



**European Commission, Tanzanian and other EPA experts discuss services in EPAs (Dar es Salaam, 16-17 February 2009)**

**European Commission officials, Tanzanian officials and other stakeholders from the Tanzanian private and public sectors, and EPA experts from other EAC (Eastern African Community) countries discussed the role of services in the WTO and EPA framework at an information seminar in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) on 16-17 February 2009. The seminar was not part of official negotiations, but was aimed at sparking better understanding, communications and debate on EPA-related issues. It was nevertheless useful in clarifying a number of items in view of next EU-EAC negotiation session, to be held in Mombasa (Kenya) later in 2009.**

At the seminar, the EU and African representatives discussed at length service provisions according to WTO rules (in particular, GATS, General Agreement on Trade and Services), and in the EPA context. They discussed the different "modes" foreseen by such provisions. They also elaborated on services in Tanzania, in particular in the tourism sector, and in other countries in the region, such as banking and ICT in Kenya, and investment opportunities and incentives in Uganda. Participants also analysed the potential of the Tanzanian service sector, as compared with other emerging economies, in particular in Asia, and with a view to reform and market opening. EAC regional integration agenda was also a key topic.

**BACKGROUND**

The value of total trade flows between the Eastern African Community (including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) and the EU amounts to about €4,3 billion (or 0.12% of EU imports) per year. The region's exports to the EU mainly consist of plants, flowers, coffee, vegetables, fish and tobacco. The EU mainly exports machinery, chemicals and vehicles to the EAC.

A "Framework Economic Partnership Agreement" (FEPA, interim EPA) was initialled by all EAC members and the EU at the end of 2007, despite the fact that Kenya is the only non-LDC (Least Developed Country) of the region: LDCs can in fact benefit from the "Everything but Arms" (EBA) regime. EAC is committed to negotiating a full-fledged EPA, to be concluded later in 2009.

For further information please visit:

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

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