

EPA Flash News
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EU and Southern African countries ready to sign interim EPA by October 2008

Senior officials from the European Commission and SADC (Southern African Development Community, including Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland) met in Gaborone (Botswana) on 2-4 July 2008. Progress in talks on the EU-SADC interim EPA could lead to signing the agreement in October 2008. The agreement would be notified to the WTO immediately thereafter. These countries call for a wide-ranging full-fledged EPA, with ambitious commitments on Services and Investment.

In the meantime, tariff negotiations with South Africa have resumed, following an exchange of offers on agricultural products. The EU is ready to accept a single offer from SACU (Southern African Customs Union), and South Africa is considering whether to conclude an ambitious tariff deal, or a much more limited agreement. Although Angola has decided not to participate in the interim agreement, it could also join Full EPA negotiations by the end of the year. Angola, Namibia and South Africa have presented a list of 'concerns' that they would like to address within Full EPA talks.