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**EU and Central Africa hold EPA technical negotiation round**

From 9-17 July 2008 EU and Central African region's chief negotiators held technical EPA negotiation meetings in Brazzaville. The regional negotiator for Central Africa is CEMAC / CEEAC (Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale / Communauté Economique Des Etats De L'Afrique Centrale) including Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, Central African Republic, São Tomé e Príncipe. The EU and the Central Africa representatives discussed market access for goods, with, as a basis, the proposal by Central Africa to liberalise 71% of European imports over 20 years. The parties made noticeable progress towards a joint draft text on market access for goods. Services were also discussed, as well as accompanying measures. Negotiators made progress towards the establishment of the "FORAPE" (EPA regional fund), and they discussed the reform of the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC) which will operate the FORAPE. Next negotiation round is scheduled from 29/09 to 07/10 in Brussels. It will be followed by a round from 27/10 to 01/11 in Central Africa and, if possible, by a ministerial meeting in November.