



**EU and Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) negotiators hold EPA talks in Lusaka (Zambia, 4-7 November 2008)**

From 4 to 7 November 2008 European and ESA negotiators met at technical and senior levels in Lusaka (Zambia) to discuss the way forward on the Economic Partnership Agreement with the region. The "interim" EPA should be signed in early March 2009, possibly in Mauritius. Negotiations focussed on the "full" EPA, with main issues on the table being: Market Access and Agriculture, Trade in Services, Development and Trade Related Issues. On market access, the EU encourages

the region to adopt a regional preference provision in the full EPA, so as to boost regional integration. Other issues addressed included: the "substantially all trade" requirement; the Most Favoured Nation clause; export taxes, bilateral safeguards on infant industry, outermost regions and agriculture; sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) provisions; technical barriers to trade; trade facilitation; rules of origin; trade-related issues, including intellectual property rights, transparency in government procurement, sustainable development and competition; services and investment; and development, including funding. Progress was good on all issues, and in particular on regional integration. Next negotiating round is tentatively scheduled for early 2009 in Brussels.

For further information please visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/regneg\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/regneg_en.htm)

