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**TECHNICAL EPA NEGOTIATION MEETINGS WITH WEST AFRICA TAKE PLACE IN
BRUSSELS, 28-31 JULY 2008**

Negotiators from the EU and West African region met in Brussels from 28-31 July 2008 to discuss progress towards concluding a full-fledged EPA. Regional Negotiator for West Africa is CEDEAO / ECOWAS (Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest / Economic Community of West African States) in co-operation with UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine): these include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Negotiators achieved progress on trade in goods, in particular trade defence instruments (TDI), sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT), as well as trade facilitation (TF). Discussions on rules of origin were also launched. Market access and development co-operation were also on the table. Next round will take place in Ouagadougou at technical level on 20-23 October and at senior official level on 24 October.