

*EPA Flash News*  
*issued by the Directorate General for Trade*  
*European Commission on 11 March 2008*

### **EU-West Africa EPA negotiations**

The European Commission and West Africa negotiators (ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions) met in Ouagadougou on 3-6 March to establish the working calendar of regional EPA negotiations this year. West Africa is politically committed to negotiate a full EPA at the latest by mid-2009 and earlier if possible. The EC and West Africa will meet again in April and June 2008 to make progress ahead of the ECOWAS Heads of States summit of 16 June.

West Africa is developing a regional market access offer and aims at finalizing it in May 2008. It is also working on a draft EPA text with a view to have negotiations on some chapters in April. The region is also working on expressing more precisely its needs before the summer in terms of EPA related programme on development strategies of WA.

Both parties are committed to achieve an ambitious and balanced result which will contribute to the development of West Africa.