

Corinna
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Subject

From: Verena.VAHLAND@ec.europa.eu [mailto:Verena.VAHLAND@ec.europa.eu] **On Behalf Of**
TRADE-EPA@ec.europa.eu
Sent: 17 November 2008 14:39
To: TRADE-EPA@ec.europa.eu
Subject: EPA Flash News: EU and EAC negotiators hold EPA talks in Brussels, 11-12 November 2008



EU and East Africa Community negotiators hold EPA talks in Brussels, 11-12 November 2008

EU and East Africa Community (EAC) negotiators held meetings at technical level on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on 11-12 November 2008 in Brussels. EAC includes Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. An interim or "framework" EPA ("FEPA") has been initialled by all five EAC Partner States, with a single Market Access offer, at the end of 2007, and the Parties are now negotiating a "full" EPA with a view of signing it in 2009. During the meetings in

Brussels, negotiators finished the discussions on sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues, and customs and trade facilitation. The few outstanding issues left on technical barriers to trade will be further discussed at an experts' meeting before next round. Negotiators also discussed trade and sustainable development, with a focus on social and environment aspects on top of EPA economic issues. Agriculture, services, competition, intellectual property rights, and public procurement were also addressed, although detailed negotiations will be undertaken during next round. This is scheduled to take place in February 2009 in the EAC region, with an agenda including outstanding market access issues, economic and development co-operation, trade and sustainable development, trade in services, agriculture, intellectual property rights, competition policy and transparency in public procurement.

For further information please visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/regneg_en.htm

