwa, The Monitor/ AllAfrica.com, 9 December 2007

[Zim and three others agree free trade pact with EU](#), Constant Brand, Mail and Guardia online, 7 December 2007

[Initialling of the interim agreement establishing an economic partnership agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa states and the European Community and its Member States](#), Press release, European Commission, 6 December 2007

[EPAs: Distinguishing what we know from what we don't know](#)", Chris Stevens, ODI Blog, 30 November 2007

[Initialling Ceremony of EAC-EU Framework Agreement](#), EAC-EC press release, 27 November 2007

Recent documents:

[ESA Ministerial declaration on EPAs](#), 27 November 2007, published in e-COMESA Newsletter 133, (page 7)

[Dossier on EU's EPA Bullying Tactics](#), Kenyan Civil Society Alliance, 16 November 2007

[Ministers of Trade from ESA and EU Meet in Brussels to Decide on an Economic Partnership Agreement \(EPA\)](#), e-COMESA newsletter 130, 9 November 2007

[Joint Conclusions of the 1st East African Community - European Commission Meeting on Negotiations of an Economic Partnership Agreement](#), 14 November 2007

[Joint Conclusions of the 4th ESA-EC Ministerial Meeting](#), Brussels, 12 November 2007

[Conference report: Count down to the conclusion of negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements: progress of the ESA-EC SADC-EC negotiations](#)



Initialled agreements:

[ESA-EU framework agreement](#), first initialled on 28 November 2007, [bilaterals.org](#)

[EAC-EU framework agreement](#), initialled on 27 November 2007, [bilaterals.org](#)

Draft EPA text:

[Draft EU-ESA EPA](#) (July 2007)

Tralac (Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa)

→ [Background on the SADC and ESA EPA negotiations](#)

→ [Tralac EPA project](#)

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Background information by ECDPM:

[InBrief 14E: Overview of the regional EPA negotiations: ESA-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)

[InBrief 15E: Update on regional EPA negotiations: ESA - EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

6. Pacific-EU EPA

Latest updates

Available at

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/pacific.php

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2007

6.1 Trade regime from 1 January 2008

Papua New Guinea and Fiji, who are the region's main exporters of goods to the EU, have initialled an [interim agreement](#) with the EC on 23 November 2007.

Seven other non-LDCs (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands and Tonga) did not join the interim agreement so far and export to the EU under the GSP regime since 1 January 2008. For most of these countries, the absolute export volume to the EU is low, however, it can be significant relative to their overall country exports and thus they may face serious disruption of trade.

The LDCs East Timor, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu export under the Everything But Arms initiative since 1 January 2008.

A full regional EPA is expected to be concluded by the end of 2008.

6.2 Interim agreement between the EU and Fiji and Papua New Guinea

6.2.1 Text of the agreement

→ [Pacific-EU interim agreement](#)

6.2.2 Summary of the agreement

"Market Access Schedule

The offer of Papua New Guinea (PNG) foresees to liberalise the range of included products on the date of application of this agreement which has been announced by PNG to be the 01 January of 2008. The coverage of the offer is 88 % as regards the value of imports from the EU and 82 % as regards tariff lines. All sectors are covered.



The offer of the Republic of Fiji Islands (Fiji) foresees to liberalise 24 % of value of imports from the EU corresponding to 9 % of tariff lines on the date of application of this agreement which has been announced by Fiji to be the 01 January of 2008. Fiji will eliminate another 13% of value and 13 % tariff lines by the end of year 5, by the end of 10 years 41 % of value and 40 % of tariff lines and by the end of 15 years 4 % of value and 18 % of tariff lines. The coverage of the offer is 81.5 % as regards the value of imports from the EU and 80 % as regards tariff lines. All sectors are covered.

Agreement (Goods)

The agreement covers all major provisions of a trade in goods agreement such as provisions on customs duties, export taxes, a standstill clause, a non discrimination clause, trade defence instruments (anti-dumping and countervailing measures, multilateral and bilateral safeguards), special provisions on administrative cooperation in customs matters, a chapter on customs and trade facilitation, a chapter on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as exception clauses.

The respective offers of the parties as well as the applicable rules of origin are set out in annexes attached to the agreement. The agreement also contains an annex on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.

Agreement (other components)

This Agreement focuses on safeguarding the market access interests both of Papua New Guinea and Fiji and any other Pacific State that may still wish to join. It, hence, focuses on trade in goods aspects.

The Agreement contains also a clause on the ongoing EPA negotiations. The parties confirm their commitment to these negotiations and to the objective of concluding a comprehensive EPA containing all relevant components and including all interested Pacific countries by the end of 2008. The Agreement also emphasises the need to cooperate closely at the national level to maximise the synergies between development cooperation and the objectives of this Agreement.

The Agreement also contains provisions regarding on the relation with the Cotonou Agreement and WTO as well as a dispute settlement mechanism, institutional provisions, and general and final provisions.”

(Summary provided by the European Commission)

6.2.3 Implications on PACER

For Fiji and Papua New Guinea, the interim agreement with the EC will trigger negotiations with Australia and New Zealand under the Pacific Agreement for Closer Economic Relations (PACER).

6.3 Next meetings

Negotiations towards a comprehensive regional EPA are planned to be continued in 2008.



6.4 Additional resources

Recent press articles:

[European Trade Deal Undermines Pacific Integration](#), Islands Business, 5 December 2007

[Abal defends PNG's trade arrangement with EU](#), The National, 5 December 2007

[ACP nations should negotiate trade deals](#), FBCL, 4 December 2007

[Solomons not ready to sign trade deal with EU](#), Mariana's Variety, 3 December 2007

[Fiji, PNG mum on EPA signing](#), The Fiji Times, 28 November 2007

[Vanuatu stands by its decision to not sign trade deal with EU](#), Radio New Zealand International, 28 November 2007

[Fiji, PNG sign European Union agreement](#), FBCL, 26 November 2007

[Why the EU is far from the level with the EPAs](#), Roshni Sami and Wes Morgan, The Fiji Times, 24 November 2007

Recent documents:

[Interim Partnership Agreement between the Pacific ACP States and the European Community](#), Joint Statement, 14 December 2007

[EPA negotiations in the Pacific Region: some issues of concern](#), South Centre, November 2007

Initialled agreement:

[Pacific-EU interim agreement](#), 23 November 2007, bilaterals.org

Draft EPA text:

[Draft EU-Pacific EPA](#) (Aug 2007)

News from the region:

[Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat website](#)

Press articles and other news items:

[News](#) on acp-eu-trade.org (a searchable archive of all ACP-EU trade news distributed via the [Weekly ACP-EU News](#))

Monthly news:

EPA Negotiations Update by Melissa Julian:

→ [Current issue](#)

→ [Previous issues](#)

Background information by ECDPM:

[InBrief 14D: Overview of the regional EPA negotiations: Pacific-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)

[InBrief 15D: Update on regional EPA negotiations: Pacific - EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)



EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand?

7 . SADC-EU EPA

Latest updates

Available at

www.acp-eu-trade.org/epa/sadc.php

by ECDPM, Maastricht (Netherlands), 11 January 2007

7.1 Trade regime from 1 January 2008

A first step agreement has been initialled between the EU on the one side and Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia , Swaziland and Mozambique on the other side.

Botswana , Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho initialled this interim agreement with the EU on 23 November 2007. Namibia, which had [voiced concern](#) about several provisions on 5 December, [initialled the agreement](#) on 12 December 2007. Namibia initialled the agreement [on the understanding](#) that its concerns would be addressed through the negotiations towards a comprehensive EPA. A statement in this regard is annexed to the agreement, outlining that Namibia will sign and ratify the full EPA only if agreement on outstanding issues is found.

According to the EC, Angola intends to join the agreement "as soon as possible".

[South Africa](#) has indicated that it does not plan to initial. It will continue exporting to the EC under the TDCA.

The non-participation of South Africa might have [implications](#) on the implementation of the interim agreement, as it forms a customs union with Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland under SACU.

7.2 Interim agreement between the EU and Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Mozambique

7.2.1 Text of the agreement

→ [SADC-EU interim agreement](#)

7.2.2 Summary of the agreement

"On November 23 in Brussels senior negotiators from the European Commission and the Southern African Development Community initialled an interim Economic



Partnership Agreement including a WTO-compatible market access schedule and provisions on development co-operation and other issues. This agreement will apply initially to the EU side and to Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique on the SADC side. Angola made clear its wish to join as soon as possible. South Africa will determine its participation in the agreement in the coming weeks. This agreement was initialled by Namibia on December 11. EU and SADC negotiators confirmed that the agreement was open to other parties in the region to join when they wished. Both sides agreed to continue negotiations towards a full EPA in 2008 and a rendezvous clause is included in the agreement to this effect.

Goods Covered

The agreement allows for 100% liberalisation by value by the EU as of 1 January 2008 (with transition periods for rice and sugar) and 86% liberalisation by value by Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. For 44 sensitive tariff lines liberalisation is envisaged by 2015. Three further lines will not be liberalised until 2018. The tariff offer from Mozambique covers 80.5% of trade, most of which is liberalised at entry into force. Some 100 additional tariff lines will be liberalised by 2018.

Goods Excluded

Exclusions focus on agricultural goods and some processed agricultural goods and are based chiefly on the need to protect infant industries or sensitive products in these countries.

Other features

A Development Cooperation Chapter has been included which covers cooperation on trade in goods, supply-side competitiveness, business enhancing infrastructure, trade in services, trade-related issues, Institutional capacity building, and fiscal adjustments. Parties agreed to negotiate on Competition and Government procurement only when adequate capacity has been built.”
(Summary provided by the [European Commission, 19 December 2007](#))

7.3 Background

Negotiations have restarted in March 2007 after being stalled for one year while the EU considered the proposal by SADC to include South Africa into the EPA, which was accepted. Initially, the inclusion of South Africa was not foreseen, as trade between South Africa and the EC does not fall under the Cotonou preferential regime but is regulated separately by the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA).

Progress in the negotiations between the EC and the SADC EPA region has been slowed down mainly by differences in view on trade related issues and services. The EC considers these to be essential parts of an EPA while SADC has been taking the position not to include any binding commitments on new generation issues (trade facilitation, competition policy, public procurement, intellectual property) due to lack of common policies and institutional capacities to implement policies. SADC, South Africa being a key player in the region,



preferred not to include comprehensive provisions on services at this stage. However, the parties to the interim agreement endorsed the commitment to negotiate trade in services in 2008. They further decided to negotiate on competition and government procurement only when adequate capacity has been built.

7.4 Next meetings

Negotiations towards a comprehensive SADC-EU EPA will continue in 2008. Negotiations on services and investment are planned to be completed by 31 December 2008.



7.5 Additional resources

Recent press articles:

[Why SA should take lead in ending EPA standoff](#), Peter Draper, Nkululeko Khumalo, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Business Day, 19 December 2007

[Namibia: NUNW Wary of EU Trade Deal](#), The Namibian/ AllAfrica.com, 18 December 2007

[EU Backtracks, Says Government](#), Emma Kakololo, New Era, 6 December 2007

[SA holds back on signing trade pact with EU](#), Mail & Guardian Online, 5 December 2007

[African nations reject trade deals](#), Andrew Bounds, Financial Times, 4 December 2007

[EU and southern African states agree trade deal](#), William Schomberg, Reuters, 24 November 2007

Recent documents:

[Interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union initialled by Namibia](#), Media Release, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Namibia, 13 December 2007

[Impact on Meatco following the loss of the preferential market access to the EU](#), Arne Gressmann, Meatco, 7 December 2007

→ [Statement by Kobus du Plessis](#), CEO Meatco, 7 December 2007

[Outcome of the Final Round of SADC-EC EPA Negotiations](#), Press statement, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Namibia, 5 December 2007

→ see EC reaction: [Commission working toward conclusion of Interim EPA including Namibia](#), Press release, EC delegation to Namibia, 6 December 2007

[NAU press release on non-conclusion of SADC-EPA/EU negotiations](#), Namibia Agricultural Union, 5 December 2007

[EPA Negotiations in Southern Africa: some issues of concern](#), South Centre, Analytical Note, October 2007

[Joint Statement by the EU-Southern Africa Business Council \(ESCB\)](#), 18 October 2007, Maputo, Mozambique

[Conference report: Count down to the conclusion of negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements: progress of the ESA-EC SADC-EC negotiations](#)

Initialled Agreement:

[SADC-EU interim agreement](#), 23 November 2007

Draft EPA text:

[Draft EU-SADC EPA](#) (June 2007)



Press articles and other news items:

[News](#) on acp-eu-trade.org (a searchable archive of all ACP-EU trade news distributed via the [Weekly ACP-EU News](#))

Tralac (Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa)

→ [Tralac EPA project](#)

→ [Background on the SADC and ESA EPA negotiations](#)

Background on services, which is the most controversial issue in the SADC-EPA process:

[Trade Negotiations Insights, Vol.6, No. 5, September 2007](#) with a focus on services

Monthly news:

EPA Negotiations Update by Melissa Julian:

→ [Current issue](#)

→ [Previous issues](#)

Background information by ECDPM:

[InBrief 14F: Overview of the regional EPA negotiations: SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)

[InBrief 15F: Update on regional EPA negotiations SADC - EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (November 2006)



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